

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
June 17, 2020 – Minutes**

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The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:30 PM in the Merrill High School Auditorium and also by Google Hangout virtual meeting.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Ron Liberty, Paul Proulx, Jon Smith, Maria Volpe, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Jeremy Ratliff. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; approximately 11 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder. Others present remotely: Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Edward Then, Director of Human Resources; Karen Baker, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology; John Hagemeister, Bridges Virtual Academy Administrator; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Mark Seaman, Middle School Associate Principal; Heather Skutak, Elementary Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Amy Stutzriem, Elementary Principal; Jill Seaman, Director of Early Education/4K/Head Start; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Teaching Principal; and, approximately 15 people from the staff and public.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comment, Trina Lutzke commented on the communication between the Board and the Community.

During recognition, the following were recognized: Piper Plautz and Christen Nelson for their qualification for the state bowling tournament, earning the right to represent their school, teammates and community. Zach Iribarren accomplished many great feats in his short wrestling career but more notable is the growth he has made as a person in that time. Merrill can be proud of how Zach represented himself, team, family, Merrill High School and the entire Merrill community with class. Each step of the way Zach showed respect to his opponents while competing at a high level. At the state tournament it was impressive seeing Zach get 4 pins, 5 wins and pushing the returning state champion to the limit on his way to the 3rd place finish. What was more impressive is how he acted and treated everyone around him. Zach gave credit to his coaches, thanked fans, family and teammates for their support and showed great sportsmanship to his opponents. In his only defeat he sought out his opponent back in the warm-up area to tell him great match and good luck. Michael Casper turned in one of the best individual seasons in school history. He scored 542 points for an average of 22.6 PPG (school record). He followed that up by averaging 4.5 rebounds and 4.0 assists per game as well. He finished with 1,079 points (5th All-Time). In addition to setting the single game points record of 45, he also set 5 other school records. Michael was named the Player of the Year in our Conference along with unanimous 1st Team All Conference. He was selected as Honorable Mention All State as well as Channel 7 All Star. In March, he was also selected to play in the WBCA All Star Game in June. To top all of this off, Michael will graduate as the winningest player in school history with a record of 67 wins - which passes Paul Jespersen's 4 Year Total of 55. Amy Raddatz was recognized for becoming National Board Certified. National Board Certification is considered the "gold standard" of the teaching profession. EmmaLee Smith was recognized for her commitment to continuous implementation of one of our core values in STEAM Education. EmmaLee planned, organized and carried out Washington's 2nd annual Grandparents STEAM event. Her creativity and dedication to giving students and families an amazing STEAM experience in our school was amazing. The MHS DECA Team for taking

home the grand prize for Best Overall Integrated Design and the Tech Savvy Award for Best Automation and Monitoring Design in the 2020 LSSU Aquaculture Challenge. Team members include: Drew Polak, Rachel Travis, Alex Mann, Skylar Herdt, Brendan Blystone, Head Advisor Olivia Dachel; Co-Advisor Michelle Heeg; and, LSSU Coach and Liaison Julianne Green. Skylar Herdt for receiving the Wisconsin NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing and is a two-time winner for her work in Java Script and Java programming languages. Also being recognized is Kiana Jahnke, who has been awarded the Wisconsin Rising Star for her graphic design in game coding.

Ratliff joined the meeting remotely at 5:42 p.m.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Achievement Gap Reduction; PRSYL monthly data; School Forest Final Report 2019-2020; Human Resources report; monthly budget update; technology update; and, the Superintendent's report.

Committee reports were shared with the Board from the Finance/HR and Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committees.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to approve the 2020-2021 WIAA Membership renewal. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the contract between Lincoln County Health Department and Pine River School for Young Learners for health screening services for 2020-2021. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2020-2021 application for State Head Start Supplemental Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the 584 new students open enrolling to MAPS, denying the 2 applications that do not meet open enrolling into a district criteria, and also approve the 567 open enrolled students continuing at MAPS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the 69 new students indicating open enrollment out of MAPS, and also approve the 82 open enrolled students continuing to open enroll out of MAPS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to approve the purchase of Mystery Science pre-made kits for all K-5 students in the amount of \$14,803.00. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the printer/copier proposal from Marco. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Proulx to approve face-to-face instruction, and allow virtual instruction for those families choosing this option, for the 2020-2021 school year, barring any requirements from state or local health authorities that would deem this as not allowable. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to approve the 2020-2023 Strategic Financial Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the 2019-2020 revised budget as presented and roll any remaining surpluses into the general fund balance. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the preliminary 2020-2021 budget as [presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Volpe to accept Church Mutual's proposals for property insurance and worker's compensation coverage and CIC's proposals for the liability and crime coverages. Motion carried with Yingling abstaining.

Dr. Sample discussed and gave an update on the master facilities plan with the Board.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Proulx to table this (Master Facilities Plan) to the next board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda, hearing none, he called for a motion. MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the consent agenda items a through d, which includes the revised minutes of the April 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting; minutes of the May 20, 2020 Special Board Meeting; May 20, 2020 Regular Board Meeting; June 3, 2020 Special Board Meeting; and, June 9, 2020 Special Board Meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,755,495.51; the personnel report, which includes the hirings of Anna Fischer, MHS German Teacher, effective August 17, 2020; Mia Nhia Yang, Kate Goodrich Elementary Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; Allison Krohn, MHS Social Studies Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; Madison Mariani, Washington Elementary Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; Trisha Kubichek, PRSYL Social Worker/Family Support Specialist, effective August 10, 2020; Emily Ott, BVA Elementary Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; Bonnie Tuttle, BVA Elementary Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; Candace Graap, BVA Elementary Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; and, Abigail Gioga, Title I Reading Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; the internal hire of Emily Heckendorf to PRMS Special Education Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; the transfer of Chelsey Schuh from Maple Grove Elementary Teacher to BVA Elementary Teacher, effective August 17, 2020; the resignations of Patricia Fawley, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; Shanna Thorson, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; Staci Volkmann and Brad Volkmann, effective immediately; and, Patricia Conley, effective immediately; and, the hiring of the limited-term/seasonal position of Adam Smith, MHS Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach; and, donations totaling \$245.00. Motion carried with Yingling abstaining from the June 9, 2020 minutes; Ratliff abstaining from the May 20, 2020 5:00 p.m. minutes; May 20, 2020 5:30 p.m. minutes; June 3, 2020 minutes; and, the June 9, 2020 minutes; and, Proulx abstaining from the personnel report.

"Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof" was shared with the Board.

The Board decision financial impact summary was shared with the Board.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

#### Future Meetings

- Policy Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 @ 4 p.m. in the Board Room or virtually

- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room or virtually
- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, July 6, 2020 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Special Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium

President Blake called for a MOTION to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Sections 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; (e) deliberating or negotiation of the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; and, (f) considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. The purpose of the closed session is to review the pre-expulsion history; for the potential review of a settlement agreement resolving pending litigation with RepairEm, Inc. and/or considering negotiation strategies involving such settlement considerations, including potential action regarding such negotiation strategies and authority; and, for a personnel discussion for administrative contract performance in preparation for upcoming Superintendent's review. MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ratliff was disconnected from the meeting at 8:30 p.m. (technology issue).

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Smith to approve the recommended settlement and stipulation and order for dismissal with regard to the civil court action versus RepairEm, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Liberty to adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck  
Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder