

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
July 21, 2021 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:30 PM in the Central Office Board Room.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Chad Krueger, Ron Liberty, Kendra Osness, Jon Smith, Maria Volpe, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Brett Woller. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Eddie Then, Director of Human Resources; Karen Baker, Director of SPED/Pupil Services; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Megan Kautzer, High School Associate Principal; approximately 10 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comment, Peter Fromm Wade commented on the sale of associated Maple Grove properties to Tom Nieman.

During recognition, the following were recognized: Merrill Track & Field State Meet Participants: Merrill Track & Field sent 4 of the girl's events to the State Meet this year. Those events include: 1600 meter run: Liz Schmidt (Finished 6th place Podium at state); 800 meter run: Liz Schmidt (Finished 5th place Podium at state AND broke the school record); 200 meter dash: Madi Crossman (Finished 22nd place at state); 4x400 meter relay: Faith Seliger, Olivia Troyer, Madi Crossman, Liz Schmidt and Emma Marlowe (Finished 6th place Podium at state). It is a tremendous achievement to finish on the podium.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Student Resource Officer Report; District Scorecard Date; Employee Engagement Survey Results Report; 2020-2021 Summer School Update; S.M.A.R.T Program; Director of Business Services Monthly Report; Buildings & Grounds/Transportation update; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve the adoption of the Wisconsin Academic Standards for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Osness to approve the 2021-2022 WIAA Membership renewal. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Volpe to approve the 2021-2022 Coaches Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Krueger to approve the purchase of Amplify Science at PRMS in the amount of \$22,520.96. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the repairs to the PRMS dust collector. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the purchase of the new combi oven at Merrill High School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to approve the application of the DPI Equivalent Options for Agriculture for the MHS From Farm to Plate course. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Osness to approve the insurance renewal from Marsh & McLennan as presented with the additional three lines of coverage for a total amount not to exceed \$300,000 with the addition of Maple Grove property and liability coverage. Motion carried with Yingling and Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the Focus 3 Virtual Trainings contract for an amount not to exceed \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Volpe to approve the substitute pay increases to reflect \$130/day and \$65 for half days. Motion carried with Krueger abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to approve the 2021-22 addendum to the Taher Food Service contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the senior Marching Jays trip to Indianapolis on August 13 and 14, 2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Volpe to keep the current expulsion philosophy as is and no need to make any changes at this time. Motion carried unanimously.

Per Bylaw 0131.1, the Board was informed of technical changes made to Bylaw 0167.3 Public Comment at Board Meetings.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Yingling to request that administration and the Board President have a conversation with Boardman & Clark to understand what the ramifications are of sharing the comments of the Studer survey with the full Board of Education and the processes/ procedures that would need to be followed and the ramifications of sharing that information. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the facility and transportation update.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda, hearing none, he called for a motion. MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the June 16, 2021 and June 28, 2021 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$5,548,523.97; and, the personnel report as presented, contingent upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable. Motion carried with Ashbeck and Krueger abstaining from the June 16, 2021 minutes; Volpe abstaining from the June 28, 2021 minutes; and, Blake abstaining from the hiring of Casie Blake.

"Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof" was discussed with the Board, specifically "Parent Pick Up/Drop Off Update" and "Summer School Update" (Osness left the meeting 7:14-7:16 p.m.).

Radio Schedule: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

President Blake called for a MOTION to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Section 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; (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; and, (g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss the compensation of an administrative employee; and, to conduct specified public business which for competitive or bargaining reasons requires a closed session, to wit, the consideration and discussion of the sale of personal and real property associated with Maple Grove School, and the division of assets and liabilities between Merrill Area Common Public School District and Athens School District, which may occur as a result of granting petitions for detachment of property in the Town of Hamburg, and to take action regarding the same. The Board may reconvene to open session and may take action upon the matters discussed during the closed session portion of the meeting.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

7:24 p.m. - 8 minute break to get organized.

MOTION by Smith, second by Yingling to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.



Ronald Liberty
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder