

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
September 15, 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, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: None. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Eddie Then, Director of Business Services; Karen Baker, Director of SPED/Pupil Services; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Trisha Detert, Director of 4K/Head Start/Early Childhood; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Amy Stutzriem, Elementary Principal; Heather Skutak, Elementary Principal; Matt Schult, Elementary Associate Principal; Laura Krause-Zastrow, Director of Food Service; Student Board Representatives Isaiah Rell and Amelia Skoviera; approximately 27 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no comments made during Public Comment.

During Recognition, new staff members Katie Hiebl, Margo Swedlund, Sherry Larson, Alyssa Zimmerman, Alexis Medford and Miranda Spangberg introduced themselves to the Board. Also, Sue Smaalnd was recognized for being a valuable member of the special education department as the administrative assistant to the Director.

The Merrill Area Public School District recognized that October 3-9 is Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week and we appreciate the service that our school board members provide.

Student BOE Representatives, Amelia Skoviera and Isaiah Rell update the Board on high school activities including Freshmen Bootcamp - with a large group meeting, then divided up into sections: Academics, Pupil Services and Student Links; Homecoming is coming up with dress up activities, competitions, Powderpuff, school-wide assembly, bonfire, Homecoming parade, football game and dance; Activities Fair; and, Link Day.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: New Teacher Orientation; LCHD School Health Services 2020-2021 Report; Director of Business Services Monthly Report; Buildings & Grounds/Transportation update; Board of Education Learning Opportunity from the School Counselor Department; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

Bill Foster from School Perceptions had a virtual presentation with the Board regarding the referendum survey.

Osness left the meeting from 7:03-7:05 p.m.

Liberty left the meeting from 7:12-7:15 p.m.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the draft survey with edits as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to approve a full-time aide for the School Forest to be paid as a 50/50 split with the Friends of the School Forest and to authorize the attached [Memorandum of Understanding](#) effective for the 2021-2022 school year and until terminated by the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to approve the resolution authorizing temporary borrowing in an amount not to exceed \$6,400,000; issuance of taxable tax and revenue anticipation promissory notes; and, participation in the PMA Levy and Aid Anticipation Notes (PLANN) Program, approving Edward Then as the acting fiscal agent for MAPS regarding signatures required on the day of the offering an other documentation relating to this borrowing. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Per Bylaw 0131.1, the Board was informed of technical corrections made to policies via Neola's Volume 30, Number 2 update.

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 Osness, second by Volpe to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the August 18, 2021 meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$1,865,792.88; the personnel report [as presented](#), contingent upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable; and, donations totaling \$50.00. Motion carried with Smith abstaining from the August 18, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes.

For "Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof" Kevin Blake asked to add extra curricular activities and transportation, having extra drivers and busses to meet needs, maybe discuss some efficiencies. This will be added to the next Facility and Transportation Update for Committee review.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing: Monday, September 20, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium
- Special Board Meeting: Board/Admin Retreat: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m. at Jefferson School
- Policy Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Special Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Liberty". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ronald Liberty
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder