

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
February 15, 2023 – Minutes**

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

Board members present: Jacqueline Gremler, Chad Krueger, Ron Liberty, Paul Proulx, Maria Volpe, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Kendra Osness. Others Present: Shannon M. Murray, Superintendent; Dr. Kelley Strike, Director of Business Services; Karen Baker, Director of SPED/Pupil Services; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Ryan Martinovici, Director of Head Start/PRSYL/4K; Trisha Detert, High School Principal; Amy Stutzriem, Elementary Principal; Heather Soberg, Elementary Principal; Heather Kahr, Associate Principal; Student Representatives Isaiah Rell and Brooke Rudie; approximately 35 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comment, Marcy Cordova commented on the possible cuts to the library program.

During Recognition, the following were recognized: The Varsity Dance Team for making it to the State Competition on February 4, 2023. Please help us congratulate the following: Head Coach - Cassie Lezotte; Assistant Coach - Sydney Roberts; Team Members: Seniors - Conor Sayles and Alex Schulz; Junior - Reggie Lahti; Sophomore - Molly White; and, Freshmen - Liberty Fuchs, Adison Clark, Madison Prentice, and Mylee Sykes.

Student BOE Representatives, Isaiah Rell and Brooke Rudie, updated the Board on high school activities including: Dinner and a Show; tickets for the Spring musical are going on sale this Friday; wrestling has 9 team members going to sectionals; girls basketball has improved dramatically from last year; next Wednesday is Winterfest; ACT testing is right around the corner; and, Great Speaker is next Friday.

There was a Board education opportunity presentation by Dr. Kelley Strike regarding understanding the revenue impacts on district budgets.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Achievement Gap Reduction objectives; Data Monitoring reports; PRSYL Monthly Data; Food Service update; Second Friday in January Enrollment update; Business Services Update; Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Update; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Krueger, second by Yingling to move item F to after item H. Motion failed on a roll call vote (Ayes - Yingling, Krueger, Gremler and Volpe. Nays - Woller, Proulx, Liberty and Blake.)

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the Head Start 2022-2023 Community Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to approve the new 2022-2023 MAPS Head Start point sheet to include the addition of SNAP as an automatic qualifier for MAPS Head Start. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the 2023-2024 MAPS Head Start Self Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Krueger to approve the 2023-2024 MAPS Head Start Five-Year Strategic Goals. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the Head Start evidence-based COVID-19 Mitigation Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Proulx to approve to advance staff through their respective compensation plans and schedules for the 2023-2024 school year and to increase compensation for non-classified staff by 2.7%. Motion carried on a roll call vote (Ayes - Woller, Yingling, Proulx, Liberty, Gremler, Volpe and Blake. Nay - Krueger.)

MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to approve the revised administrator contract template [as presented](#) for the 2023-2025 contract cycle. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Proulx to approve the ESSER-related reductions for the 2023-2024 budget year, as identified on the [23.24 Budget reduction table](#), specifically items E1-E3. After discussion, Proulx CALLED THE QUESTION. Motion carried on a roll call vote (Ayes - Woller, Proulx, Liberty, Gremler, Volpe and Blake. Nays - Yingling and Krueger.)

MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to approve the declining enrollment and right sizing reductions for the 2023-2024 budget year, as identified on the [23.24 Budget reduction table](#), specifically items D1-D7. Motion carried on a roll call vote (Ayes - Woller, Yingling, Proulx, Liberty, Gremler, Volpe and Blake. Nay - Krueger.)

MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to approve the reductions due to budget restraints and revenue limits for the 2023-2024 budget year, as identified on the [23.24 Budget reduction table](#), specifically items R1-R11. After discussion, Proulx CALLED THE QUESTION. Motion carried on a roll call vote (Ayes - Woller, Proulx, Liberty, Gremler, Volpe and Blake. Nays - Yingling and Krueger.)

MOTION by Woller, second by Proulx to table R12-R17 to be brought up at a second meeting as the administration deems necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the attached [personnel report](#), contingent upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable. Motion carried.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Volpe to approve consent agenda items a through c, which includes minutes of the January 25, 2023; and, January 30, 2023, meetings; claims, vouchers

and receipts totaling \$3,533,298.12; and, donations totaling \$1,648.97. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no items for future meetings.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

Future Meetings

- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, February 27, 2023 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

There was no need for a closed session.

MOTION by Woller, second by Krueger to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.

Maria Volpe
Acting Board Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder