

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
June 21, 2023 – 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, Jacqueline Gremler, Chad Krueger, Ron Liberty, Kendra Osness, Paul Proulx, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board member absent: Brett Woller. Others Present: Shannon M. Murray, Superintendent; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Dr. Kelley Strike, Director of Business Services; Andrew Caylor, Systems Administrator; three people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

During Recognition, the following were recognized for their dedication and hard work to compile and approve updated resources for Human Growth and Development K-12: Pastor Justin Novitski, Haakon Hagemeister, Karen Baker, Nichole Hanson, Caleb Norton, Brian Suchocki, Mary Klade, Dani Schmidt, Angie Lemke, Desirae Thomaschefskey, Jacqueline Gremler and Glenda Oginski. Also, Laurie Pagel for all her extra help organizing and updating all revisions to the resources. This group met numerous times over the course of one year looking and researching various materials that would be suitable for our MAPS Students. A few times this group was here until 9PM, which shows their dedication to our students.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Employee Engagement Survey results report; Student Satisfaction Survey results report; Parent/Caregiver Satisfaction Survey results report; Student Monitor Report; School Forest Final Report 2022-2023; English Language Learners Report; Food Service; Open Enrollment Process; Business Services; 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 Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the continuation of the contracts with vendors and purchases as [presented](#) for the 2023-24 fiscal year with cost variances not to exceed the lower of 5% or \$10,000. Motion carried unanimously.

There was an FY24 Preliminary Budget Update.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to approve offering universal free breakfast and no change to milk or lunch prices for 2023-24. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Gremler to approve the co-op positions as [presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the AGR End-of-Year Report. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the Title I Schoolwide Plans for Kate Goodrich and Washington Elementary for the 2023-2024 School Year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the purchase of the BenQ Panels in the amount of \$73,750.00 to be paid for with technology funds from the 2023-2024 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Proulx to approve the 2023-2024 Prairie River Middle School Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the donation of labor and materials from the Silver "M" Club and SGS Environmental valued at \$6,150 for placing recognition bricks in the plaza at Jay Stadium. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Yingling to approve the donation of cash from Incredible Bank Foundation valued at \$20,000 for theater lighting upgrades and Theatre Jays program support. Motion carried unanimously.

Technical corrections to Policy 9140 Citizens' Advisory Committees were presented to the Board.

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

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

MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve consent agenda items a through c, which includes minutes of the May 17, 2023, May 23, 2023, June 5, 2023, 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,146,364.87; and, donations totaling \$8,775.05. Motion carried with Yingling abstaining from the May 17, 2023; and, the May 23, 2023 meeting minutes; Proulx abstaining from the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes; and, Gremler abstaining from the May 23, 2023 meeting minutes.

There were no additional items for future meetings.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

#### Future Meetings

- Facilities Planning Focus Group Session: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. at Jefferson Elementary School
- Facilities Planning Focus Group Session: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. at Washington Elementary School
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 @ 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)(b) considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or person licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against such person, or considering the grant or denial of tenure for a university faculty member, and the taking of formal action on any such matter; provided that the faculty member or other public employee or person licensed is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action being taken and of any meeting at which final action may be taken; (c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; (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, 118.125 to discuss other matters involving student records and personal histories that, if discussed in public, would likely have a substantial adverse effect on the reputations of the persons discussed. The purpose of the closed session is to review the pre-expulsion history chart; and, for the purpose of considering, and taking action as appropriate, regarding dismissal of a teacher, including possible evidentiary hearing and discussions related to medical histories of the teacher. MOTION by Liberty, second by Krueger to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

6:13 p.m. - 2 minute break to get organized.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the administration's recommendation for termination of Mary Walsh's contract, effective June 30, 2023. Motion carried on a roll call vote (Ayes: Proulx, Liberty, Osness, Gremler, Ashbeck and Blake. Nays: None. Abstentions: Yingling and Krueger.)

MOTION by Krueger, second by Ashbeck to adjourn at 6:34 p.m.

Kendra Osness  
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder