

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
July 19, 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, Paul Proulx, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Kendra Osness and Brett Woller. Others Present: Shannon M. Murray, Superintendent; Amber Haluska, Director of Pupil Services & Special Education; Dr. Kelley Strike, Director of Business Services; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Megan Kautzer, High School Associate Principal; approximately 13 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 performances at the Special Olympics Wisconsin State Track Meet held at UW-Whitewater June 9-10: State Special Olympic track athletes - Chloe Hipke, Kamryn Klade, and Colton Smith. Over 2,500 athletes competed in various events. Chloe ran the 400 meter and won gold. Kamryn won gold in the softball throw, silver in the 400 meter run, and bronze in the long jump. Colton won bronze in the Mini Javelin, 4th in the long jump and 6th in the 100 meter dash. Way to go! Maria Ashbrenner was recognized for taking 1st place in the State at the Wisconsin Trapshooting Association event held at the Nekoosa Homegrounds Shooting Complex on June 23, 2023. Way to go, Maria! Also recognized was Darryl Frick for being selected as the WASBO 2023 Custodian/Maintenance Professional of the Year Award. This award recognizes Darryl's outstanding contributions to the Merrill Area Public Schools, our community, to his profession and to the students and staff he works with. Darryl was one of four recipients chosen in the state for this award!

Shannon Murray introduced Amber Haluska to the Board.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Student Resource Officer Report; Professional Development; 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 Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the adoption of the Wisconsin Academic Standards for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the 2023-2024 WIAA Membership renewal. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2023-2024 high school student handbook/agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Krueger to approve the Merrill High School trip to Greece and Italy during the spring of 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

The FY24 preliminary budget was shared with the Board.

Yingling left the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler to approve the transfer to Fund 46 for FY23 to offset any unspent budget amount. Motion carried (Yingling was not present for vote).

Yingling returned at 6:07 p.m.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Yingling to approve the donation of funds from the Silver "M" Club valued at \$3,300 for buying sled pads and jerseys for the Prairie River Middle School Football Program. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed its expulsion philosophy and made no changes to it.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx 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 Liberty, second by Proulx to approve consent agenda items a through b, which included minutes of the June 21, 2023, meeting; and, claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$6,054,355.18. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no additional items for future meetings.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

Future Meetings

- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, August 3, 2023 @ 12:45 p.m. virtually
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

MOTION by Krueger, second by Ashbeck to adjourn at 6:14 p.m.

Ron Liberty
Acting Board Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder