

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 15, 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: Jacqueline Gremler, Chad Krueger, Ron Liberty, Nubs Ashbeck, Kendra Osness, and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Paul Proulx, Brett Woller and Linda Yingling. 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/Transportation; Ryan Martinovici, Director of Head Start/Early Education/4K; Trisha Detert, High School Principal; Heather Soberg, Elementary Principal; Megan Kautzer, Elementary Principal; Max Black and Brooke Rudie, Student Board Representatives; seven 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: Elli Wilk for receiving the Wisconsin Music Educators Association 2023 Melvin F. Pontious Creative Sparks in Music Education Award. Dale Bergman for doing exceptional reporting on school safety with the State of Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of School Safety. Todd Thomas, School Safety Consultant at the DOJ, said, "Your district has done an excellent job in all aspects of school safety and the required reporting. I've reviewed over 400 schools already this year and your district may be the best I have seen, thank you and congratulations." Trisha Detert and the crew at the high school for how they handled a threat made at the high school.

Student BOE Representatives, Brooke Rudie and Max Black, updated the Board on high school activities including: the High School Swim Team traveled to Waukesha for the state competition last weekend - they had 5 swimmers compete and they placed very well; last Tuesday, Mr. Schultz took students to Stevens Point for a math competition; the Peppermint Dance is December 9 and will again have a Peppermint King crowned from the princes that are chosen from classmates; Girls Varsity Basketball had their first game and victory; hockey has their first game on the 21st; wrestling has started practices; Veterans Day assembly was great; and, Olivia Barker was the Voice of Democracy winner. Mr. Murray added that Brooke Rudie was chosen for the Optimist of the Month for December.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Fall K-12 Screening ELA and Math Data; Pine River School for Young Learners; Food Service; Business Services; Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Update; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Liberty, second by Krueger to approve the 2023-2024 Transportation Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Gremler to approve the addition of a behavior support staff member position to the support staff handbook for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the purchase of a printer for the FAB Lab from Up and Running Solutions, LLC. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Osness to approve the updated Pine River School for Young Learners organizational chart. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Ashbeck to approve the attached [personnel report](#), contingent upon release of contract for hirings and 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 to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the October 25, 2023, meeting; second readings and approval of Policy 7310 Personal Property; Policy 0164 Meetings; Policy 5505 Academic Honesty; Policy 6236 Community Services Fund; Policy 7250.01 Memorials for Staff and Students; Policy 7440.02 Smart Monitoring Equipment; Policy 7540.08 Artificial Intelligence; Policy 8121 Personal Background Check - Contracted Services; Policy 8700 Nursing Mothers; and, Policy 8913 Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,405,987.42; and, donations totaling \$2,887.00. Motion carried with Krueger abstaining from the October 25, 2023 minutes.

There were no additional Items for Future Meetings.

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

Future Meetings

- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, November 30, 2023 @ 12:45 p.m., virtually
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 @5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Krueger to adjourn at 6:01 p.m.

Kendra Osness
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder