

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
December 20, 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, Paul Proulx and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: 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; Amanda Patterson, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds/Transportation; Ryan Martinovici, Director of Head Start/Early Education/4K; Trisha Detert, High School Principal; Megan Kautzer, Elementary Principal; Christopher Hahn, Activities Director; Max Black, Student Board Representative; five people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

During recognition, President Blake recognized everyone that puts the meetings together and makes them possible; and, Treasurer Liberty recognized everyone who put the (Raise Your Voice/Governor Evers) presentation together on Monday.

Student BOE Representative Max Black, updated the Board on high school activities including: the Peppermint; books donated to the middle schoolers from the National Honor Society; and Governor Evers visit to the Raise Your Voice Club.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: School Report Card; Naloxone - Emergency Medication to Be Stocked in Buildings; 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 Finance/HR and Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committees.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the revisions to Policy 8500 Food Services. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed resolutions for the 2024 WASB Delegate Assembly were presented to the Board and there were no questions or comments.

MOTION by Osness, second by Proulx for Dr. Strike and Shannon Murray to develop a referendum question to be presented on January 10, 2024, for \$16 million and for the referendum question to be asked in April. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve Option B of the 2024-2025 school calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Krueger to approve the annual Self Assessment plan, process, and timeline [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Osness to approve the MHS Spanish immersion trip to Greece [as presented](#) for March of 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler to approve the MAPS 4K Contract for 2024-2025. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Krueger to approve the four internal NVCI trainers in-district with the mental health funding provided from DPI. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the BVA Governance Board enrollment limit [recommendation](#) for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Gremler to approve the MHS course description book for 2024-2025 [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the broadcast of athletic events by HUDL. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Proulx to approve stopping all employee portion deductions for dental insurance for April, May, and June of 2024. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the addition of a 6th grade teaching position through the end of 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the monetary donation from The ARC of Lincoln County valued at \$14,000 to create an account to assist students with special needs in the District. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Osness to approve the donation of funds from Eric and Laura Lee valued at \$2,500 for the Nels P. Evjue School Forest to use as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Osness 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 Osness, second by Liberty to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the November 15, 2023, and December 13, 2023 meetings; second reading and approval of Policies 3430.01 and 4430.01 Family & Medical Leave of Absence; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,233,552.82; and, donations totaling \$4,953.00. Motion carried with Proulx abstaining from November 15, 2023 minutes.

For Items for Future Meetings, Kendra Osness asked for Christopher Hahn to look into HUDL for the other sports.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

Future Meetings

- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Special Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- School Forest Advisory Meeting, January 15, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. at the School Forest
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: January 18, 2024 @ 12:45 p.m. virtually
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 @ 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) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of an 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 that may involve discussions of confidential student records, and 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 discuss administrators' and supervisors' evaluations; and a student discipline update. MOTION by Liberty, second by Krueger to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

7:03 p.m. - 5 minute break to get organized.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Ashbeck to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Kendra Osness
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder