

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
February 21, 2024 – Minutes**

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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, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: None. Others Present: Shannon M. Murray, Superintendent; Amber Haluska, Director of Pupil Services & Special Education; Dr. Kelley Strike, Director of Business Services; Ryan Martinovici, Director of Head Start/Early Education/4K; Trisha Detert, High School Principal; Heather Soberg, Elementary Principal; Megan Kautzer, Elementary Principal; Chris Hahn, Director of Activities; Laura Krause-Zastrow, Director of Food Service; Max Black and Brooke Rudie, Student Board Representatives; approximately 15 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

For recognition, the following were recognized: Laura Krause-Zastrow for being chosen as Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's January School Nutrition Superhero! Emma and Avery Hoff for each completing their 1,000th career assists in their high school volleyball career. Mia Ott for scoring 1,000 points in her high school basketball career; and for breaking school records for scoring 53 points in a game, 14 3-pointers in a game, and bringing her new ongoing total to 1,128.

Student BOE Representatives Max Black and Brooke Rudie, updated the Board on high school activities including: Raise Your Voice Kindness Week; Winterfest; ACT testing and a ACT Group Camp for preparing for the test; Band Chamber Concert; State Solo Ensemble; Blujay Plans; MHS Dinner and A Show; and and update on winter sports.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Winter K-8 Screening English Language Arts (ELA); Math Data; Achievement Gap Reduction Mid-Year Report; Second Friday in January Enrollment; Pine River School for Young Learners; Food Service; Business Services; and, the Superintendent's Report.

Committee reports were shared with the Board from the Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee.

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

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

MOTION by Proulx, second by Krueger to approve the purchase orders for LETRS Training and Facilitator training from Lexia Learning Systems LLC. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the purchase orders for SPIRE materials from EPS Learning with special education flo-through funds. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler to approve the revisions to the teacher compensation plan [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the 2024-2025 Support Staff and Teacher Handbooks [as presented](#). Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the CESA 9 2024-2025 shared service contract [as presented](#) with a projected cost of \$282,062. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the purchase of milk coolers from Streich Equipment. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the donation of the Solar Power Aerator from Friends/Nels P. Evjue School Forest valued at \$5,875. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Proulx 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 c, which includes minutes of the January 24, 2024, meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,629,948.63; and, donations totaling \$1,035.00. Motion carried with Yingling, Woller and Krueger abstaining from the January 24, 2024 minute approval.

There were no additions for Items for Future Meetings.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

#### Future Meetings

- Special Board Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Policy Committee Meeting: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2024 @ 12:45 p.m. virtually
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- School Forest Advisory Meeting: Monday, March 25, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. at Nels P. Evjue Merrill School Forest
- Referendum Information Session: Monday, March 25, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. at Merrill High School
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 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 a 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. The purpose of the closed session is for the purpose of discussing the employment and performance evaluation data of certified staff members; and, to consider and act upon parental requests for student opt out of state assessments, including the potential for a closed session(s) to review the specifics applicable to the affected student(s) if the discussion of such in open session would be likely to have an adverse effect upon the reputation of such student(s) pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats. Any such closed session(s) shall be immediately followed by reconvening in open session for further consideration and, ultimately, action upon the parental requests. MOTION by Krueger, second by Gremler to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

6:10 p.m. - 4 minute break to get organized.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Proulx to adjourn at 6:59 p.m.

Kendra Osness  
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder