

## Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, April 25, 2022

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Jeff Arzt, 7-12 Principal Rick Dobbs, ECH-6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Principal Corey Peterson & Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff. Board Members present: Becky Whalen, Kim Sacia, Terry Blaken, Kathy Dunn, Shane Zeman & Geoffrey Rozek. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Geoffrey Rozek, Shane Zeman and Terry Blaken were sworn in as members of the school board. They were elected or re-elected at the April 5, 2022 Spring Election. The election of officers then took place with Rick Paisley elected as Board President, Shane Zeman as Vice-President, Kathy Dunn as Board Clerk and Becky Whalen as Board Treasurer. All motions carried 6-0.

Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Administrator's Report:** Thank you to Mr. Dobbs and the prom advisors Jim Briggs, Brenda Chamberlain, Laura Aleckson and Erik Hanson for a great job planning and executing Prom this year. Mr. Arzt heard many positive comments about prom this year. Congratulations are also in order for Noah Hanson & Maya Sbraggia for being crowned Prom King & Queen.

Health insurance renewal rates came back zero percent increase over last year's rates. Dental rates will see a 7% percent increase over last year.

The Jackson County Broadband expansion project continues and US Cellular has submitted a proposal for funding to expand broadband to the North Bend & Franklin areas of our school district. More information will be available in July.

The Jackson County Childcare Action Committee has also submitted a WI Innovation Grant to help provide funding for an additional 500 child care slots in the county. We should know more about this grant in May.

Bids requests for LP fuel in the upcoming year will be sent out in May or June with the hopes of lower fuel prices. Exports are down a bit on the world stage which may be in our favor if we wait a month or more for better pricing.

For the first time since 2019, the JH and HS band and choir groups participated in large group contest and clinic, held at G-E-T high school. This involved each group performing three pieces in front of judges and also participated in a short musical clinic afterwards. All four ensembles received a first place rating.

On April 9, the Forensics team competed at the state level at DeForest High School. Maya Sbraggia & Jessica Hoeth (play acting), Olivia Giertych & Rachel Fredrick (group interpretive reading) and Emma Burks (solo acting) earned bronze medals. Noah Hanson (storytelling) earned a silver and Megan Oehler (moments in history speech) earned a gold medal with a perfect score! This was their first year of in-person competition and the students took it in stride.

**Open Forum:** Travis Powers praised the relationships that our paraprofessionals developed with his son and other students in the special education program. His son has developed a bond with them and believes that it has been helpful in his education. Kathy Dunn also praised the senior speech class students for their recent Lip Sync performances. It was very entertaining to watch!

**Finance:** Review of the expenditures and receipts through April. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$1,520,214.31. Motion carried 6-0. There were no budget changes. There is some irregularity in the Activity Funds due to the changes in coding per the WI DPI but will be cleared up by the end of the fiscal year and not a cause for concern.

**Other Business:**

1. Motion by Blaken second by Zeman to accept the generous donations from Friends of Melrose to the Titan Wrestling team (\$2020), ACT Concrete to the Melrose-Mindoro Fishing Team (\$1,500) the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation to High School Special Education teacher Jenni Windsor's classroom to purchase math manipulatives (\$500) and La Crosse Area Builder's Association for tools to the Tech Ed. Departments (\$800) Motion carried 6-0.
2. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to make a motion to open a checking account for the Mustang Corral and to include the following items: Allow Jeff Arzt, Rick Dobbs & Allison Rigotti as signers on the account, to allow the Mustang Corral checking account to be viewed online within the school district's online bank account, authorize Casey Pfaff to call and discuss/see banking matters on an as needed basis and finally, authorize a debit card to be issued to Allison Rigotti. Motion carried 6-0.
3. Motion by Whalen second by Dunn to approve the updated Academic & Career Plan (ACP) as presented by 6-8 Guidance Counselor Abby Fernan. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Motion by Zeman, second by Sacia to approve the student requests for Start College Now/ECCP courses for the upcoming school year. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to approve the resignation paraprofessional Christina Montalvo at the end of the school year and C-Team Volleyball coach Andrea Mikkelson. There were no professional staff retirements or resignations at this time. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to hire Ashley Boe as the 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher beginning in the 22-23 school year. Also approved: Nikita Nielsen for Assistant Track & Field coach and Andrea Mikkelson as Assistant High School Volleyball coach. Clifftin Stanton will transfer from paraprofessional to maintenance/custodial positions effective June 1, 2022. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Motion by Sacia, second by Dunn to approve the recommendations for lifeguards and water safety instructors for the 2022 swimming season. In order to remain competitive with the area pools, lifeguards will start at \$12.00/hr. with \$.25 per hr. for years of experience, head lifeguard will receive \$15.00/hr. and WSI instructors will receive \$24.00/hr. which is in line with our GEO teaching pay. Sandy Paisley will also receive a \$300 stipend and \$25.00/hr. for any hours worked training the new pool manager. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Zeman, second by Rozek to allow sporting events to be scheduled on Wednesdays for the remainder of the 21-22 school year. Motion carried 6-0.
9. There was no action to appoint a CESA 4 4 Annual convention representative at this time. Interested board member can contact the district office prior to the June 1, 2022 CESA meeting if they wish to be considered.
10. Motion by Zeman, second by Whalen to approve the 2022-2023 Salary Schedule as presented. This salary schedule represents a 4.7% CPI increase. Motion carried 6-0.
11. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to approve a professional staff increase of 5.00% on base wages (which is totaled and then divided by the number of returning teachers. Also included in this motion is to approve a \$.91-cent increase for hourly support staff. All increases are effective July 1, 2022. Motion carried 4-0 with Blaken & Rozek abstaining.
12. Motion by Zeman second by roll call vote to adjourn to Executive Session 19.85 1(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or evaluation of personnel and (f) consider financial, medical, social or personal histories of specific persons at 8:33 p.m.
13. Motion by Sacia, second by Blaken to reconvene to Open Session at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
14. Motion by Zeman, second by Rozek to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.