

## Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2023

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Jeff Arzt, 7-12 Principal Rick Dobbs (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), ECH-6 Principal Corey Peterson, Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff and Special Education Director Marie Sonsalla. Board Members present: Terry Blaken, Geoffrey Rozek, Kim Sacia, Becky Whalen, Kathy Dunn & Shane Zeman. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Correspondence:** None

**Administrator's Report:** Mr. Arzt presented a plaque from WASB to Board Member Becky Whalen for her 20 years of service and commitment to our district.

In the 2022 fiscal year, state & local tax revenues fell to just under 10.1% of personal income in the state which is down from 10.3% in 2021. That is the lowest level since the WI Policy Forum and its predecessor, WI Taxpayer's Alliance began tracking the state-local tax burden in 1970.

The new LFB (Legislative Fiscal Bureau) memo includes estimates of what inflationary increase per pupil would be for 23-24 and 24-25 fiscal/school years covered by the upcoming 23-25 state budget. According to the memo, 'Based on the January 2023 projections of quarterly inflation by S & P Global, it is estimated that the per pupil adjustments would be \$392.79 in 23-24 and \$403 in 24-25.'

Last Friday our district mechanic and transportation director along with Mr. Arzt, test drove an electric bus from LION. They have been meeting with LION and International bus companies to try to narrow down the options for an electric bus. After discussing the charging station needs with Jackson Electric and the charging manufacturer, we found out that the district will be able to use our existing 208 three phase power source to charge the bus.

Second Friday Pupil Count was held on January 13, 2023. We currently have 748 students with and FTE of 719. The FTE has not changed since our September pupil count.

Mock Trial traveled to Baraboo and went 3-1 during the tournament with the only loss to last year's state champs, Brookfield Central-1. The team will be competing here this Saturday for our home tournament.

E-Sports will start at the end of this month. 25 students signed up to participate and the hope is some of these students will receive academic scholarships at the end of the season.

**Open Forum:** None.

**Finance:** Review of the expenditures and receipts through December. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$1,168,169.67 Motion carried 6-0.

### **Other Business:**

1. Special Education Director Marie Sonsalla provided her annual special education update. Overall, students with IEP's account for 14% of all new students this year district-wide. This is down from 33% last year. We were able to maintain teacher staffing from the previous year as well as continuing to contract with CESA for several itinerant services such as occupational therapy, audiology and physical therapy.
2. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to approve the open enrollment regular and special education space allotments for the 2023-2024 (22-23 year was inaccurately listed on the agenda) school year. Motion carried 6-0. In looking at numbers for 2023-2024, it is recommended to not set caps on general education

grade levels throughout the district. Based on the numbers for students receiving special education programming, it would be in the best interest of the resident students in the Melrose-Mindoro School District for the School Board to set caps for special education open enrollment based on the recommendations below. Based on the current numbers, these are the openings we will have for the following special education programs for 2023-2024:

<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b><u>Elementary (ECH-6)</u></b>	<b><u>Junior High (7-8)</u></b>	<b><u>High School (9-12)</u></b>
<b>Early Childhood</b>	Spaces available = 12	NA	NA
<b>Cross-Categorical (Level 1)</b>	Spaces available = 0	Spaces available = 3	Spaces available = 2
<b>Cross-Categorical (Level 2)</b>	NA	NA	Spaces available = 8
<b>Speech &amp; Language</b>	Spaces available = 0 for district		
<b>Individual Paraprofessional</b>	Students with special education needs requesting Open Enrollment into the district who require 1:1 adult support during the school day will be denied.		

3. Motion by Blaken, second by Rozek to allow Seth Harelson to walk through the school forest to access hunting ground not owned by the school district. His weapon must not be loaded while traveling through the school owned property and a new request is to be made for each hunting season. Motion carried 6-0.
4. ECH-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal Corey Peterson provided an annual update of the school safety (ALICE) drills conducted earlier this month. Mr. Arzt did the same on behalf of 7-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal Rick Dobbs. Mr. Dobbs arrived to the meeting after this presentation.
5. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to table approving the 2023-2024 school calendar. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to approve one day of unpaid leave for teacher Lindsay Rozek. Motion carried 5-0 with board member Rozek abstaining.
7. Motion by Zeman, second by Blaken to accept the retirement of District Superintendent Jeff Arzt, effective June 30, 2023. Also included in the motion was approving paraprofessional Jessica Gallagher's resignation. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Sacia, second by Dunn to approve the second reading of Policy 453.31 Management of Pediculosis (Head Lice) In the Schools and 453.31 Rule Managing Head Lice in the Schools Procedures.
9. Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn to approve the purchase of elementary classroom desks for \$40,205. Motion carried 6-0.
10. Motion by Blaken second by Rozek to table the consideration for architect's design for greenhouse and gym project. Motion carried 6-0. The designs were not available by the time of board meeting.
11. 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 at 7:15 p.m.
12. Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to reconvene to Open Session at 7:51 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
13. Motion by Zeman, second by Rozek to approve hiring WASB for search for superintendent candidates. Motion carried 6-0.
14. Motion by Rozek, second by Sacia, to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray  
Recorder of Minutes