

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2022

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

Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Correspondence: The board received thank you cards from Rhonda Murphy, Jamie North, and Kari Johnson. All three had a parent pass away recently.

Administrator's Report: A letter was sent to parents on January 10 stating the district may possibly have to transition to virtual instruction due to a large number of staff absences and unfilled positions. The purpose of the letter was to give parents enough time to prepare a backup plan for child care if the school district needed to be closed. Fortunately, due to the dedication of our staff members we have been able to remain open. Mr. Arzt expressed his appreciation to all of the staff members who have continued to fill in for their coworkers who missed work due to COVID or other illnesses. In addition, he stated gratitude for the community members who have inquired about substitute teaching in the district. It has been an extremely difficult time for staff and as a small gesture of gratitude; he plans to allow staff to leave on Friday, January 28 at 2pm.

The second Friday count was held on January 14, 2022. There are 755 students in the district with an FTE of 735. This is an increase of three from the September count date FTE total of 732.

The Academic Decathlon team is headed to state completion for the 16th year (14 years in a row). The Mustangs won 18 individual awards at Regional level competition with Noah Hanson having the highest score of all the competitors at the regional held in Stevens Point. The team had the top score in the state for small schools, eighth overall in the state for all schools and was second in our regional behind Tomah.

Mock Trial team went 4-1 during recent tournament competition with the only loss against regional rival River Valley in an 85-84 loss. Next week, the team will compete online again Altoona with regionals being held on the weekend of February 12-13.

Sarah & Tim Cavadini donated a bench in memory of Sarah's father, Thomas Pfaff, Sr. We will be placing the bench by the parent pick up area in front of the elementary school.

E-sports is starting their spring season next week. There are 22 students signed up to play representing Melrose-Mindoro.

Open Forum: Holly Powers spoke in regards to concerns about IEPs not being fully implemented for students. She would like to see support for all students that are struggling, but is often told they are not 'failing enough' to warrant an IEP or additional services. She also feels that using Facebook is one way to communicate but it shouldn't be the only way and that messages should also be emailed to all parents. She also wants teachers to be prepared to transition to virtual instruction smoothly by having 1-2 weeks of curriculum prepared ahead of time.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through December. Motion by Whalen, second by Zeman to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$669,672.02. Motion carried 5-0. There were no budget transfers.

Other Business:

1. Special Education Director Marie Sonsalla presented the annual special education report. Approximately 17.3% (131 students) of our overall student population receives some form of special education programming. This has remained consistent for the last three years. Staffing the department has increased, but we are still looking for more paraprofessional staff due to several students requiring 1:1 support.
2. Motion by Blaken, second by Sacia to approve the open enrollment regular & special education space allotments for the 2022-2023 school year listed below. Motion carried 5-0.

**Regular Education 2022-2023 Open Enrollment Restrictions
Estimate Date: January 24, 2022
Space Determination for 2022-2023**

<u>Grade Level 2021-2022</u>	<u>Space for Open Enrollment 2022-2023</u>
PK-12	No Regular Education Restrictions

**Special Education 2022-2023 Open Enrollment Restrictions
Estimate Date: January 24, 2022
Space Determination for 2022-2023**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Elementary (ECH-6)</u>	<u>Junior High (7-8)</u>	<u>Secondary (9-12)</u>
Early Childhood	Spaces available-11	NA	NA
Cross Categorical (Level 1)	Spaces available = 0	Spaces available=0	Spaces available = 0
Cross Categorical (Level 2)	NA	NA	Spaces available = 5
Speech & Language	Spaces available = 0	Spaces available = 0	Spaces available = 0
Individual Paraprofessional	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. ECH-6th Gr Principal/Curriculum Coordinator Corey Peterson updated the board members of our process for new math programs/curriculum. After holding several meetings the choices were whittled down the three programs; Illustrative Math, Envision Math & Ready Math. Final selection will be made before the end of the school year. Mr. Peterson is also working on getting the elementary building to be considered a 'schoolwide' Title 1 school vs. its current standing as a 'targeted' Title 1 school. By moving to the schoolwide status, this will allow for more flexibility with resources for all elementary students. In one final topic, Mr. Peterson sent out a survey to PreK-12 grade parents with IEP's or 504 plans on how to make virtual instruction better for all students, but especially for our special education students. Out of the 145 emails sent out, 23 responded. In the event of a future school closing that would cause the district to move to virtual learning. The survey results aim to better prepare the district to help all students learn in a remote setting.
4. Motion by Whalen, second by Anderson to adopt District Notice of Educational Options (K-12 District)- 343.3 Exhibit. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Motion by Whalen second by Sacia to increase the daily substitute teaching rate (Days 1-10) from \$110 to \$120 (with free lunch) effective January 24, 2022. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Motion by Sacia, second by Anderson to approve the modified schedule for Jackson Paisley. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Motion by Zeman, second by Anderson to accept the donation from Tim & Sarah Cavadini in memory of Thomas Pfaff Sr. Motion carried 5-0. A bench has been purchased and will be placed by the elementary parent pick up area this spring.

8. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to approved the 2022-2023 school calendar. Motion carried 5-0.
9. Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to accept the resignation of 7-8th grade math teacher Jennifer Radaj. Motion carried 5-0.
10. Motion by Zeman, second by Whalen to table hiring any professional or support staff until a future meeting. Motion carried 5-0.
11. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to increase GEO and remedial summer school pay. Starting in June 2022, GEO pay will be \$24.00/hr. and remedial pay will be \$30.00/hr. Motion carried 5-0.
12. Motion by Zeman, second by roll call vote to adjourn to Executive Session per WI Statute 19.85 1(c)-To consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation of staff at 8:07 p.m.
13. Motion to reconvene to Open Session at 8:34 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.
14. Motion by Zeman, second by Sacia to provide a \$500 retention stipend to all active, regular staff actively employed as of February 1, 2022. Motion carried 4-0 with Blaken abstaining.
15. Motion by Sacia, second by Blaken to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes