

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, March 28, 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, and Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff. Board Members present: Becky Whalen, Jodi Anderson, Kim Sacia, Terry Blaken, 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: HSRA (High School Racing Association) Director Jonathan Eckelberg wrote a thank you letter to the board for allowing students to earn a school letter for participating in HSRA events.

Administrator's Report: 22 students were inducted into the National Honor Society on Monday, March 14, 2022. NHS Advisor Abby Fernan served as the main speaker for the night.

Congratulations to Kellee Hangartner and Janae Waughtal. They were both accepted into the WI State FFA Choir. Noah Hanson has been selected to be part of the WI State Honors Mixed Choir and Emma Burks was chosen as an alternate for the Treble Choir. Only about one-third of the students who audition are chosen to participate and most of them are from much larger school districts.

The Finance & Investment Challenge Bowl was held at Western Technical College on March 15, 2022. The Mel-Min team consisted of Ty Patterson, Ashton Olson, Zach Kastenschmidt and Noah Hanson. They will advance to state competition on May 18, 2022. The team member was awarded a \$250 scholarship.

Maria Gonzales (8th grade) qualified for the state Spelling Bee in Madison. This is a huge accomplishment and the district is very proud of her.

The 4th grade students will display their Wisconsin Fair boards in the elementary cafeteria on Friday, April 1. Students will be available that day from 2:30-3:00 p.m. to answer any questions from parents and visitors.

The 60-lot development across from the school that was underway a few months ago has been dissolved after the land was sold for hunting purposes. We may still look at the possibility of developing the school's 19 acres across the road again.

Mr. Arzt has been involved in a group that is trying to help solve the serious lack of daycare services in Jackson County. The group of community leaders are in the process of applying for a Wisconsin Workforce Innovation grant. The goal is to add 500 daycare slots over the next few years. School districts would partner with local businesses and the county to help develop a program to solve the barriers associated with providing quality daycare services.

Open Forum: Katherine Geary stated her concerns regarding the rise in bullying in the school district and across the state. She has felt her children were victims of bullying and has open enrolled her children to a neighboring district.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through February. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$2,109,657.19. Motion carried 6-0. There were no budget transfers.

Other Business:

1. Lisa Voisin from Baird Financial provided a brief review of our referendum debt and the potential of refinancing. Our earliest available date is in 2025 but Lisa stated that Baird closely monitors rates and will be in contact with us if there are favorable rate changes.
2. Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to table hearing & approving the updated Academic & Career Plan until next month. Mrs. Fernan was ill today and unable to update the board at this meeting. Motion carried 6-0.
3. Motion by Whalen, second by Anderson to accept the \$2,500 grant from ALM Charities. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn to renew the 2022-2023 Bridging Brighter Smiles contract. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to approve the 2022-2023 CESA 4 & CESA 10 contracts. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn to approve the short term borrowing bid from First National Bank at 1.78% for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Motion carried 5-0 with Blaken abstaining. One other bid submitted for consideration was from Black River Country Bank for 2.15%.
7. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the resignation of JH/HS Secretary & Athletic Director Heather Young. Motion carried 6-0.
8. 7-12th Grade Principal Dobbs informed the board members of the increase of students who are vaping in and out of school. Our school district is not the only district that has seen this increase. Suggestions to deter students from vaping included increasing the frequency of training with SRO/Deputy Kyle Nosbisch and using the TATU program to help promote the health and well-being of our students.
9. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to approve the installation of vape detecting devices. Motion carried 6-0.
10. 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 8:08 p.m.
11. Motion to reconvene to Open Session at 8:44 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
12. Motion by Whalen, second by Anderson to approve a \$3000 stipend for the District Nurse. Motion carried 6-0.
13. Motion by Anderson, second by Dunn to approve a \$.90/hr. increase for kitchen staff effective March 20, 2022 and a \$3,000 salary increase for the Food Service Director. Motion carried 6-0.
14. Motion by Anderson, second by Blaken to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes