

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
April 24, 2023

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Jeff Arzt, 7-12 Principal Rick Dobbs, ECH-6 Principal Corey Peterson, Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff. Board Members present: Terry Blaken, Geoffrey Rozek, Becky Whalen, Kathy Dunn, Kim Sacia & Shane Zeman. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Kim Sacia & Richard Paisley were sworn in as members of the school board. They were elected at the April 4, 2023 Spring Election. The election of officers then took place with Rick Paisley elected as Board President, Shane Zeman as Vice-President, Kim Sacia as Board Clerk and Becky Whalen as Board Treasurer. All motions carried 6-0.

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

Correspondence: None

Administrator's Report: Congratulations to Rick Paisley & Kim Sacia on their reelection to school board.

Prom was held April 15 and had a wonderful turnout. Thank you to advisors Jim Briggs, Brenda Chamberlain and Laura Aleckson. Also thanks to Erik Hanson for providing music and support from Tara Tjerstad and Ashlyn Waughtal the night of the dance.

Health insurance premiums increased 10% over last year's rates but were able to secure an 8% increase with current provider Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA). The district is reviewing other options for health insurance which include self-funding through Ticket Health/Pareto. Board members are invited to review the plan option and possibly make a decision at next month's regular board meeting.

The Food Service department has completed their five year review/audit completed. It was a very positive and easy review and Sarah McAdams was complemented by the audit staff for her extensive knowledge of the various food programs. There is a large fund balance that needs to be spent down over the next year and plans are being made to do so.

The Junior & Senior High Music departments recently attended large group clinics in Whitehall. Band and Choir groups received a first rating in their respective groups.

Senator Jeff Smith will meet with community members May 2 in the high school auditorium to discuss the state budget.

After the Melrose elementary building was sold, a portion of the playground was gifted to the Village of Melrose. It was brought to the district's attention that the legal paperwork was not correctly filed. This will be rectified in the next month.

The FFA had a very nice banquet and awards presentation last week. Membership has increased and Mr. Steve Boe takes great pride in this growth and the accomplishments of the students.

Open Forum: None.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through March. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$1,026,673.58. Motion carried 6-0.

Other Business:

1. Motion by Blaken, second by Whalen to accept the donations from Leann Kramer (\$500), Jill Kramer (\$500), Quad County Wild Turkey LTD & an anonymous donor (\$1,000 each) to go towards the Academic Decathlon team when they head to Frisco, TX for national competition next Tuesday. Motion carried 6-0. The school board is required to formally accept donations above \$500. Several other donors made smaller contributions and will be acknowledged by the team individually.
2. Motion by Zeman, second by Rozek to allow the scheduling of athletic events on Wednesday nights for the remainder of the school year. Due to inclement weather this spring, several events needed to be rescheduled. Scheduling contests on Wednesday nights will be used as a last option. Motion carried 6-0.
3. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to accept the resignation of 4K teacher Sydney Behm. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Motion by Zeman, second by Blaken to hire Zach Severson as the 9-12 Social Studies teacher. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Motion by Whalen, second by Zeman to hire Deanna Wiatt the next superintendent effective July 1, 2023. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Zeman, second by Rozek to hire pool employees (WSI & lifeguards) for the upcoming season. WSI will receive \$24/hr. Returning lifeguards will receive a \$.25/hour increase from the rate they received last year. New lifeguards will receive \$12.00/hour starting pay. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Geoffrey Rozek volunteered to be the district's representative at the June 7, 2023 CESA 4 Annual meeting.
8. Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to allow Kari Peterson to hold meetings to gauge student interest in traveling to Europe in 2025. Motion carried 6-0.
9. Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to allow Erik Hanson one hour of unpaid leave. Motion carried 6-0.
10. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the student requests for Start College Now/ECCP courses for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried 6-0.
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 and 1(f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories of specific persons at 6:35 p.m.
12. Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn to reconvene to Open Session at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
13. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to table the new compensation model for professional & co-curricular pay. Motion carried 6-0.
14. Motion by Dunn, second by Blaken to allow Holly Judd early graduation and attend the ceremony on May 19, 2023. Motion carried 6-0.
15. Motion by Rozek, second by Sacia to apply to the FEMA BRIC grant. Grant writer Jordan Buss will be completing the grant with the district's help. Motion carried 6-0.
16. Motion by Dunn, second by Rozek to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes