

## **Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education**

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, August 23, 2021

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

**Citizen Comments to Board in Relation to Fall Opening Plan:** Becky Fredrick requested masks remain an optional choice. Becky recited data from the DHS website indicating infection cases remain low (she offered documentation to Board Members); she requested to give kids an opportunity to be children, allow them to be heard and seen, and make their own choice on whether or not to wear a mask.

Per the opening plan parent/community meetings, electronic submission of comments was an option. Jeff Arzt collected the emails he had received (7) and provided copies to Board Members. Arzt had not received any telephone calls pertaining to Fall Opening Plan comments.

**Consider Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to table considering minutes of previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Motion by Sacia, second by Dunn to table minutes of previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence.

**Administrator's Report:** Arzt requested all present to keep Michelle Murray's family in your thoughts and prayers this week.

In preparation for the new school year starting on 8/24/21, a big "Thank you!" goes out to our custodians for doing a wonderful job. We received many compliments pertaining to the condition of our building at Open House.

The district finished the first annual audit with Casey Pfaff as the Finance Administrator. The auditors were pleased with how well organized the audit was prepared and with how clean our books looked. Thank you to Casey, Michelle Murray, and Kathy Blaken for their assistance with the audit preparation and on-site process.

Western Technical College has finalized our Transcribed Credit number for the 2020-2021 school year. Even during the uncharted time times this past year, Western Technical College was able to provide over 12,000 college credits valued at just over \$1.8 Million dollars to students. The breakdown specifically for Melrose-Mindoro High School:

Total Students Earning Transcribed Credit: 78 Total Transcribed Credits Earned: 160 Total Savings for your student/district: \$23,944.00 There are several areas students at Melrose-Mindoro can obtain transcribed credits in: AP Statistics, AP US History, etc.

All professional positions have been filled prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. We are very happy with the quality of candidates we were able to obtain – the new teachers are very knowledgeable and bring great energy to the district.

Professional Development opportunities were offered via PLC (through Zoom) for professional staff. In addition, we have had a great week of in-service where staff is busily preparing for students to return to school.

Tory Lockington, Varsity Football Coach, wants to purchase cold weather football jackets. The current ones date back to the 1970s. The Booster Club is willing to pay half; the district would need to pick up the remainder (approximately \$1000 for each entity).

For extra-curricular sports teams, we have 41 participants for Football, 7 participants for Boys Cross Country, 8 participants for Girls Cross Country, 7 participants for Boys Soccer, and 36 participants for Volleyball.

Congratulations to Amy Thesing; she was awarded Best Teacher (K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) for LaCrosse County.

CLOCworks met with Dan Stetzer & Mr. Arzt regarding software that could potentially create cost saving measures in relation to the energy usage for the district. The software monitors our usage, weather conditions, and the price of energy. The software automatically ensures efficient power usage at all times and reduces building electricity bills. Mr. Arzt is doing follow-up information gathering; however, there is no real identified risk to the district. In the event the district is able to produce a savings while using the software, we would provide CLOCworks with half of the savings via check. If the district has zero savings, we would not be required to pay anything.

Thank you to Allison Rigotti and her Desktop Publishing class for creating the career path posters that are hanging on the cafeteria walls. They look great and will be a great conversation piece for students as they prepare for their career journey.

**Open Forum:** None.

**Finance:** Review of the expenditures and receipts through July. Motion by Zeman, second by Sacia to approve necessary budget changes. Motion carried 6-0. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$1,733,218.42. Motion carried 6-0.

**Consider Approving 2021-22 Fall Opening Plan & COVID Protocols:** Mr. Arzt presented the current version of the Fall Opening Plan, which was shared with parents and community members during two

separate Facebook meetings prior to tonight's Board Meeting. Since the second meeting on 8/17, we have had 40+ people view the recorded version of the meeting. Highlights of the Opening Plan:

- Mask wearing is family choice – they are not required, but mask wearing is promoted.
- Masks must be worn on the school bus per the CDC mandate.
- The school district is looking into having a COVID-19 testing service on site. It is currently not identified in the plan as happening, but is currently being reviewed. Students would not be tested without parent permission, and there is an opportunity for entire households to be tested free of charge.
- Disinfecting procedures will remain the same as last year – wiping down of desks between classes in the JH/SH and frequently in the Elementary.
- Screening for symptoms will continue. Parents are encouraged to keep ill children at home.
- Staff will be allowed to teach remotely in the event they are quarantined.
- Busses will be unloading at the main entrances. Conveniently, students will be able to grab breakfast.
- The district now has three vans that are handicapped accessible; this will allow for more needs being met safely. In addition, it will increase who can transport, as there is no bus license required to drive the vans.
- Brave Spaces will provide mental health services; if the student's insurance will not cover the services needed, the district will provide funding for the service.
- We have hosted two vaccination clinics.
- Goal: Keeping kids in school.

Motion by Blaken to approve the Fall Opening Plan with masks being family choice, and to grant the administration team the authority to make changes to the Fall Opening Plan as warranted; second by Sacia. Motion carried 6-0.

**Other Business:**

1. Motion by Zeman, second by Anderson to accept the \$1000 Xcel Energy/Brad Kegley donation. Motion carried 6-0. These funds will support the district's fishing team.
2. Motion by Dunn, second by Anderson to accept the resignations of Toni Adams as paraprofessional, Les Pfaff as custodian, Kari Johnson as drama director, and Lindsay Rozek as JV girls' basketball coach. Motion carried 6-0.
3. Motion by Whalen, second by Blaken to hire Toni Adams as 4K teacher, Jordan Paisley as paraprofessional, Katie Ramsey as paraprofessional, Arin Smith as paraprofessional, Diana Hansen as paraprofessional, Tiffany Hulburt as paraprofessional/bus driver, and John Stark as bus driver. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to consider changes to the elementary handbook. The changes include clean-up of existing handbook: new letter from Corey, cell phone language, teacher emails, adding new staff, noting specific standards based grading in elementary, editing the daily schedule for the new year. New items added to the handbook: Updating/adding Surround Care with our current look, diagram for drop off and picking up students, our HS

language for video surveillance, code of conduct, bullying weapons (all replaced old language), 4K admittance policy, defining PBIS and what a major and minor involves, and noting the allowance of Harrison as our Therapy Dog (still noting no to other pets). Motion carried 6-0.

5. Motion by Zeman, second by roll call vote to adjourn to Executive Session per WI statute 19.85 1(c)- Consider Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Evaluation of Personnel at 8:21PM.
6. Motion by Zeman, second by Sacia to reconvene to Open Session at 8:43PM. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to approve a \$4,000 increase to the JH/SH Principal salary. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Zeman, second by Anderson to adjourn at 8:44PM. Motion carried 6-0.

Casey Pfaff  
Recorder of Minutes