

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, August 24, 2020

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Jeff Arzt, 7-12 Principal Rick Dobbs, ECH-6th Gr. Principal Corey Peterson and Finance Administrators Casey Pfaff and Kim Bobo. 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 Dunn to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence: Thank you cards from the Bob Hardie and Marcella Koss families were received. Bob was a long-time board member and school board President and Marcella was the mother of Cindy Koss-Rommel. Both had recently passed away.

Administrator's Report: Kim Bobo is retiring after 28 years in the district and Mr. Arzt presented a plaque to her at tonight's meeting.

Today was the first day for students since March 16, 2020. It was a great first day and the staff and students were very excited to be back. We are still working through some minor issues but we are confident that everything will be worked out and become routine in a few weeks.

All professional staff will hopefully be hired by the end of tonight's meeting. Some staff members have been reassigned to ensure smaller class sizes at the elementary level. Title 1 teacher, Amy Thesing, will move to first grade and Toni Gasch will work with the KG virtual students. Special Education teacher, Lindsay Rozek, will now split her time between 4K students two days a week and special education students attending virtually the other three days. The elementary will be looking to hire four new paraprofessionals.

The staff had four great days of in-service last week. Teachers used the four days to prepare for in-person and virtual education in their classroom.

Thank you to the Mindoro Lions for their donation of \$600 and to Sharon Pfaff for writing a grant through Thrivent for \$250. Both donations will be used to purchase masks for students. Action will be taken later in the meeting to formally accept the Mindoro Lions Club donation since it is over \$500.

Our annual audit begins tomorrow. Auditors are typically here during the summer and spend 2-4 days on site reviewing and auditing the district's financial reports.

Dairyland Conference superintendents met in regards to the revised /updated start dates for football only. An update from the July 27 press release has the first practice date of football on September 14 vs. September 7 for high school and junior high school athletes. All games will be limited to conference opponents and large multi-team tournaments will be cancelled. In addition, each athlete will be limited to 4 tickets per participant. Spectators will be required to wear a mask.

Mr. Hanson is planning an E-sports season this fall. The lists of games are out and students are interested in playing military games such as Call of Duty. We did not allow students to participate in those games last year. With parent permission would the school allow them to play those types of games? Mr. Arzt and Mr. Dobbs will meet to discuss the different game options.

The state mask mandate is scheduled to expire at the end of September. Although the reopening plan states masks will be worn at all times in the building and on buses, Mr. Arzt would like to have a discussion at the September board meeting on how the district will proceed if the mandate expires.

Open Forum: None.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through July. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to approve the necessary budget changes. Motion carried 6-0. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$993,442.19. Motion carried 6-0.

Other Business:

1. Mr. Arzt updated the board on the 2020-2021 budget. We are still waiting to hear if the state is going to pass a budget repair bill and how that will affect budgeting for the year. The estimated property value was estimated to grow 4.7% for the district.
2. Motion by Blaken, second by Anderson to accept the \$600 donation from the Mindoro Lions Club. Funds will be used to purchase face masks. Motion carried 6-0.
3. We currently have approximately 11% of the student body attending virtually. The numbers fluctuated slightly with some students deciding to attend in person rather than virtually.
4. Motion by Sacia, second by Dunn to approve the 2020-2021 Academic Standards as presented. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Motion by Whalen, second by Zeman to accept the resignations of Samantha Anderson, paraprofessional; Roxanne Ghent, food service; and Janet Woodward from JH volleyball along with boys and girls head Jr. High coaching positions. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Sacia, second by Anderson to hire the following: Heidi Kleinsmith, Speech/Language Pathologist. Previously, Heidi worked as a contracted vs. district staff member. Clifftin Stanton, Nicole Rommel, Madeline Smith, Heather Dokkebaken and Stacy Stair were recommended to hire as paraprofessionals; Jeff Severson as a bus driver and Chris Fry as junior high head football coach. Ashlyn Waughtal has transferred from ECH-6th grade paraprofessional to 7-12th Media Aide. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Motion by Dunn, second by Whalen to approve the changes to the professional and support staff handbooks by including information related to COVID-19. The elementary handbook also added the new transportation policy. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to suspend the two readings before specifically adopting Policies, Rules & Exhibits of 411-Student Nondiscrimination and 511-Equal Opportunity Employment & Nondiscrimination. Motion carried 6-0.
9. Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to approve policies, rules and exhibits for 411-Student Nondiscrimination and 511-Equal Opportunity Employment & Nondiscrimination. 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)- Consider Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Evaluation of Personnel at 7:43 p.m.
11. Motion by Blaken, second by Sacia to reconvene to Open Session at 8:06 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
12. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the following one time stipend pay related to additional work (from July 1-August 23, 2020) each individual did to prepare for the return of our students during the COVID-19 health pandemic; all at their respective per diem rates. Jeff Arzt, Rick Dobbs & Corey Peterson to receive 10 days; Sarah McAdams, Kay Ciechanowski and Marie Sonsalla to receive seven days and Jamie Koss to receive five days. In addition, Mr. Arzt will receive per diem pay for any vacation time not used from the prior year that is remaining on October 31, 2020. Motion carried 6-0.
13. Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes