

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

December 16, 2024

CONVENE

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting of the Melrose-Mindoro School Board of Education to order 6:15 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Deanna Wiatt, 7-12 Principal Rick Dobbs, ECH-6th Principal Corey Peterson, and Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff. Board Members present: Terry Blaken, Becky Whalen, Geoff Rozek, Shane Zeman, Kim Sacia and Emily Stanton. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Sacia, second by Stanton to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNITY:

1. **Correspondence:** Thank you from Joie Stark & Tammy Johnson for the memorial gifts from the board and administration. Their mother passed away.
2. **Public Comment:** Steve Libke state his concerns regarding closed sessions at the recent board meetings. WI State Statute 19.85 1(i) has been repealed and should not be used for closed sessions. He also questioned the number of times a community member is allowed to take the referendum survey. Were there restrictions in place?

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- The music departments in both the elementary and secondary levels have been busy with their holiday concerts. It is great to see the community supporting our students at these events.
- New 'School Entrance' signs along with reduced speed limit signs were placed on Highway 108 in front of the school in the hopes to remind drivers to slow down and be alert when coming into the school parking lots and along the highway in general.
- State report cards for the school districts were released to the public at the end of November. The state has once again changed the cut scores which makes it challenging to compare results to previous years. More information will be shared later in this meeting.
- We continue to work on the ACT 20 regulations and preparation for the state mandated winter screener, aimswebPlus. We are also finalizing the required Personal Reading Plans that will be sent home for all the students in grades K-3 who are under the 25th percentile on the district's reading assessment in January.
- The referendum community survey closed December 2. We appreciate everyone who took the time to fill out the survey and for those who filled out constructive comments. Mrs. Sue Peterson is here tonight to review our survey results and guide a discussion around the next steps in our referendum process.
- There is still time to sign up for the WASB convention which is January 22-24. Please talk to me after tonight's meeting if you are interested in going.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Minutes from the previous month's Regular Board Meeting:** Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.
2. **Finance:** Review of the expenditures and receipts through November. There were no budget changes. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$1,728,011.95. Motion carried 6-0. Cash flow and activity accounts were reviewed.
3. **Personnel Report:** Resignations: Motion by Zeman, second by Stanton to accept the resignation of Jim Briggs as Education Coordinator at the end of the 24-25 school year. Tallie Kurlinkus-Young has resigned from food service but will continue to substitute as needed. Motion carried 6-0. Hired Staff: Motion by Blaken, second by Whalen to approve hiring Amber Libke as paraprofessional. Cheryl Thompson will move from a substitute food service position to a permanent position and Tammy LaBar will start in food service on January 2, 2025 working three days a week. Motion carried 6-0. Retirement: None.

DISCUSS AND/OR TAKE ACTION

1. **Hear from State FFA Officer Jazmin Wagner:** Melrose-Mindoro alumni Jazmin Wagner was elected to be our Section 3 State Secretary for FFA. There are 11 sections in Wisconsin. This is a wonderful honor and she is the first female from Mel-Min to achieve this position. She has travelled over 7500 miles and has been very busy visiting various schools promoting FFA activities during her tenure. She also invited Mr. Dobbs and Mrs. Wiatt to the State Convention June 9-10.
2. **Community Survey & Referendum Discussion:** Sue Peterson from ISG discussed the survey results. To answer Mr. Libke's comment he made during public comment, there are parameters in place that would alert her if an unusually large number of surveys were taken from the same IP address. These would be reviewed and eliminated from the results. She stated that she did not see this type of activity in our survey results. There was a 29% response rate (717 responses). The responses showed the most support for a recurring referendum for \$1.2 million over the other options (zero/no change, \$1.5 or \$1.8 million) The \$1.2 million referendum option translates into approximately \$162 per \$100,000 value in property.
3. **Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Recurring Purposes:** Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve a *Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$1,200,000 for Recurring Purposes*. Motion carried 6-0.
4. **Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Recurring Purposes:** Motion by Stanton, second by Zeman to approved a *Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$1,200,000 for Recurring Purposes*. Motion carried 6-0. The language for this referendum and question as it will appear on the April 1, 2025 ballot: *'Shall the School District of Melrose-Mindoro, La Crosse, Jackson and Monroe Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,200,000 to take effect in the 2025-2026 school year for recurring purposes of operational expenses?'* Motion carried 6-0.
5. **Consider High School Course Handbook Changes for 2025-2026:** 7-12th Grade Principal Rick Dobbs discussed the suggested changes to multiple classes that students will be able to take in 2025-2026. Motion by Stanton, second by Blaken to approve the changes and also limit the number of credits that the district pays for Start College Now and ECCP courses to 18 total credits. Motion carried 6-0.
6. **Approve Purchase of Activity Account CDs:** Motion by Blaken, second by Rozek to approve moving CDs which matured at 2.23% APY to 4.00% APY for 7 months. Motion carried 6-0.

CLOSED SESSION: Motion by Zeman, second by roll call vote to adjourn to closed session at 8:50 p.m. The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1)(c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation date of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility". The board, if appropriate, will return to open session following the closed session to take action on the items discussed in the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Zeman, second by Rozek to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes