

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, December 20, 2021

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, Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff. Board Members present: Becky Whalen, Jodi Anderson, Kim Sacia, Terry Blaken, & 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 5-0.

Correspondence: The Black Oak Club donated winter clothes & supplies for our elementary students. Thank you for their generosity.

Administrator's Report: Governor Evers provided an additional \$110 million for schools which translates into approximately \$100,000 in funding for the district, which was received this month.

There is a potential for an approximate 60 acre housing development located across the road from the school in LaCrosse County.

The music department did a wonderful job on all three of their music concerts this month. There was a great turnout for all programs. Students enjoyed performing for their relatives, friends and community in attendance.

The WI State Education convention will be held in Milwaukee January 19-21, 2022. Please let Mr. Arzt or Michelle know if you would like to attend.

Special Education Director Marie Sonsalla will be at next month's meeting to recommend open enrollment caps for regular and special education programs for the 2022-2023 school year. This is done annually in January.

In another annual duty, if the board plans to non-renew administrative staff, written notice of such non-renewal must be provided by January 31, 2022.

Mr. Arzt commented on the letter that was sent to parents concerning the potential school threat on the social media site Tik Tok. He stated, there was no substantiated threat to the Melrose-Mindoro School District or any district that we are aware of, but it is always important to share information with parents so they can make their own decisions concerning student safety. Approximately 35-40 students did not attend school as a result of the information that was shared with parents.

Open Forum: Daniel Zawaki once again, expressed his concern over his child having to continue to wear a mask during school. If the district was not receiving any funding to keep the masks in place, then why are we continuing to force the children to wear masks? He noted that none of the board members present were wearing masks and didn't feel that was fair and children were physically and mentally being abused by continuing to wear masks.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through November. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$790,659.69. Motion carried 5-0. There were no budget transfers.

Other Business:

1. Motion by Zeman, second by Sacia to change masking to family choice starting January 3, 2022 for the entire district. Students will still need to wear masks on the bus per CDC guidelines for public transportation. Motion carried 4-1 (nay-Blaken)

2. Mr. Arzt presented the proposed ESSER III plan (Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief). A public meeting was held December 7 with one community member in attendance. These funds are scheduled to be used in 22-23 & 23-24 school years with final claims made in September 2024.
3. Mr. Arzt & Mr. Peterson presented the 20-21 school report card. The district is doing well but there is always room for growth. Interpreting the results is somewhat difficult due to the reconfiguration of our school buildings in 2018 along with inconsistent testing of students in the state and nation due to COVID.
4. Motion by Blaken, second by Sacia to accept the donations of \$500 from Melrose Express to the music department and \$1,000 from Ashley for the Arts for the Elementary PBIS program. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Motion by Whalen, second by Anderson to renew the Jackson County school resource deputy for the next three years. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Motion by Zeman, second by Blaken to accept the \$750 donation of Milwaukee power tools from LaCrosse Area Builders Association. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Motion by Sacia, second by Anderson to approve the modified second semesters schedule requests for Carlie Berger, Ella Fry, Josie Rommel, Harley Whitacre, Aiden Winslow and Amber Craig. Motion carried 5-0.
8. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the unpaid leave requests for Karen Giese and Jessica Schams-Mulholland. Motion carried 5-0.
9. 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 8:07 p.m.
10. Motion to reconvene to Open Session at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.
11. Motion by Zeman, second by Anderson to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes