

## Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, December 21, 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-6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Principal Corey Peterson and Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff. Board Members present: Becky Whalen, Jodi Anderson, Kim Sacia, Terry Blaken & Kathy Dunn with Shane Zeman attending via virtual link. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A public hearing was held in order to listen to comments regarding a request for a waiver for Early Start of the 2021-02022 School Year per WI Statute 118.045(3) due to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. There were no members of the public present.

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

**Correspondence:** The district received a thank you card from Jim Briggs after his father passed away. In addition, Renee Groth from Mayo Health sent the district a thank you note to all of our students who have been sending Get Well cards to their patients. The cards have brought a much needed smile to the ill patients.

**Administrator's Report:** A stimulus package was recently passed and will be providing approximately 54.8 billion for K-12 schools, largely delivered through Title 1 funding. That's about four times what schools received in the CARES Act approved in March 2020.

Our final audit report from Engelson & Associates has been received and is available for review.

The district received IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) accountability report. The district meets all requirements with a score of 93%. One category, IDEA Racial Equality, will be updated in the spring of 2021. We also received our report on ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) and are in compliance.

The annual WI State Education convention will be held January 20-22. It will be all virtual event. Please contact Michelle to register for the convention.

The percentage of students on Free and Reduced lunch program at the beginning of the school year was 43% and has dropped to 35%. This is partially due to the lunch program being free for all students this year due to COVID so parents are not completing the paperwork. This could hurt our ability to qualify for certain programs in the future. Food Service Director Sarah McAdams is calling parents to encourage them to fill out the proper paperwork with little success. Families are charged for milk break unless the free/reduced paperwork is completed.

There are still funds remaining in Fund 49 due to our referendum. Monies in the fund can be used for various projects and the district is waiting for approval from Quarles & Brady (the firm who wrote our referendum language) before proceeding with them.

Future discussion about making our nurse a full time benefitted position. We have seen the benefits of an RN on staff and it would be beneficial to have this position become full time in the next school year possibly.

Special Education Designee Marie Sonsalla will attend next month's board meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing enrollment caps. This is required to be done every January for the upcoming school year.

The deadline for non-renewing administrative positions drawing near. A written explanation of non-renewal is due January 31, 2021.

A surge of COVID-19 positive students after Thanksgiving has caused the district to pivot to an all virtual schedule for the second time for our 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Approximately 100 students were required to quarantine after returning from Thanksgiving break. Of the 24 student cases reported since late August, 13 of them came after November 30, 2020. In addition, we plan to shift all 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students to an A Day/B Day schedule for a few weeks after returning from Christmas break on January 4. We feel this will eliminate the large number of students needing to quarantine.

Mr. Dobbs shared what the JH/SH level is doing to address the struggles of students of color at our school. Dr. Marcus Lewis met virtually with students to form what he calls an Affinity Group and will follow that with a series of professional development to offer tools for the staff. The Affinity Group will continue to meet as well to address the needs of those students.

**Open Forum:** Kathy Dunn asked if walkers were allowed back in the school. Not at this time due to sanitizing those area where they walk. However, the track is still snow free and available for use. Kim Sacia had a few questions about why basketball games allowed spectators but wrestling does not. GET is considered the 'host' school and we are required to follow their rules. At this time, they are not allowing spectators.

**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 \$2,244,847.93. Motion carried 6-0.

**Other Business:**

1. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to approve the waiver request for early start of the 2021-2022 school year per WI Statute 118.045(3) due to Coronavirus pandemic. Motion carried 6-0.
2. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to accept the Town of Farmington donation of \$10,031.45. Motion carried 6-0.
3. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to approve the Temporary Emergency Pandemic Leave policy. Motion carried 6-0. This policy is in effect until the end of the school year, or the Board of Education removes it, or a new state or federal act or extension of the FFCRA is granted for additional emergency paid leave.
4. Motion by Sacia, second by Blaken to approve the bid from Winona Heating & Ventilation to replace the six roof top heating and AC units along the chiller in the large gym, pending approval from Quarles & Brady to use Fund 49 monies. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Motion by Whalen, second by Anderson to approve the bid from DWD for the bus cleaning system pending approval from Quarles & Brady to use Fund 49 monies. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to open an activity account for Junior High Student Council. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Motion by Blaken, second by Anderson to approve closing the checking account for Junior High Student Council. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Dunn, second by Anderson to approve the early graduation and modified schedules for four seniors. Motion carried 6-0.
9. Motion by Dunn, second by Whalen, to approve the changes to the 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade course handbook. Motion carried 6-0.
10. Motion by Blaken, second by Sacia to accept the resignation of High School Head Volleyball Coach Jenna Kowalke. Motion carried 6-0.
11. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to hire Jamie Koss as GEO-Remedial Summer School Coordinator. Motion carried 6-0.
12. Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray  
Recorder of Minutes