

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

February 26, 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, 7-12th Grade Principal Richard Dobbs, ECH-6th Principal Corey Peterson, and Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff. Board Members present: Terry Blaken, Becky Whalen, Kim Sacia, Geoff Rozek, Shane Zeman, and Kathy Dunn. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Superintendent Wiatt travelled to Madison on Thursday, February 22nd to support the Titan wrestlers competing at the state level. At the completion of the state tournament, Macki Kaz placed 4th and Colton Koss placed 3rd. Gunnar Johnson (GET) also competed. In addition, she had the privilege of watching the girls basketball team compete in their second game of regionals. The outcome was not what was hoped for, but the girls had a great season. The boys basketball team was awarded Conference Champions and will take on Neillsville in their first round of playoffs. The DECA team left Sunday to compete at the State Conference in Lake Geneva; we wish them well! This is just a reminder that our small rural school district has a variety of offerings and very talented students!

In the last week of January, Superintendent Wiatt and Mr. Peterson met with area daycare providers to discuss the roll-out of the all-day, 5-days-a-week 4K program. Three providers were in attendance. Marketing work is being done to promote this program for our district – thank you Whitney Tollefson & Chelsea Parker!

A long-term plan is being established to balance the budget. With input from other districts, utilizing resources from financial management companies, and taking advice from financial advisors, this work is coming along. We do not have our insurance rates back yet.

ACT 20 update: a screener has not been chosen by the state for implementation. This timeline is very tight, as it is expected we will need to implement this for the 2024-2025 school year.

On Monday, February 19th, Melrose-Mindoro and GET co-hosted a professional development day at GET. Tim Brown from Solution Tree was the leader of the events throughout the day. Staff had the opportunity to partner with others who did the same job in the other district. The feedback has been positive and there have been requests to continue this partnership in the future.

Because an incentive was offered for staff to provide notice if they are intending to retire or resign at the end of the year, the hiring season has begun early. At this time, it is projected to keep all current staff and, due to the head start with recruitment, excellent candidates have applied for the open positions.

CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNITY:

1. Correspondence:

- Email from Scott Pilgrim (Augusta) thanking our school district for including the Augusta seniors in the boys basketball senior night held on February 8th.
- Email from Ken Thiede (D2 WIAA Wrestling Regionals announcer) praising our wrestling program of the character and sportsmanship exhibited by the Titan wrestlers. Wrestlers helped roll up mats, clean debris from bleachers, etc. In addition, he praised the wrestling program of inclusion; he witnessed this while a team picture was being organized – everyone was included.

2. Public Comment:

- Treston Frey: In support of allowing dual sport athletes.
- Matt Coats: In support of allowing dual sport athletes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Minutes from the previous month's Regular Board Meeting:** Motion by Zeman, second by Rozek to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.
2. **Finance:** Review of the expenditures and receipts through January. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$3,215,044.56. Motion carried 6-0.
3. **2024-2025 School Calendar:** Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar as presented. Motion carried 6-0.
4. **Consider Early Graduation Request:** Motion by Blaken, second by Whalen to approve the early graduation request by Olympia Osgood. Motion carried 6-0.
5. **Consider Revision to 7-12th grade Handbook (work release):** Motion by Sacia, second by Dunn to approve the implementation of the Employability Skills work release program in the 7-12th grade handbook. Motion carried 6-0.
6. **Consider Allowing Athletes to Participate in Dual Sports:** After discussion of primary sport declaration, policy content, identifying the pros and cons, and input from Mr. Dobbs and Athletic Director, Connie Craig, Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to trial allowing athletes to compete in dual sports, with the following direction: Mr. Dobbs, Mr. Severson, and Connie Craig to create an excerpt in the Athletic Handbook to include a primary sport is to be identified and that this allowance to be re-evaluated after the 2023/2024 Spring sport season(s). Allowance is to start immediately for Spring sport athletes. Motion carried 6-0.
7. **Approve CD Breakage & Purchase of 9-month CD:** Motion by Zeman, second by Rozek to break the (2) Activity Account CD (.95%) and purchase (2) Activity Account CD (4.5%). Motion carried 5-0; Blaken abstained.
8. **Hear School Safety (ALICE) Drills:** Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to acknowledge the ALICE drill completed in February 2024, the Tornado drill scheduled for April 2024, and fire drills performed monthly. Motion carried 6-0.
9. **Personnel Report:**
 - Motion by Blaken, second by Whalen to accept the resignations of Bill Allen, Assistant High School Football Coach; Zach Severson, Middle School Football Coach; Peter Kaz, Middle School Football Coach; Jeff Woodward, Mock Trial Coach; Isabelle Eichelt, Paraprofessional; Tara Tjerstad, District Nurse (resignation date change). Motion carried 6-0.
 - Motion by Dunn, second by Rozek to hire Zach Severson as High School Athletic Director and Mya Tepp as Assistant Track & Field Coach. Motion carried 6-0.
 - There were no retirements.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Zeman, second by roll call vote to move to Closed Session at 7:26PM. The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85 (1) (f) "Considering financial, medical, social, or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons".

Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to return to regular session at 8:16 PM. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Dunn, second by Zeman to adjourn at 8:17 PM. Motion carried 6-0.

Casey Pfaff
Finance Administrator