

## Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

January 22, 2024

### CONVENE

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Deanna Wiatt; 7-12<sup>th</sup> Gr. Principal Rick Dobbs, ECH-6<sup>th</sup> Gr Principal Corey Peterson, Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff and Special Education Director Marie Sonsalla. Board Members present: Terry Blaken, Becky Whalen, Kim Sacia, Geoff Rozek, Shane Zeman & Kathy Dunn. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Junior high student participated in their incentive day celebration with dodgeball along with a movie & popcorn snack. High school students have finished semester one and our 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in our local Spelling Bee. Congratulations to Jon, Bennett & Michael as they will be moving on to regionals in West Salem on February 8.

Mrs. Wiatt attended the WI School Board convention in Milwaukee this past week. She attended several sessions but focused on sessions pertaining to referendums and declining enrollment situations. Another sessions was about growing elementary students' literacy.

At the January 15 all staff in-service, Mrs. Wiatt presented the Strategic Plan that was approved by the board at last month's meeting. She also met with GEO Coordinator Jamie Koss to plan for the upcoming summer school programming. More information will be forthcoming, but the plan is to offer enrichment and remedial classes combined and run full days June 10-28 to allow for more student participation.

Three 24-25 calendar options were presented to the staff for a vote. The student day would increase by five minutes but also allow for some nice breaks for staff and students throughout the year.

### CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNITY

1. **Correspondence:** None
2. **Public Comment:** No public comment.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Minutes from the previous month's Regular Board Meeting:** Motion by Sacia second by Dunn, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.
2. **Finance:** Review of the expenditures and receipts through December. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$910,431.45. Motion carried 6-0. There were no budget changes. The cash flow and activity accounts were reviewed.
3. **Hear Annual Special Education Report:** Special Education Director Marie Sonsalla presented the annual special education report. At 15.4%, our special education population is slightly higher than the 14.9% state average. Of the 720 students in our district, 111 are special education students. The district has maintained the current level of teaching staff from the previous year but due to a staff retirement, a high school position has been moved to the elementary to serve more students. Through ESSER funding, the district has been able to add a 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor as well as a part time school psychologist. Budget impacts going forward will potentially reduce support in these two areas. The district continues to look for paraprofessional staff and it fluctuates throughout the year. The special education staff have also been taking part of the ELA and math curriculum review & adoption process.
4. **Approve Open Enrollment Regular & Special Education Space Allotments for 2024-2025 School Year:** Looking at the numbers for 2024-2025, it is recommended no to set limit on the general education grade levels throughout the district.

For the Special Education space allotments, it would be in the best interest of the resident students of the Melrose-Mindoro School District for the school board to set limits for special education based on the recommendations in the table below:

| <u>Program</u>                     | <u>Elementary (ECH-6)</u>  | <u>Junior High (7-8)</u> | <u>High School (9-12)</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Early Childhood</b>             | Spaces available = 8   | NA                       | NA                        |
| <b>Cross-Categorical (Level 1)</b> | Spaces available = 0   | Spaces available = 0     | Spaces available = 0      |
| <b>Speech and Language</b>         | Spaces available = 0 for district  |                          |                           |
| <b>Individual Paraprofessional</b> | Students with special education needs requesting Open Enrollment into the district who require 1:1 adult support during the school day will be denied. |                          |                           |

By setting caps, we are saying we are at our maximum with our resident students. In summary, placing caps ensures students at the district are receiving the services they are legally entitled to as well as making sure our staff are carrying manageable caseloads. Motion by Dunn, second by Whalen to approve the recommendation as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

5. **Approve 7-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Handbook Changes:** 7-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal Rick Dobbs presented new courses in the Agricultural, Math, Science and Social Studies departments. They include classes in food preservation and process, college algebra (dual credit with Western Technical College) AP Biology and Current History. Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to approve the changes as presented. Motion carried 6-0. We are also looking at moving to 'block schedules' for 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade Math and revising work release process in the near future.
6. **Approve Modified Second Semester Schedule Requests for Students:** Motion by Zeman, second by Sacia to approve the modified second semester schedules requested by Mitchell Berg, Connor Waughtal and Nathan Paisley. Motion carried 6-0.
7. **Accept Donation from Co-Op Credit Union:** Motion by Dunn, second by Blaken to accept the \$500 donation from Co-Op Credit Union for negative student meal accounts. Motion carried 6-0.
8. **Personnel Report: Resignations:** Motion by Whalen, second by Blaken to approve the resignation of 9-12 Guidance Counselor Tammy Leis; District Nurse Tara Tjerstad and Paraprofessionals Kelly Mulholland, Calette Lockington and Christine Smith. Motion carried 6-0. **Retirements:** Motion by Sacia, second by Blaken to accept the retirements of High School PE teacher Judy Brauner, Kindergarten teacher Ann Suttie and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher Karen Giese at the end of the 23-24 school year. Motion carried 6-0. **Hiring:** Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to hire Nick Yanske as the head high school cross country coach. Motion carried 6-0.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Zeman, second by roll call vote to move to Closed Session at 6:56 p.m. 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" and Wis. Stats §19.85(1)(c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility" regarding the mid-year evaluation of the superintendent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Blaken, second by Sacia to adjourn from Closed Session at 9:01 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.