

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

January 23, 2017

Board President Marlane Anderson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. In order to accommodate the large number of community members, the meeting was moved into the high school auditorium. Proper signage was posted on administrative office door where the meeting is usually held as well as throughout the building. Administrators present: Superintendent Del DeBerg, High School Principal Jeff Arzt, ECH-8th Gr Principal Corey Peterson, Finance Administrator Kim Bobo. Board Members present: Shane Zeman, Terry Blaken, Rick Paisley, Becky Whalen, Kathy Dunn and Kim Sacia.

Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the minutes from last month's as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence: None.

Administrator's Report

1. Congratulations to the Academic Decathlon for their second place finish at regional competition. They will be headed to state in March.
2. Mr. DeBerg, Mr. Arzt, and Mr. Peterson attended the WI School Board convention held in Milwaukee last week.

Open Forum: Approximately 80 community members were present to express their concerns over the recent building referendum that passed in November. Residents were shocked at the increase in their property tax bills and felt they were misled by the board and administration about the cost of the referendum. Representing the community members, Paul Nau read a letter expressing the concerns and requested another meeting with the board to address the concerns. During open forum, the community members were reminded that the board was there only to listen and not to make any decisions. Questions ranged from how the mill rate was calculated and why they are on the 2016 property tax bill when no construction has even begun, would new sewer and well systems be included in the building project costs and the request to stop or delay construction for another year. The questions were answered and after a lengthy conversation, Open Forum was closed. The board members then invited remaining community members back to the administrative offices to conclude the remainder of the meeting.

Finance

Expenditures and Receipts through December were reviewed and a motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary and vouchers in the amount of \$716,928.33. Motion carried 6-0. The Cash Flow and, Activity accounts were reviewed.

Other Business

1. Clint Sele from Bray along with Jason Plante from Market & Johnson provided an overview of what the process has been up to this point. Bid packages are being worked on for the renovations starting as soon as school is done for the year. Jason explained the bidding process for contractors and interested parties.
2. Motion by Sacia, second by Dunn to hold a listening session to get public input on what to do with the Melrose & Mindoro Elementary buildings. This meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. on February 27 prior to the regular monthly board meeting held at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Motion by Blaken, second by Paisley to accept the resignation of Jerilyn Stankey as a special education aide. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Annually in January, the board needs to set the cap for regular and special education open enrollments. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to not set a limit for either type of student for the 2017-18 school year. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to change the 4K retention policy and include procedures and guidelines to use in the event that a 4K student is determined that it is in their best interest to be retained for another year. Previous policy stated that students in 4K would not be retained. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the language updates on the Grade Level Advancement policy to include the correct assessments that the district currently uses. Motion carried 6-0.
7. The school forest land in the Town of Little Falls (Buzzell family donated several years ago) needs to be thinned out and trees harvested. Bids have been solicited and are due back prior to next month's meeting. Also, signs designating that area as the school forest will be placed as soon as the ground thaws.
8. Motion by Sacia, second by Paisley to hire Tory Lockington as the high school football head coach. Motion carried 6-0.
9. Motion by Zeman, second by roll call vote to adjourn to Executive Session 19.85 (1) (c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation date of administrative and professional staff at 9:35 p.m.
10. Motion by Paisley, second by Dunn to reconvene to Open Session at 10:20 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
11. Motion by Blaken, second by Paisley to adjourn at 10:21 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes