

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

March 27, 2023

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Jeff Arzt, 7-12 Principal Rick Dobbs, ECH-6 Principal Corey Peterson, Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff, Building & Grounds Director Dan Stetzer. Board Members present: Terry Blaken, Geoffrey Rozek, Becky Whalen, Kathy Dunn & Shane Zeman. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Correspondence: None

Administrator's Report: The Academic Decathlon team and DECA member Brianna Baker are heading to National competition in their respective events. Decathlon team will be heading to Frisco, TX for competition April 27-29 and Brianna will be in Orlando, FL April 22-25, 2023. The district will pay for registration and lodging for these students and advisors and students will pay for their flights. Thanks to our generous community members for their donations to help offset these costs.

The drama department had three wonderful performances of 'Jolly Roger & the Pirate Queen' play this past weekend. The investment into the new sound system has greatly helped the performances.

Mr. Arzt attended the Day at the Capital on Wednesday, March 21. At this event he was able to meet with a panel of legislators and also met with Jeff Smith's representative as well as Treig Pronschinske.

The 4th Grade WI Fair will be open to the public this Friday, March 31 from 2-3:00 p.m. in the elementary cafeteria.

Open Forum: None.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through February. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$1,431,917.73 Motion carried 5-0.

Other Business:

1. Grant writer Jordan Buss walked through the process for a FEMA-BRIC grant. This is an annual program that serves to provide a safe place for community members to go during a natural disaster. The application cycle for the grant runs October-January with grant recipients announced in the summer. A more detailed selection process & review occurs with final selections made in May the following year. Once approved, the district would have 36 months to build the structure with FEMA matching the costs for approximately 80-90% of the structure, excluding interior finishes.
2. Motion by Dunn, second by Blaken to accept the donations from the Mindoro Lions Club and the Friends of Melrose. Mindoro Lions donated \$100 per student attending national level competition (\$1,000 total) and the Friends of Melrose gave \$2,100 to the high school wrestling program, \$450 to Academic Decathlon & \$50 to DECA (\$2,500 total). Motion carried 5-0.
3. Building & Grounds/Transportation Director Dan Stetzer provided an annual update to various projects occurring in and outside the building. Specifically, the main building entrance areas have new plants; softball field has a new roof covering each dugout. The LP system has been updated to provide more efficiency and savings. The bus and automotive fleet is in great shape and we are looking forward to getting the electric bus next year. Dan provided the board members with more detailed reports for review.
4. Motion by Zeman, second by Whalen to approve the purchase and installation of an electric charging station for approximately \$41,525. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Curriculum Director Corey Peterson provided an update of the ELA program. Final selection of curriculum materials will be made after the pilot testing concludes April 14. The new programs are scheduled to start in fall 2023.
6. Motion by Blaken, second by Rozek to approve the Bridging Brighter Smiles contract for the upcoming school year. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Motion by Dunn, second by Zeman to approve the 2023-2024 CESA 4 & CESA 10 contracts. Motion carried 5-0.
8. Motion by Zeman, second by Whalen to approve Black River Country Bank as the short term lender for the 2023-2024 fiscal year with a rate of 3.95%. First National Bank's bid was 4.50%. Motion carried 4-0 with Blaken abstaining.
9. Motion by Blaken, second by Whalen to approve the retirements and resignations of professional staff members Jeff Woodward and Brenda Chamberlain along with support staff members Diane L. Olson, Lisa Franks, Jamie North (from food service department only) and Barb Knutson. Motion carried 5-0.
10. Motion by Blaken, second by Whalen to approve hiring Aaron Loft as assistant high school baseball coach and the resignation of Emily Wolf as C-Team volleyball coach. Motion carried 5-0.
11. Motion by Zeman, second by roll call vote to adjourn to Executive Session 19.85 1(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or evaluation of personnel at 7:20 p.m.
12. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to reconvene to Open Session at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.
13. Motion by Whalen, second by Zeman to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes