

**Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education**  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Monday, March 23, 2020

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Jeff Arzt, ECH-6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Principal Corey Peterson and Finance Administrator Kim Bobo. Board Members present: Shane Zeman, Terry Blaken, Becky Whalen, Jodi Anderson and Kim Sacia. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kathy Dunn attended via phone and will not vote on any action item this evening. She will not be connected during the closed session portion of the meeting. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to approve the revised minutes from last month's meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Administrator's Report:** Mr. Arzt started his report with a statement of appreciation to all of our staff members, students, parents and community members. Our staff has responded by giving 110% throughout the coronavirus pandemic causing schools and businesses to shut down on March 17, 2020. The administrative team and teachers have put in many extra hours trying to organize the educational materials, learn new technology, and take time to establish a connection with kids when they were first sent home. Staff members made phone calls to parents and students checking on them and reassuring them that the district will be there for them. The staff has worked extremely hard to make this transition from school to at-home instruction successful. Our students responded with a positive and cooperative attitude. They are reaching out to ask questions and showing they want to continue learning. Our parents have also responded with a positive and cooperative attitude. In addition, our community has offered to help the school and families with money and needed supplies. Bad situation, great response!

Paraprofessionals were in the building today, March 23, 2020, making phone calls to families and preparing for the delivery of more educational materials this Wednesday. Our kitchen staff served 340 combined breakfast and lunch meals today. We plan to continue serving lunch and breakfast even if the orders change again (Emergency Order #12-Safer at Home) The new order requires non-essential workers to stay home starting March 25, 2020, through April 24, 2020.

It's too early to comment on the big and important events like prom and graduation, but we will do everything we can to reschedule these events if they need to be cancelled due to COVID-19. The WIAA has not made a decision on spring sports yet. We will keep you posted.

Governor Tony Evers signed Emergency Order #10, which suspends requirements in administrative rule related to the waiving of the hours of instruction, on March 21. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is now able to provide an expedited waiver process for the instructional hours requirement via a simple form. DPI will approve all such requests. Per state law, school boards will still need to hold a public hearing [s.118.38 (1) (b)] and document the date of the public hearing in the form to receive a waiver. The plan is to schedule a public hearing and special board meeting on April 13, 2020.

Our students completed winter sports and academic seasons but state competitions were affected by COVID-19. The state basketball tournament for the girls ended Thursday night (March 12) after winning in overtime against Mishicot. WIAA canceled the final championship game, but they are state champs in our eyes! Abby Miller placed 6<sup>th</sup> All Around in state gymnastics and the wrestling team finished second in their division at the state tournament. The Academic Decathlon team finished fourth among all schools and first in Division 4 and earned a

place to compete in the nationals in Alaska. Due to the pandemic, they will not be able to go but may be able to compete online.

**Open Forum:** Jodi Anderson reported that Rick Paisley was honored in the WI School News magazine for his 20 years of service on the Melrose-Mindoro School Board.

**Finance:** Review of the expenditures and receipts through February. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$2,482,986.41. Motion carried 5-0.

**Other Business:**

1. Motion by Zeman, second by Blaken to reject all LP bids and rebid in May. Prices are decreasing rapidly. Motion carried 5-0.
2. Short term borrowing bid for 2020-2021 were received bids from Black River Country Bank (2.50%) and First National Bank (1.95%). Motion by Whalen, second by Anderson to accept the bid from First National Bank. Motion carried 4-0 with Blaken abstaining.
3. Motion by Blaken, second by Anderson to approve the Virtual & At-Home Education plan. Motion carried 5-0. This is a work in progress and subject to change but will be our guide in the future for days when school is closed for snow or other weather events, etc.
4. Motion by Sacia, second by Anderson to approve the School District Pandemic Plan. Motion carried 5-0. This plan will be included in our School Safety plan.
5. Motion by Whalen, second by Blaken to accept the resignation of assistant wrestling coach Nelson Baker. Motion carried 5-0.
6. In the event that there is a spring sports season a motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to hire Aaron Schaitel as part time Track & Field Jumping coach (30%) and Jacob Bryhn as part time Track & Field running coach (20%) along with assistant baseball coach Devin Zonick-Greenwald. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to table hiring professional staff until all interviews can be completed. Motion carried 5-0.
8. Motion by Zeman, second by Blaken to approve the Bridging Brighter Smiles contract for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried 5-0.
9. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the 333-Parent Rights in Relation to District Programs/Activities & Student Privacy policy and 346-Student Assessment & 346-Exhibit 1-Annual Notice of Student Assessment Information policy. Motion carried 5-0.
10. 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 7:45 p.m.
11. Motion by Zeman, second by Sacia to reconvene to Open Session at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.
12. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen, to approve the employee compensation plan for extended closure due to coronavirus. Motion carried 4-0 with Blaken abstaining. Staff will continue to receive pay for their regular scheduled hours.
13. Motion by Zeman, second by Anderson to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Michelle Murray  
Recorder of Minutes