

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, November 16, 2020

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Jeff Arzt, 7-12 Principal Rick Dobbs, ECH-6th Gr. Principal Corey Peterson and Finance Administrator Casey Pfaff. Board Members present: Becky Whalen, Jodi Anderson, Kim Sacia, & Shane Zeman with Terry Blaken & Kathy Dunn attending via virtual link. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A public hearing was held in order to listen to comments regarding waivers for the following: Hours of Instruction under WI Statute 118.38; Educator Effectiveness under WI Statute 120.12(2m) & 115.415; Personnel Evaluation under WI Statute 121.02(1)(q), all due to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. There were no members of the public present.

Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence: None

Administrator's Report: Area school superintendents met with Jackson County Health & Human Services to discuss the rapid spread of COVID-19 in the county. The three school districts have varying levels of community spread and would like to be able to individually determine when and if the district would need to close. At this time, Mel-Min does not have a concerning amount of community spread.

A connectivity test for ECH-6th grade students was conducted on Friday, November 6. While there were some that were not able to connect, most of the students could do so. The district is looking for ways to reach those that weren't able to connect. All students will be reminded to take their devices home with them this Thursday in the event we would need to teach remotely after the to the Thanksgiving break.

A plan was developed to break the day up for instruction. Elementary students in the morning and JH/SH students in the afternoon. Teachers would use time not meeting with a class to plan and have individual or small group meetings with the students.

The Dairyland Conference athletics will have a winter sports season. Girls basketball practice started today and boys will start next Monday. The district will make decisions on a weekly basis.

Thanks to Sharon Pfaff for her donation of washable masks to the junior/senior high students. She received another \$250 grant from Thrivent. She previously donated masks to the elementary students.

We looked into the possibility of refinancing our bonds for the school construction project. We are still too early to refinance our debt according to Lisa Voisin at Baird Financial. The earliest call date is 2025.

The 21-23 Biennial budget forecast looks promising for education. Looking at increasing special education reimbursement rates. Currently districts are reimbursed 25-26% with remaining support coming from a district's Fund 10 (general revenue). The goal is to be at 60%.

Open Forum: None.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through October. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$641,564.99. Motion carried 6-0.

Other Business:

1. Motion by Dunn, second by Blaken to approve the application for the following waivers: Hours of Instruction under WI Statute 118.38; Educator Effectiveness under WI Statute 120.12(2m) & 115.415; Personnel Evaluation under WI Statute 121.02(1)(q), all due to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency . Motion carried 6-0.
2. Motion by Whalen, second by Anderson to accept the \$600 donation from Jackson County Department of Corrections. These funds will go towards purchases for our at-risk students. Motion carried 6-0.
3. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to hold the December board meeting on December 21 which is a week earlier than usual. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to hire Lindsay Rozek as the 7th grade girls basketball coach. Since the season doesn't begin until January, she will continue working with the high school team as the C-Team coach and pay. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Motion by Zeman, second by roll call vote to adjourn to Executive Session per WI Statute 19.85 1(c)- Consider Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Evaluation of Personnel at 7:25 p.m.
6. Motion by Zeman, second by Anderson to reconvene to Open Session at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Motion by Zeman, second by Sacia to approve a professional staff increase of 2.50% on base wages (which is totaled and then divided by the number of returning teachers. Also included in this motion is to approve a \$.40-cent increase for hourly support staff. Additionally included in this motion is to approve a 2.50% increase based on the total package (salary & benefits) for administrative staff and to move the School Psychologist/Special Education Designee to the administrative staff. All salary increases are to retroactive to July 1, 2020. Motion carried 5-0 with Blaken abstaining. A motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to increase the educational attainment/credit reimbursement rate from \$600 to \$800 for every six credits obtained. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes