

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, November 25, 2019

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

Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to approve the minutes from last month's meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence: Thank you from Jane Burks was read. She appreciated the retirement plaque for her 24 years of service to the district.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Arzt reminded the board members to please complete the superintendent performance evaluation and mail them back to Kathy Dunn prior to next month's meeting. Mr. Arzt also reminded the board of timelines for the administrator's contracts.

On November 13 the district hosted a school safety table top exercise with several area emergency response agencies in attendance. The exercise was based on a school shooter scenario. It was a very good exercise that helped reveal several things. First, the exercise revealed that the district has made significant progress in our emergency response plan over the past several years. Second, the exercise helped connect the school with outside agencies that can help us with the evacuation and reunification process. Finally, the exercise exposed some weakness in our outside communication plan with responding agencies. We will work to resolve these communication issues.

The power went out at school last Thursday shortly before student arrival. The good news is our back-up generator kicked in and provided the district with emergency lighting and heat. The bad news is our well pump doesn't work off of the back-up generator. Building and Grounds Director Tony Proft is developing a plan to make sure that we have access to a generator that will provide power to our well pump if an event like this happen in the future.

Village of Melrose Clerk/Treasurer Casie Renning asked for a school board member to sit on a Pool committee along with a village board member, village resident and Park & Rec Director Sandy Paisley. Kim Sacia volunteered to be on the committee.

E-Sports, a new extra-curricular activity added this school year, has been quite successful. The league is divided into time zones and not based on school size. That means we have competed against schools from Dallas, Chicago, Kansas City and the Twin Cities. Our Overwatch team is ranked 29th out of 101 teams in the Central Time Zone. Our individual players competing in Fortnite include Ayden Wilson is currently 9th out of 600 players and Nate Xiong who is 27th out of 600. Several other students playing in other games are also placed very high in the standings and could possibly compete on the national level if they are successful in the December playoffs.

A few Assembly bills passed into law recently. AB 54 signed into law as 2019 WI Act 39 allows public or private schools to provide warning to students before a fire, tornado or school safety incident drill. AB 194 is now 2019 WI Act 44, which creates an alternate pathway to initial licensure as a special education teacher for individuals who meet all other licensing requirements and successfully complete a course of study that provides rigorous instruction in reading comprehension and fluency. AB 195 was signed into law as 2019 WI Act 43 which converts teaching licenses based on reciprocity into Tier II licenses, and allows such licenses to become Tier III lifetime licenses based on reciprocity if teachers have successfully taught for two semesters under a DPI-issued license or permit at a public, private, or charter school. Wisconsin Association of School Boards supports all these new laws.

Finally, in order to address the Wisconsin teacher shortage, LRB 4869/1 authorizes school districts to rehire retired annuitant teachers. The bill will allow qualified teachers with the training and experience to come back to the classroom.

A formal request to hire a 7-12th grade business education teacher for the 2020-2021 school year will be made at the December board meeting.

The high school Child Development class has been working with our 4K and KG students. A total of eight high school students have been helping out this fall in the elementary.

Our AP classes online and in-house are very popular. There are 24 students taking a total of 34 AP tests in May. Two senior honor students will graduate with 12 & 18 credits respectively when they enter college this fall.

Our high school student athletes participating in winter sports continues to grow. Currently we have 23 girls and 27 boys participating in basketball; we have 12 cheerleaders. Two girls and 13 boys in wrestling along with five gymnasts and one manager compete with other athletes from G-E-T as a co-op in their respective sports.

We have received two quotes for air conditioning the remainder of the high school. Building & Ground Director Tony Proft is exploring another option before making the final decision. Also, construction of the maintenance shed will begin next month.

We are very near the completion of our Mission, Vision, and Value statements and will hopefully have them for the board at the December meeting.

Open Forum: Kim Sacia wanted to thank the school district for having the Letter of Intent signing ceremony for Calette Lockington, Emily Herzberg, and Mesa Byom. She also had a community member question her about the lunch program. There was some confusion that if students had a negative balance, they could not eat lunch. It was clarified that students would not be able to purchase additional food (a la carte items or extra milk or sandwiches) if they had a negative balance. They would still be able to receive breakfast or lunch. Terry Blaken had another community member question the student seating arrangements at the volleyball games. Students typically sit on one end of the bleachers at basketball games but this was not the case at recent volleyball games. This will be changed in the future.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through October. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$1,059,258.45. Motion carried 6-0.

Other Business

1. Transportation Director Brant Young provided his annual transportation and fleet report. The consolidated campus no longer required the maintenance department to have as many vehicles, so several were sold. A 1999 truck with plow & sander, a 2004 truck, and a 2005 Toyota van were sold. New purchases included a 2018 Toyota eight-passenger van and a 2019 Ford Transit Diamond handicap van. In the near future, the district is looking to purchase buses that run on LP fuel. The state and federal governments have grant programs to help purchase buses with lower emissions.
2. A new transportation policy is being explored for the start of the 2020-21 school year. The new policy would require parents to designate a specific pick up/drop off spots for their children.
3. Mr. Arzt presented the district and school accountability reports. We meet expectations at all levels however, the consolidation of elementary buildings make it difficult to compare the 17-18 school year to the 18-19 school year. The consolidation of the Mindoro and Melrose elementary schools caused an issue with our elementary school data. The elementary was unable to count the category of closing gaps, which lowered the school score.
4. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to hold the December board meeting on Monday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

5. Motion by Dunn, second by Blaken to accept the resignations of custodians Karri Barrett and Ben Thompson. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Sacia, second by Anderson to approve hiring bus driver Joe Rochester. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to accept the \$2,000 Lunda Charitable Grant Donation. Funds will be used for the startup of our Show Choir program. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to accept the resignations of head and assistant volleyball coach Jenna Kowalke & Janet Kowalke. Motion carried 6-0.
9. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to increase the cheerleading advisor pay from 1.5% to 3.00% per season starting with the Winter 2019 season. Motion carried 6-0.
10. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar. Motion carried 6-0.
11. Motion by Sacia, second by Dunn to approve the 200 Series Board policies. Motion carried 6-0.
12. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes