

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, October 26, 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, Terry Blaken, Kathy Dunn & Shane Zeman. All who were present then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Correspondence: High School Tech Ed teacher Jim Briggs thanked the board for their support in changing the school calendar to allow for virtual days. This has provided valuable time to make connections not only with our virtual students but students attending in-person as well.

Administrator's Report: High School Principal Rick Dobbs showed a brief video he created with staff members for Board Appreciation Week. Mr. Arzt also noted that October is National Principals Month and thanked the principals for all their work they have done helping plan for our school year.

Homecoming looked a little different for students this year due to COVID. 9-12th grade Student Council Advisor Kari Peterson and her students planned a bonfire and outdoor movie night. The weather didn't cooperate for the outdoor movie, so it was moved into the gym and social distancing guidelines were followed.

The district has plans to move forward with winter sports. Guidelines and circumstances are continually revised in order to allow for safe competition in wrestling, basketball, hockey and gymnastics. Local superintendents continue to meet with advisors from Jackson County Public Health to determine what, if any, changes need to be made.

Mr. Arzt has received several phone calls from neighbors near the school forest property about members of the public hunting illegally on the land. Individuals are reminded the school forest is private property and not open for public hunting. Even though it is not required, placing 'no trespassing' or 'no hunting' signs along the perimeter of the school forest may help deter hunting.

Fourteen area superintendents met virtually with Senator Jeff Smith recently to discuss school budgets in relation to state funding. Senator Smith is hopeful the state legislature will take up legislation that will assist districts that have seen a drop in student enrollment. Senator Smith stated nothing will likely be decided until after the November 3rd election.

The most recent parent-teacher conferences were held virtually. Parents and teachers had the ability to reach out through zoom/google or call in to discuss their student's progress. There were a few glitches, but hopefully more parents will utilize this system in the future if they can't physically meet.

Repair work to the LP vaporizer that was damaged in the August fire should begin next week. ProVision has provided six fuel tanks to use while this repair is taking place. All costs associated with the temporary tank set up will be covered by our insurance company.

Open Forum: High school & junior high school band students have not been able to hold concerts, march in parades, or play at games due to COVID restrictions. Mr. Hanson did a fantastic job creating videos of the students marching review and field shows that were posted on the district Facebook page. Kathy Dunn praised Mr. Hanson for continually working to highlight our students and their activities. Corey Peterson also thanked the board for their work on the re-opening plan and really appreciates allowing students to attend in-person.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through September. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$869,762.91. Motion carried 6-0.

Other Business:

1. Motion by Blaken, second by Anderson to accept \$5,000 donation from the Cindy Tracey family in memory of her husband, John. These funds will be used for the construction of a greenhouse for the Ag/FFA students. Motion carried 6-0.
2. Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to accept the resignation of 7th grade boys basketball coach, Sylva Hanson. Motion carried 6-0.
3. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to hire Nick Anker as both the 7th & 8th grade boys' basketball coach. Tricia Waughtal will transfer from 7th grade to 8th grade girls' basketball coach. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to approve opening a DECA activity account. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Principal Dobbs & Peterson reported on the emergency drills conducted in 19-20 school year. Spring tornado drills were missed due to school being closed in March.
6. A motion by Zeman, second by Whalen to allow Shane Cole to walk through the school forest with an unloaded firearm to access hunting ground not owned by the school district. Included in the motion was a recommendation to post 'no hunting' signs around the perimeter of the school forest. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to adjourn to the Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Zeman, second by Anderson to reconvene to the Regular Board meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried.
9. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the tax levy for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$4,698,349.00. Motion carried 6-0.
10. Motion by Dunn, second by Zeman to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes