

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, June 28, 2021-**UNAPPROVED**

Board President Rick Paisley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Administrators present: Superintendent Jeff Arzt, ECH-6th Gr. Principal Corey Peterson & 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 Sacia, second by Zeman to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

A change in the order of the meeting agenda was requested in order to act on the mask mandate that is currently in place. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to make face coverings a family choice inside school district buildings and at school activities, effective June 28, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

Administrator's Report: The first session of GEO programming is complete. GEO Coordinator Jamie Koss provided a brief program showing many of the activities that students participated in. An afternoon GEO program session in August has been added also. This will take place July 26-August 6 after the morning remedial classes are held.

State Budget update

After initially passing a K-12 state budget package that put federal COVID relief dollars at risk, lawmakers on the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee have approved an overall state spending plan for the next two years that preserves Wisconsin's access to more than \$2.3 billion in one-time federal funds for K-12 education.

By adding \$408 million to state general school aids over the next two years (\$110 million in 2021-22 and \$298 million in 2022-23) on top of K-12 spending previously approved on May 27, the committee-approved package meets "maintenance of effort" (MOE) requirements imposed by Congress, according to the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau. Those federal MOE provisions require the state to maintain the same proportion of its overall spending on K-12 education in the next two-year state budget as in previous state budgets.

While the committee increased state general aids, it did not allow an increase in state-imposed revenue limits. That means the additional state aid will be swapped for local property taxes within the revenue limit with no additional school district spending allowed. Thus, the additional state dollars will not help schools meet their ongoing operational costs but must go to lowering property taxes. In effect, the state is using state aid to "buy down" local school levies.

Congratulations to state track & field participants Raef Radcliffe & Blake Christianson. Raef finished 16th in triple jump and Blake tied for 2nd in high jump.

We are in the second year of a five year 'shared purchasing' contract for our food service providers so there is no need to review and approve bids this year.

Mr. Arzt is looking into having COVID-19 onsite testing program and will have more information forthcoming. The state is offering help to provide the testing services.

Open Forum: None.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through May. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$2,224,023.07. Motion carried 6-0.

Other Business:

1. The 2020-2021 budget was reviewed. As of today's date, there is approximately \$300,000 left to expense for the current fiscal year. The district has earmarked \$100,000 for fund balance and will transfer remaining funds into Fund 46 (long capital improvement fund). All expenses for the 2020-2021 fiscal year have not been distributed; the amount transferring to Fund 46 will depend on year end expenses.
2. The 2021-2022 budget is very fluid at this time. Mr. Arzt presented a balanced budget for next fiscal year; however, there are still many variables to be considered to be able to produce an accurate account for funds. Once the state budget is passed, we will have an accurate amount for revenue and will be able to create an accurate budget.
3. Motion by Blaken, second by Anderson to accept the resignations of Lindsay Rozek as junior high basketball coach and Chris Radcliffe as girls' basketball JV coach. Motion carried 6-0. There were no professional or support staff resignations.
4. Motion by Dunn, second by Anderson to hire Christina Keller on a one year (ESSER funded) contract teaching second grade; Isaiah Schmidt as 7-8th grade Science teacher and Chris Radcliffe as head girl's high school basketball coach. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Motion by Whalen, second by Blaken to accept the \$3,000 Compeer and \$2,000 from Genyouth, Inc. Motion carried 6-0. These funds will be used for the agriculture and food service departments respectively.
6. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to approve the long-term capital improvement plan. Motion carried 6-0.
7. Motion by Dunn, second by Blaken to approve the resolution to create a long-term capital improvement trust fund (Fund 46). Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Blaken, second by Anderson to approve opening a segregated bank account for Fund 46. Motion carried 6-0.
9. 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 7:40 p.m.
10. Motion by Zeman, second by Sacia to reconvene to Open Session at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.
11. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to increase the daily substitute teaching rate from \$105 to \$110 beginning in the 21-22 school year. Motion carried 6-0.
12. Motion by Zeman, second by Dunn 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 \$.42-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. All increases are effective July 1, 2021. Motion carried 5-0 with Blaken abstaining.
13. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes