

Melrose-Mindoro Board of Education

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, September 28, 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 Sacia, second by Dunn to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Administrator's Report: Preliminary September third Friday count shows approximately 31 less students in the district from the January 2020 count.

The district is looking at changing our school calendar to allow for more teacher contact with our students attending virtually. Consistent, reliable Internet connectivity for some of our families continues to be an issue. This could be an issue if the district would move to a total virtual setting. Having the elementary students log on for instruction in the morning and JH/SH students log on for classes in the afternoon may alleviate some of the problem.

Homecoming activities are scheduled for the week of October 12-16 and most of these events will be held outside with social distancing in place. The County Health Department does not recommend holding a Homecoming parade this year.

Thank you to Cindy Tracey and family for their \$5000 donation towards building a greenhouse in memory of Cindy's husband John, who recently passed away. This generous donation will be formally accepted at next month's meeting.

Thank you to Paisley Trucking for the donation of trucking and sand for the elementary sandboxes.

The wildlife display that was previously in the Mindoro building has found a new home in the elementary building. Thank you to Lisa Larson for organizing the reconstruction of the display. The following staff members assisted in the project: Diane Olson, Sherry Scherr, Megan Bradshaw and Jess & Ari Mulholland. Thank you to all of the staff and students who helped complete the project.

The independent accountant's report from Engelson and Associates was received by the district. The report is on the table if any board member wants to view the letter.

Mr. Arzt held a virtual meeting with parents on September 24 to update them on our two confirmed COVID cases as well as the potential calendar changes. About 40 parents attended the meeting virtually.

Parent/teacher conferences will be held virtually this year. More information will be available once the details are worked out.

WASB will also hold their region 6 meeting virtually on October 6, 2020 at 7pm if board members are interested in attending.

Open Forum: High school senior Peyton Braun attended the meeting and requested permission from the district to allow him and another senior to compete in the E-sports game, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare.

Finance: Review of the expenditures and receipts through August. Motion by Blaken, second by Zeman to approve the two budget changes. Motion carried 6-0. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the check summary & vouchers in the amount of \$1,483,721.36. Motion carried 6-0.

Other Business:

1. The non-violent CPI incident report was provided at the July board meeting, but due to new reporting requirement, the data needed to reflect how many students had to be restrained vs. secluded. Of the 29 incidents in 19-20 school year, there were 22 restraints and 7 seclusions.
2. Mr. Arzt gave an overview of the 2019-2020 budget. The budget is nearly complete but, there are still a few more items to pay before the budget is finalized.
3. Numbers for the 2020-2021 budget are not finalized. The district's equalized value increased over last year but with the decrease in student FTE's we are waiting on finale revenue numbers from the state. The district should have final numbers by October 15, 2020.
4. Mr. Arzt provided an overview of the districts response to our first COVID-19 positive cases. Our first positive COVID case was a person living in La Crosse County. La Crosse County's public health department was overwhelmed with cases, so Jackson County's Public Health department quickly stepped in to help the district out with contact tracing and providing information to those that needed to quarantine. The Jackson County Health Department has been extremely helpful when contact tracing and providing relevant information to students and parents.
5. Motion by Whalen, second by Dunn to accept a \$500 donation from Cindy Tracey to go to the Food Service department to help pay off delinquent lunch accounts. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve the 20-21 school calendar change. Motion carried 6-0. The new calendar allows teachers and virtual students to connect on a one to one basis. Students attending in-person classes will not attend in-person instruction on designated virtual days.
7. Motion by Dunn, second by Anderson to extend the requirement for face coverings through the end of first semester. The district COVID response team will work with Jackson County Health Department to develop guidelines for Band or possible exceptions for students. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to suspend the two readings before adoption of 113-Nondiscrimination in District Programs, Activities & Operations; 113-Rule Expectations for Employees to Report Discrimination & Harassment; 113-Exhibit Title IX Notice. Motion carried 6-0.
9. Motion by Dunn, second by Sacia to approve Policy 113-Nondiscrimination in District Programs, Activities & Operations; 113-Rule Expectations for Employees to Report Discrimination & Harassment; 113-Exhibit Title IX Notice. Motion carried 6-0.
10. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to accept the resignation of GEO Coordinator Christina Kurschner. Motion carried 6-0.
11. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to approve hiring Courtney Ratkus as C-Team Girls High School Volleyball coach; Lindsay Rozek at 7th Gr. Girls Volleyball coach; Zachary Villarreal as Assistant High School Wrestling coach; and Dan Stetzer/Tracey Herzberg to spilt a junior high assistant football coaching position. Motion carried 6-0.
12. Motion by Dunn, second by Blaken to hire Jamie North as a part-time food service worker. Motion carried 6-0.
13. Motion by Zeman second by Dunn to move the November board meeting to November 16, 2020. Motion carried 6-0.
14. Motion by Whalen, second by Blaken to allow the use of the parking lot for the football alumni drive thru fundraiser. Motion carried 6-0.
15. Motion by Sacia, second by Zeman to allow the use of the parking lot for drive thru community Halloween party. Motion carried 6-0.
16. 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 and 1(f)-consider student discipline matter at 8:10 p.m.
17. Motion by Whalen, second by Sacia to reconvene to open session at 8:43 p.m.
18. Motion by Sacia, second by Anderson to approve per diem pay for unused vacation days for administrative secretary. Motion carried 6-0.

19. Motion by Blaken, second by Dunn to approve 4.00% of base salary for DECA Advisor. Motion carried 6-0.
20. Motion by Whalen, second by Anderson to increase E-Sports Advisor pay to 3.00% per season. Motion carried 6-0.
21. Motion by Sacia, second by Whalen to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Michelle Murray
Recorder of Minutes