

# Minutes of Study Session

## The Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

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A **Study Session** of the Board of Education of Mahtomedi Public Schools was held **Thursday, May 14, 2020**, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center - Community Room, 1520 Mahtomedi Avenue, Mahtomedi, Minnesota 55115

1. CALL TO ORDER - Due to the declared health pandemic and declared state of emergency this school board study session was held by conference call or interactive technology in accordance with state statute 13D.021. This meeting was live streamed.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Lucy Payne

2. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Mike Chevalier; Kevin Donovan; Julie McGraw; Lucy Payne; Judy Schwartz; Stacey Stout; and Superintendent Barbara Duffrin, ex-officio.

Also present: Don Lifo, Baker Tilly Director/Consultant, and Jeff Priess, Director of Finance and Operations.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Donovan moved, Chevalier seconded, approval of agenda. Roll Call Vote: Chevalier-Aye, Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Schwartz-Aye, Stout-Aye, Payne-Aye, Carried 6-0.

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. Baker Tilly Qualitative Community Survey

Don Lifo, Baker Tilly Director/Consultant, gave a summary of the community survey they completed for the Mahtomedi School District in March. The survey included interviews with 308 registered voters from a variety of demographics. The preferred source of information regarding the school district was through print or email. Eighty-seven percent of those surveyed rated the quality of education at Mahtomedi Schools excellent or good. Participants responded to questions about the quality of district leadership and administration; the quality of district performance related to student outcomes; and the quality of district programs and facilities. The results showed a very high confidence in teachers/staff and high levels of trust in the school board/administration. Approximately two-thirds of those surveyed felt the district spends its money wisely, with broad agreement that the strength of the school district is linked to the community's quality of life and investments in the school district represent a good value. Lifo stated only 15% of school districts' surveyed have such positive results.

## B. Budget Overview

Jeff Priess, Director of Finance and Operations, presented a budget overview to school board members, which included a comparison of the 2019-2020 Revised Budget with actual revenue/expenses and enrollment numbers as of April 30. The projected surplus and improvement to the fund balance remained the same. The projected June 30 General Fund balance is \$3,615,278. Fund 25-Donations and Fund 50-Student Activities were excluded as they are being changed to comply with new reporting requirements effective for the current fiscal year. Due to school closures during the pandemic other local revenue such as participation fees, gate receipts and facility rent etc. will create a budget shortfall that will be mitigated by expenditure reductions in contracted substitute teachers, utilities, transportation and Spring Co-Curriculum Sports/Activities. Priess explained Food Service and Community Education Funds will see a significant reduction in revenue due to decreased sales and participation fees, but will offer a Summer Food Service Program and district sponsored daycare. Priess also reported on the 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget and the proposed Federal Education Stabilization Funds.

## C. Covid-19 Update

Superintendent Barbara Duffrin updated school board members on the current Covid-19 guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), which included graduation guidance involving legal liability, social responsibility and equity. Superintendent Duffrin acknowledged this is an emotional time, but the Mahtomedi High School graduation will be a virtual event. Administration is looking into a possible “Walk across the Stage” opportunity for students. Guidance from MDE & MDH also included Summer Education Programing, which may include a hybrid model of online learning and small in person instruction, especially for students with special needs. The District’s Food Service will continue to provide meals and childcare through June and maybe longer and with the “Safer at Home” guidance technology hot spots will remain active.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

Chevalier moved, McGraw seconded, adjournment. Roll Call Vote: Chevalier-Aye, Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Schwartz-Aye, Stout-Aye, Payne-Aye. Carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK