

# 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, March 24, 2016**, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center - Community Room.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Lucy Payne.

### 2. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Mike Chevalier; Mary Jo Deters; Kevin Donovan; Julie McGraw; Lucy Payne; Judy Schwartz; and Superintendent Mark Larson, ex officio.

Also present: Ray Kirch, Activities Director; Rochel Manders, Director of Business Services; Mike Neubeck, Mahtomedi Middle School Principal; Kathe Nickleby, Mahtomedi High School Principal; Beth Sneden, Professional Development and Special Education Supervisor; and Lynne Viker, Director of Learning and Accountability; Luanne Wagner, Mahtomedi High School Assistant Principal.

### 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Donovan moved, McGraw seconded, approval of the agenda with the addition of 4. E. Consolidation of the Mahtomedi and Stillwater School Districts and moving item 4.A. Open Enrollment -Window #2 (Kindergarten Registration) Update to item 4.D. and moving item 4.D. Black Box Theater to item 4.A. Carried.

### 4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. Black Box Theater

Kathe Nickleby, Mahtomedi High School Principal and Luanne Wagner, Mahtomedi High School Assistant Principal, reported on the use of the Black Box Theater. During the 2015-2016 school year Advanced Video, Guitar, Piano, and Music and Event Broadcast Production classes are being held during period one, five and six. During the 2016-2017 school year Guitar, Musical Theater, Events Broadcast Production and Piano classes are scheduled for period five and six with 10 Macintosh computers being moved to an Art Department classroom to create an additional 300 sq. ft. The theater allows students in these courses greater

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flexibility/creativity and access to industry standard technology with no disruption to other classrooms. Several teachers from Mahtomedi Middle and High School spoke to the school board on the advantages and disadvantages of using the Black Box Theater as a classroom. Julie Conzemius, Middle School Band Teacher, and Derek Anderson, Middle School English Teacher, expressed concerns with the theater not being available for smaller music/band concerts and more intimate theater performances like one act plays. Allen Fossen, Performing Art Manager, spoke to the challenges to reset the theater from classroom to district performance area. The Fine Arts Curriculum Review committee will review this issue.

### B. Mahtomedi High School and Middle School Registration

Kathe Nickleby, Mahtomedi High School Principal, reported on the changes in the high school registration and curriculum for the 2016-2017 school year: no Business courses due to low student registration, two new Family and Consumer Science (FCS) courses; Baking & Pastries and Essentials Skills For Life, many Science and Engineering electives, so the Biomimicry & Modeling course will combine with the Fundamentals of Engineering course and the Toy Engineering course will combine with the How to Make Almost Anything course, increase in American Sign Language courses to add ASL 2 and ASL 3.

Mike Neubeck, Mahtomedi Middle School Principal, reported on the changes in the middle school registration and curriculum for the 2016-2017 school year: increase from 3 to 4 sections of the FabLab engineering course with declining Choir and Skills for Life enrollments, increase in Spanish I course from 1 to 5 sections with high school credit earned, Spanish II will not be offered, an increase in Art 8 from 2 to 3 sections, decrease in FCS 8 from 5 to 3 sections along with Crime Scene Investigation from 5 to 2 sections.

### C. Activities Update - Protocols, Philosophy and Budget

Ray Kirch, Activities Director, updated the school board on: the current protocols used to handle student and parent complaints, which sports include grades 7-12 and which include grades 9-12 and why, including when an exceptional athlete is allowed to play up. He also gave the board information on how the Minnesota State High School League determines administrative regions, competitive sections and classifications for high school sports. Rochel Manders, Director of Business Services, reviewed the high school activities' revenue and expenditures for the 2014-2015 school year with a deficit of \$631,887.

### D. Open Enrollment - Window #2 (Kindergarten Registration) Update

Superintendent Mark Larson discussed the following with school board members: projected 2016-2017 student enrollment, kindergarten registration numbers, the unknown number of new resident students and number of open enrollment

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applications to approve in April.

### E. Consolidation of the Mahtomedi and Stillwater School Districts

Superintendent Larson reviewed and discussed with the school board the March 16, 2016 meeting chaired by Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius for the purpose of examining the plat and supporting statement by 50 petitioners who requested the consolidation of the Mahtomedi and Stillwater School Districts. In a March 21, 2016 letter Commissioner Cassellius deemed that the letter of the state statute had been met, which means she is turning the decision over to the Stillwater and Mahtomedi school boards. She also outlined information that was missing from the petitioners' request including: the financial impact on taxpayers and a process for consolidation. In light of the Commissioner's determination the Mahtomedi School board will take additional action at the April 14, 2016 school board meeting. If the school board of either district rejects the plan, the proceedings are terminated and dismissed.

### 5. ADJOURNMENT

Schwartz moved, Deters seconded, adjournment. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK