

Minutes of Study Session

The Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

A **Study Session** of the Board of Education of Mahtomedi Public Schools was held **Thursday, February 11, 2021**, beginning at 7:00 PM. Due to the declared health pandemic and declared state of emergency, this school board meeting was held by conference call or interactive technology in accordance with Minnesota State Statute 13D.021.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Lucy Payne.

2. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Kevin Donovan; Julie McGraw; Lucy Payne; Kelly Reagan; Stacey Stout; Tony Vosooney; and Superintendent Barbara Duffrin, ex-officio.

Also present: Scott Briske, Wildwood Elementary School Principal; Patrick Crothers, Technology Coordinator; Nicole Flesner, Human Resource Supervisor; Aaron Forsythe, Mahtomedi High School Associate Principal of Athletics and Activities; Justin Hahn, Mahtomedi High School Principal; Mike Neubeck, Mahtomedi Middle School Principal; Susan Prather, O.H. Anderson Elementary School Principal; Jeff Priess, Director of Finance and Operations; and Lynne Viker, Assistant Superintendent of Learning.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2020-2021 Second Quarter Budget Update

Jeff Priess, Director of Finance and Operations, updated school board members on the second quarter General Fund revenue and expenditures. Priess showed a comparison of the percent of revenue received and the expenditures as of December 31, 2019 with December 31, 2020 and reported it is tracking as expected. Revenues were up due to receipt of Federal COVID relief funds and expenditures were down due to decreased substitute teacher costs, resulting in positive budget variances. The projected budget surplus for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$310,245 and the projected unassigned fund balance is 8.65%.

B. 2021-2022 Budget Assumptions and Projection Model

Jeff Priess, Director of Finance and Operations, presented on the Fiscal Year 2022 budget planning assumptions and projected student enrollment, which included: a General Education Aid increase of 0.5% to \$6,600 per student; student enrollment of approximately 3,283; General Fund Preliminary Budget revenue of \$43,605,019 and expenditures of \$43,350,366, with a projected June 30, 2022 unassigned fund balance of \$3,999,513 or 9.2%. Currently, Fiscal Year 2023 projects a slight deficit unassigned fund balance of \$94,177. Priess stated the budget assumptions are based on a return to a traditional learning model and are consistently updated to reflect legislative funding changes, updates to staff agreements and enrollment projections.

C. Operational Changes Update

Superintendent Duffrin reported on the goals and operational changes for the 2020-2021 School Year and the consideration of continuing two specific operational changes for the district post-COVID-19. The first is a device for every learner to ensure all teachers and students have a reliable, common, district-provided device with a microphone and webcam. Principal Briske reported on the educational impacts of all students having equitable access to common devices, allowing anytime/anywhere learning and creating uniformed experiences and expectations. Principal Neubeck reported on the student and staff impact, which included becoming strong problem solvers with regard to instructional technology and district-wide sharing/development of new instructional materials. Post COVID-19 operational changes would include allocating resources to sustain a device for every learner (i.e. updated devices, subscriptions and professional development), along with advocating for universal, reliable high-speed internet. Duffrin reported the district's Capital Project/Tech Levy is coming up this fall. The second operational change is about school start/end times. Assistant Superintendent Viker reported on the history of district start/end time changes/potential changes. The two options being considered are adjusting start/end times to be similar to the 2020-2021 School Year schedule, with O.H. Anderson Elementary School at 7:45 a.m.–2:15 p.m., Wildwood Elementary School at 7:55 a.m.-2:25 p.m. and Secondary Schools at 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or to return to the 2019-2020 School Year schedule with O.H. Anderson Elementary School at 9:05 a.m.-3:25 p.m., Wildwood Elementary School at 9:15 a.m.-3:35p.m. and Secondary Schools at 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Principal Prather reported K-5 students are ready to learn and more attentive at the earlier start times and it reduces the need for morning childcare. Superintendent Duffin reported on increased transportation costs due to longer runtimes or the need for more buses. Principal Hahn reported other districts with later secondary start times found trimesters help with end of the day schedules and align with seasonal athletic activities. Considerations include scheduling facilities for sporting events/practices, aligning preschool classes and staffing afternoon childcare. Associate Principal Forsythe reported he is connecting with other athletic directors to discuss how a later end time will/does affect their students. Superintendent Duffrin and school board members discussed a family survey on school start/end times, what additional

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information is needed and the timeline for a possible district-wide school start/end time change.

5. CLOSED MEETING

Vosooney moved, Donovan seconded, approval to close meeting. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Reagan-Aye, Stout-Aye, Vosooney-Aye. Carried 6-0. Meeting closed at 9:14 p.m.

A. Discussion of labor negotiations strategies or developments in closed session, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.03 - Teacher Negotiations.

6. OPEN MEETING

Donovan moved, Stout seconded, approval to open meeting. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Reagan-Aye, Stout-Aye, Vosooney-Aye. Carried 6-0. Meeting opened at 10:14 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Vosooney moved, Stout seconded, adjournment. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Reagan-Aye, Stout-Aye, Vosooney-Aye. Carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK