

Minutes of Study Session with the Mahtomedi City Council

The Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

A **Study Session** of the Board of Education of Mahtomedi Public Schools was held **Thursday, February 13, 2020**, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center - Community Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:01 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: Laura Eliason, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Jim Lane, Mahtomedi High School Science Teacher; Scott Neilson, Mahtomedi City Administrator; Julie Osterbauer, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds; Jeff Priess, Director of Finance & Operations; John Sachi, Mahtomedi City Engineer; and Cathy Wyland, Director of Community Education.

Mahtomedi High School Students: Lily Anderson and Maria Heinzen.

Mahtomedi City Council Members: Mayor Judson Marshall; Jeff Ledermann; and Jane Schneeweis.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Donovan moved, Chevalier seconded, approval of the agenda. Carried 6-0.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Superintendent Barbara Duffrin welcomed the Mahtomedi City Council Members and Administrators.

5. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Youth Vaping Awareness

Jim Lane, Mahtomedi High School Life Science Teacher, introduced two of his students: Lily Anderson and Maria Heinzen. Anderson and Heinzen presented the results of their class study on youth vaping and how nicotine affects the synapse process. They also reported on student use of e cigarettes at Mahtomedi High School. Mahtomedi Middle School has added e cigarettes/vaping to their health curriculum. Julie McGraw, School Board Vice Chair/Clerk, reported on youth vaping trends and the recently passed Tobacco 21 Law, which included: only a partial ban on flavors; still allows flavors to fill open tank systems and in non-refillable cartridges, along with the popular, stronger menthol flavor. The MN Legislature has three bills being introduced this session to prohibit the sale of flavored products and provide funding for vaping prevention and education. McGraw explained vaping products contain higher levels of nicotine or THC and a recent government survey found 1 in 4 high school students vape. Washington County has a work group to discuss the new tobacco policy. McGraw encouraged providing more protections for the health of our youth.

B. Safe Routes to School

Cathy Wyland, Director of Community Education, reported on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) 2015/2016 MN Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Grant to develop safe walking/biking route plans for Wildwood Elementary, O.H. Anderson Elementary and Mahtomedi Middle School. The grant was prepared with help from the Mahtomedi Area Green Initiative (MAGI) and provided a planning consultant. The process included community outreach and identification/evaluation of safe bike/walk routes to schools. Infrastructure recommendations were proposed for Stillwater Road, Warner Road and for bike parking, which included: improved crosswalks, curb extensions, median safety islands, flashing beacons and sidewalks/bike lanes. Bike racks were inventoried and added as needed. The school district is working with the City of Mahtomedi and Washington County, who have/will add a few of the recommendations as part of the first phase Stillwater Road project based on feasibility and costs.

John Sachi, Mahtomedi City Engineer, reported on applying for the Federal 2023/2024 SRTS Grant administered through the Metropolitan Council, which is a very competitive process and only covers construction costs. The proposed grant improvements include sidewalks/trails along Warner Ave. south of O.H. Anderson Elementary, sidewalks along 72nd Street and crosswalk improvements on Warner Avenue with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). Sachi explained the estimated construction cost would be \$350,000-\$400,000, with engineering cost at \$105,000-\$120,000 and a prepared grant proposal by WSB & Associates, Inc. at \$7,877. The engineering costs and grant application costs are not grant eligible, so the City of Mahtomedi and/or the Mahtomedi School District would need to participate.

C. City and School Partnerships

Cathy Wyland, Director of Community Education, and Julie Osterbauer, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, presented on the city and school partnerships. The City of Mahtomedi provides \$60,000 in annual support to the school district, which goes to District Education Center ice rinks, senior programming, community events and summer recreation/facility use, with a \$7,234 reduction for city park use. The city and school district work together to maintain and run the ice rinks, green/athletic fields, salt storage and snow removal. Annual collaborative events include Community Education & Public Works Early Childhood Vehicle Fair, Community Education & Environmental Commission RITE of Spring Event, Community Education & Parks Commission Community Skating Party. All agreed there is a strong working relationship between public works staff and district building/grounds supervisor and crew. Scott Neilson, Mahtomedi City Administrator, stated the city is open to other relationships with the school district.

D. Budget Assumptions and Student Enrollment

Jeff Priess, Director of Finance & Operations, presented on the Fiscal Year 2021 budget planning assumptions and projected student enrollment, which included: a General Education Aid increase of 2% to \$6,567 per student; student enrollment of approximately 3,283; General Fund Preliminary Budget revenue of \$42,778,209 and expenditures of \$42,562,359, with a projected June 30, 2021 fund balance of \$3,831,128 or 6.2%.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Superintendent Duffrin thanked the Mahtomedi City Council Members and Administrators for their participation in this joint meeting. Chevalier moved, Stout seconded, adjournment. Carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK