

Minutes of Study Session/Special Meeting

The Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

A **Study Session/Special Meeting** of the Board of Education of the Mahtomedi Public Schools was held **Thursday, March 22, 2018**, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center - Community Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Judy Schwartz.

2. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

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

Also present: Sara Dusek, Q-Comp/MCP and Integration Coordinator; Patricia Heminover; Springsted-Waters Executive Search Firm; Donald Lifto, Consultant Springsted Inc. Bill Menozzi, Director of Business Services; Beth Sneden, Director of Student Support Services; Lynne Viker, Director of Learning and Accountability.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Achievement & Integration Budget and Q-Comp/Mahtomedi Compensation Plan (MCP) Budget

Sara Dusek, MCP and Achievement & Integration Coordinator reported on the Q-Comp/Mahtomedi Compensation Plan (MCP) budget and the Achievement & Integration budget. MCP budget changes for the 2018-2019 school year included: going from 4 to 3 coaches, 16 to 12 hours of facilitator's training, 3 to 2 cycles of teachers working with their coaches and a reduction of stipends. Achievement and Integration Budget changes included: a new Student Office of Support at the high school with a lead teacher and paraprofessionals to support restorative practices and outreach for minority students or students of poverty; eliminating elementary growing scholars and replacing it with third graders in the Mahtomedi and N. St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School Districts working together; adding Kindergarten Play Based Instruction to improve disparities for students who do not have equitable

access to preschool and adding a Fab Lab STEAM Summer Camp for secondary poverty and minority students. Dusek reported next year's professional development for MCP includes the coaches attending the Teaching Learning Coaching National Conference and for Achievement and Integration there will be two all staff development days with Dr. Sharroky Hollie–Culturally Linguistically Responsive Teaching and Learning, along with NEXUS training at the MN Science Museum and poverty simulations.

B. Levy Community Survey Results

Donald Lifto, Consultant with Springsted Inc., reported on the results of interviews with 350 registered voters in the Mahtomedi School District which included demographic targets of: gender, age, geographic location, past voting activity, parent/nonparent households, land line and cell phones. Lifto explained the stratified approach to the questions having three benchmarks: uninformed, with additional information and informed. The initial support for an increased operating levy was 58 %, with information on the potential consequences it was 59 % and with information on potential improvements it was 68%. Support verses cost of the levy and support of an escalating levy were discussed along with support by household income and education. Participants were also asked to grade the district on the quality of their work with 68 % in the A and B range and financial management of 69 % agree/strongly agree they trust the school district. School board members will be receiving additional detailed information/analysis of the survey results.

C. Superintendent Search Update

Patricia Heminover, Springsted-Waters Executive Search Firm, reviewed the draft of the superintendent search brochure with school board members and administration and requested any additional changes be sent to School Board Director Lucy Payne to organize and forward to Ms. Heminover by Monday. The timeline was finalized with review of the semifinalists scheduled for the April 26 school board study session, the first round of interviews will be on Monday, April 30 and Wednesday, May 2 from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. and the final round of interviews will be on Monday, May 7 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Mahtomedi District Education Center. Heminover reported they have been recruiting and meeting with interested candidates and over 600 letters/brochures will be sent out next week.

D. Budget Reductions Recommendations

Bill Menozzi, Director of Business Services, reviewed the following with school board members: 2018-2019 Preliminary Budget, the revised 2018-2019 Preliminary Budget and Policy 714-Fund Balance Policy. The changes/adjustments include: increased student count projection, Q-Comp subsidy decrease, labor settlements, early retirement incentive and reduction of the District Management Group contract. Superintendent Mark Larson discussed with school board members the recommended

budget reductions for the 2018-2019 school year and the impact on class sections/sizes per grade. School board members requested additional information on the following: changes to the Lunch & Learn program, an increase in high school art, reduction of B-Squad coaches, reduction of a Middle School counselor, class size impact on the middle school model, increased class size in 2nd & 5th grades and possible administrative reconfigurations/reductions. The school board will take action on budget reductions at the April 12 school board meeting.

E. Administration Restructuring Task Force Report

A district task force was formed to review district and building level administration with a goal of considering best services for students, administrative efficiencies and budget savings. Superintendent Mark Larson gave a summary of the Administration Restructuring Task Force Report which included comparisons with neighboring and like sized districts on: organizational charts, building positions (principals, deans, activity directors, school psychologists, counselors) and costs. Dr. Larson stated Mahtomedi spends 51% on regular education and 7% on district administration and support. The average of the 7 school districts examined was 49.57% (median was 48%) on regular education and 7.57% (median was 8%) on district administration and support. The task force was supportive of each building having its own principal and saw a need for a possible Dean of Students dedicated to restorative practices and a full time communication specialist. School board members stated they want to be involved in the search/interviews for all administrative positions and requested the administration review possible reconfigurations of administrative positions for additional budget savings.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval to Advertise for Bids for the Mahtomedi High School Theater Lighting and Dimmer Replacement

Payne moved, Donovan seconded approval to advertise for bids for the 2018 Mahtomedi Schools High School Performing Arts Lighting and Dimming Improvements. Carried 6-0.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Payne moved, Stout seconded, adjournment. Carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK