

Minutes of Study Session

Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

A **Study Session** of the Board of Education of the Mahtomedi Public Schools was held **Thursday, September 24, 2015**, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center - Community Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Acting Chair Lucy Payne.

2. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Mary Jo Deters; Kevin Donovan; Julie McGraw; Lucy Payne; Superintendent Mark Larson, ex officio. Absent: Mike Chevalier; Judith Schwartz and Acadia Hegedus, school board student representative.

Also present: John Akins, Mahtomedi High School Counselor; Paul Beggin, Mahtomedi Middle School Counselor and Social Worker; Ellen Cole, Mahtomedi High School Counselor; Rochel Manders, Director of Business Services; Megan McMahon, District Nurse; Mike Neubeck, Mahtomedi Middle School Principal; Kathe Nickleby, Mahtomedi High School Principal; Beth Sneden, Assistant Special Education Director and Professional Development Coordinator; and Lynne Viker, Director of Learning and Accountability; Luanne Wagner, Mahtomedi High School Assistant Principal.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Donovan moved, Deters seconded, approval of the agenda. Carried.

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minnesota Student Survey

Beth Sneden, Assistant Special Education Director and Professional Development Coordinator reported on the Minnesota Student Survey results and indicators in the following areas; problematic and antisocial behavior, self-description, emotional well-being and distress, chemical abuse and future plans.

Superintendent Mark Larson suggested conducting focus group meetings with students and a more consistent in-house survey for year to year comparison.

B. Student Support – Guidance and Health

Lynne Viker, Director of Learning and Accountability, reported on student support for promoting health and wellness for all. Aerobic equipment has been added to support the Fitness for Life class at Mahtomedi High School and lifelong activities like cross country skiing and snow-shoeing have been added to the physical education classes at O.H. Anderson Elementary. Megan McMahon, District Nurse, updated the school board on the new contract with 916 N.E. Metro for student crisis intervention and staff training on Growth Mindset. Additional counseling staff has been added to O. H. Anderson Elementary, Mahtomedi Middle School and Mahtomedi High School. Mike Neubeck, Principal Mahtomedi Middle School reported on the additional Middle School Health Class and the effective ELL outreach program. Kathe Nickleby, Mahtomedi High School Principal explained the new counseling format for improved student counseling and college and career support. School Board members recommended an evaluation of the new format in the Spring.

C. Superintendent Goals

Superintendent Mark Larson reviewed the three superintendent goals based on the district's vision statement which are: Engage, Challenge and Inspire and the specific steps he will take to reach them.

D. School Board Goals

Superintendent Mark Larson reviewed with the school board members the four school board goals which include school/program visits, staff listening sessions, SEED class/sessions, MSBA/ NSBA sponsored training, advocate for legislation and customer service.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Preliminary Levy 2015 Payable 2016

Rochel Manders, Director of Business Services recommended the adoption of the preliminary levy for 2015-16. The review and comment hearing, truth-in taxation hearing and final school board adoption of the levy will occur at the December 10, 2015, regular school board meeting. Donovan moved, Deters seconded, approval to adopt the preliminary levy for 2015-16. Carried.

B. Resolutions to forward to Minnesota School Boards Association

1. Encourage collaboration between K-12 Education and Higher Learning Institutions regarding faculty qualifications for teaching College in the Schools courses.

2. Urging the legislature to allocate funding to close the achievement gap by providing support for teachers and individual school districts to do action research. Deters moved, McGraw seconded, resolutions. Carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Donovan moved, McGraw seconded, adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

KEVIN DONOVAN, ACTING CLERK