

# Minutes of Special Meeting/Study Session

## The Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

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A **Special Meeting/Study Session** of the Board of Education of Mahtomedi Public Schools was held **Thursday, September 28, 2017**, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center - Community Room.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by School Board Chair Lucy Payne.

### 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: Julie Dahl, MN Sleep Society Board Member; Bill Menozzi, Director of Business Services; Beth Sneden, Professional Development and Special Education Supervisor; and Lynne Viker, Director of Learning and Accountability.

### 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

### 4. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Approval of the Preliminary 2017 Payable 2018 Levy

Bill Menozzi, Director of Business Services, recommended the adoption of the preliminary levy for 2018-2019. The truth-in taxation hearing and final school board adoption of the levy will occur at the December 14, 2017, regular school board meeting. Schwartz moved, Donovan seconded, approval to adopt the preliminary levy for 2018-2019. Carried 6-0.

### 5. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. School Start Time Scenarios

Superintendent Mark Larson discussed with school board members secondary school start time scenarios of 8:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Larson presented examples of flipping the elementary schools start times with the secondary schools or moving the elementary start times to 9:35 a.m./9:45 a.m. keeping the two tier bus system. Secondary

schools may also have 15 minutes added to their school day to allow for unexpected school closings. Bill Menozzi, Director of Business Services, reported on how the different start times would impact busing/transportation of students which included new morning pick up and afternoon drop off times. Only one scenario to compressed start times: Mahtomedi High /Middle Schools 8:30 a.m., O.H. Anderson Elementary 7:35 a.m. and Wildwood Elementary 7:45 a.m. would increase costs due to adding six additional buses. Board members requested additional information on the use of vans vs. buses and input from students. Julie Dahl, MN Sleep Society Board Member, discussed the natural sleep cycles of adolescents and the benefits of a later secondary school start time. Listening sessions for the community will be held on Monday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m. with a presentation by Julie Dahl at the Chautauqua Fine Arts Center and on Thursday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Mahtomedi District Education Center. Information is also available on the Mahtomedi District website.

#### B. Civil Rights Review

Superintendent Mark Larson updated school board members on the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) civil rights review of Mahtomedi High School because it offers a vocational and technical education program and receives federal funds. The process included submitting documents in the areas of handbooks, course catalogs, school board policies, counseling activities, financial assistance, 504 plans; interviews of students and staff; and a tour of the high school. MDE issued a Voluntary Compliance Plan (VCP) with minor recommended corrections/changes to: a few school district policies, grievance procedures, annual notices, information on accommodations for testing, handicapped parking signage and a revised non-discrimination statement. All necessary corrections were completed by October, 2017.

#### C. Legislative Changes

Superintendent Mark Larson reviewed with school board members the 2017-2018 legislative changes. The new requirements, reports and policy can be found in the 2017 Legislative Summary Booklet on the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) website. Dr. Larson stated the negotiated unrequested leave of absence plan will be part of the 2019 teacher contract negotiations and the policy committee will work to incorporate the grade point average weighting in Policy 620-Credit for Learning. Also discussed was E-Learning Days with access for all students and improving instruction through diversifying the workforce.

#### D. 2017-2018 Superintendent and School Board Goals

Lucy Payne, School Board Chair, discussed with school board members and Superintendent Larson three goals: 1. The school board will make a decision for the 2018-2019 school year on school start times, 2. The school board and superintendent will work on a timeline for a general operating levy, 3. The school board and superintendent will work to allocate resources and support for an environment where

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innovation will thrive. The school board and superintendent agreed to these goals and discussed the steps they will take to reach them. Superintendent Larson will also work on his personal goals of communication and organization.

6. ADJOURNMENT

McGraw moved, Schwartz seconded, adjournment. Carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK