

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 **Monday, October 14, 2024**, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center - Community Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chair Stacey Stout at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Ryan Domin, Paul Donna, Jenny Peterson, and Stacey Stout. Lucy Payne and Kelly Reagan were not present.

Also present: Barb Duffrin, Superintendent; Alice Seuffert, Director of Communications; Jennifer Reichel, Director of Teaching and Learning; Justin Hahn, Principal, Mahtomedi High School; Jackie Collins, Principal, Mahtomedi Middle School; Susie Prather, Principal, O.H. Anderson Elementary; Scott Briske, Principal, Wildwood Elementary; Leslie Lovas, Executive Assistant to Superintendent & School Board.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Peterson motioned; Donna seconded; Approval of Agenda. Carried 4-0.

Kelly Reagan entered the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Continuous Improvement - Principal Presentation

Dr. Jennifer Reichel, Director of Teaching and Learning, discussed with the School Board that Continuous Improvement report, building from her presentation at the September 23, 2024, Regular School Board Meeting. Reichel reviewed the Satellite, Map, and Street-Level Terminology along with the MCA scores and how each school principal will outline specific actions aimed at improving these scores. Susan Prather, O.H. Anderson Principal, spoke on the O.H.A MCA data and the systems they are using to improve from the current 69.3% reading data. Prather spoke about the Science of Reading with the LETRS training that will implement new materials

including K-5 Wit and Wisdom, K-2 UFLi skills, 3-5 Functional Phonics and the K-3 Implementation of decodable books. Prather spoke on the reading interventions that are happening and how they are now monitored. Scott Briske, Wildwood Elementary Principal, added that teachers are building a systematic assessment approach to address social, emotional, and behavioral concerns. Prather spoke on the math scores that dropped slightly from 79.1% in 2023 to 75.6% in 2024, including their small group instruction and math talks. Prather also discussed the Math Pathways, where accelerated math students take a 4/5 & 5/6 class where they learn their grade level math and the next grade math as well. Prather communicated the Science scores and how they dipped to 53.7% in 2024 and how the new K-5 Science standards added additional new Science specialist to teach those new standards and how it aligns to the Wildwood STEM specialist. Jackie Collins, Mahtomedi Middle School Principal, spoke about actions taken in 2023-2024 with the new middle school schedule, middle school success, AVID ownership, 6th and 7th-grade communications courses, and the added arts courses at each grade level. Collins then spoke about the MCA data, where test scores show growth in reading from 2023 at 67.3% to 69.1% in 2024. Science scores from 2023 were at 43%, and in 2024 rose to 59.4%. Collins notes that math took a slight dip from 71.1 % in 2023 to 70.6 %, where they are using intervention strategies and interventionists are in the middle of LETRS training. Collins then spoke on strategy for 2024-2025, focusing on the student's growth, including target interventions, Rasch Unit Scale (RIT) band analysis, and working on AVID strategies. Collins did advise inviting students to reading and math after-school assistance for those who want the help. Justin Hahn, Mahtomedi High School Principal, discussed how they use the data to make improvements, including the satellite data from the ACT/AP and MCA scores. Hahn said they use time during Flex time to assist students who need additional academic assistance. Hahn said they are also focusing on attendance with more parent contact, increasing MCA testing participation, and reviewing benchmark reports to determine gaps and overlaps.

Lucy Payne entered the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Hahn then reviewed College and Career Readiness, where Mahtomedi Public Schools had 87% ACT participation and how Mahtomedi curriculum prepares students for higher education; such as adding AP Precalculus and teachers prepping in a 4-day training. AP Testing data showed that Mahtomedi students earning a 3+ were at 80.7%, where that score of 3+ would earn college credit. Hahn highlighted that 68% of the Class of 2024 students took an AP Exam and how Mahtomedi High School earned a gold criteria award. Hahn then explained the College and Career Readiness Strategies, including AVID strategies that will align with the Portrait of a Graduate and the Strategic Plan. Hahn explained how Mahtomedi High School's goals are to have students focus on flex-time with self-advocacy and engagement. In 2024-2025, they increased flex-time from 25 to 35 minutes, prioritizing academic support through Flex-pectations and teachers reaching out to struggling students. Hahn finished by explaining the steps in creating the new cell phone policy that will help increase academic performance and a better classroom environment.

B. Engagement

Superintendent Barb Duffrin explained to the School Board that dates were picked out for Coffee and Conversations along with School Board walks. Duffrin asked the School Board to advise Leslie Lovas of the dates they will be able to attend.

1. Coffee and Conversation
2. School Board Walks

C. First Reading of Policies

Superintendent Barb Duffrin presented the first reading of policies to the School Board, some due to MSBA Legislative Changes and one on annual review. These policies have already been reviewed with the Policy Committee and are now here for questions or concerns. Duffrin explained that Policy 208- Policy 208 – Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies have added language to pass policies with legal changes in one reading. Duffrin explained that Policy 506 – Student Discipline language under VIII. Removal of a student from class had language about advising parents when a student was removed more than 10 times; the parents would then the parent would get a call. The updated language removed that language and added that the district would notify the parent or guardian if significant or repeated behavior resulted in the student’s removal from class. School Board Member Paul Donna still feels it needs more clarification and will come up with an idea. Policy 524- Technology and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety Policy, Duffrin advised it added language that buildings must have a Cellphone Policy and how each building is tasked. The School Board had questions on how the School Board Directs the Superintendent and school districts administrators to establish the rules. Several questions are still pending with this first reading. Policy 507 – Corporal Punishment was centered around the new SRO language and an update from MSBA. Policy 721 - Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources is a Policy that will need to be reviewed yearly per Tim Erickson, Director of Finance. Policy 806 – Crisis Management had updated language on active shooter drills. Duffrin had reviewed this with our SRO, and no drills with done students or staff are present. The active shooter drill language is something that should be considered to be added with additional language on how Mahtomedi does not conduct these. Duffrin will work on a statement for Policy 806 that will be added to the second reading. Duffrin asked the school board to review the policies and come back with questions at the second reading.

1. Policies for review due to MSBA Legislative Updates

- a. Policy 208 – Development, Adoption and Implementation of Policies
- b. Policy 506 – Student Discipline (Annual Review)
- c. Policy 524 – Technology and Cell Phone Acceptable use and Safety Policy using
- d. Policy 507 - Corporal Punishment

e. Policy 721 - Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

2. Policy for Annual Review

a. Policy 806 – Crisis Management

5. ADJOURNMENT

Reagan motioned; Peterson seconded; adjournment. Carried 6-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

_____, CLERK