

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

A **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Education of Mahtomedi Public Schools was held **Thursday, March 25, 2021**, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center-Community Room, 1520 Mahtomedi Avenue, Mahtomedi, Minnesota 55115. This meeting was live streamed and recorded.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chair Lucy Payne.

3. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Kevin Donovan; Julie McGraw; Lucy Payne; Kelly Reagan; Stacey Stout; Tony Vosooney; Superintendent Barbara Duffrin, ex-officio and Ismail Bah, school board student representative.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA - See #13 for Consent Agenda Items

Vosooney moved, Donovan seconded, approval of the actions recommended on the consent agenda. Carried 6-0.

6. PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

A. Student/Staff/Community Recognition - None.

B. Spotlight: O.H. Anderson Elementary School

Susan Prather, O.H. Anderson Elementary Principal, introduced the distance-learning teachers: Sarah Sadowski, Third Grade; Andria Warner, Third Grade; Danielle Baker, Fourth Grade; Christy Anderson, Fifth Grade; Briony Sorum and Maija Stellmach, Special Education, all of whom presented on part of O.H. Anderson Elementary School's mission/strategic plan to insure all students discover their authentic selves and build bold learner agency. The teachers spotlighted students in grades 3-5 demonstrating learner agency in action. Prather explained what learner agency is, which includes knowing

themselves as learners. Student videos on goal setting, creating biopoems and reflection on what they are good at or working on to improve were shared, along with examples of self-assessment and self-advocacy. Go Formative and IXL are two tools being used to provide immediate feedback, so students can correct their own work or get help. Bold learner agency is being curious and having a capacity/propensity to take purposeful initiative, which students demonstrated by choosing topics they were interested in to create books or videos. Choice Boards are used to allow students to have a voice and choice in their learning, which also lets them to explore their passions and value learning. A live panel of distance learners: Max Dady, Melania Fitzgerald, Ellory Francis, Olive Meinen, Jeremiah Solomon and Lila Stephens shared some of their learning experiences and participated in a question and answer session at the end of the presentation.

7. REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Ismail Bah, Student Representative, reported O.H. Anderson Elementary held a Beach Bingo Day. Mahtomedi Middle School students will be performing their spring musical *Dear Edwina Jr.* this weekend and Mahtomedi High School students returned to full-time in-person learning this week.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Barbara Duffrin gave an update on the current leaning models, reviewed the learning model change process and the indicators that are being monitored. The data is still trending downward. The 14-day case rate per 10,000 residents in Washington County for February 28-March 13 was 15.9. The updated district dashboard shows six student and staff positive cases in the last two weeks and less than three staff quarantined due to close contact or a positive test. Duffrin reported elementary students returned to full-time in-person learning on February 16, with a staff-planning day on February 11 and secondary students returned to in-person learning on March 17 & 18, with staff planning days on March 15 & 16. Staff planning included instructional changes, classroom/school logistics and student support. Family Choice Distance Learning is also still taking place with an enrollment of 7% - 18% of students attending virtually depending on the grade. State guidance continues to recommend a 14-day quarantine period for COVID-19 cases or close contacts and no large in-school gatherings/assemblies. The Class of 2021 graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 12, outdoors at the Mahtomedi High School Stadium. An *In-person Learning Around the District* video was share with school board members.

School Board Chair Lucy Payne reported on the resolution the school board submitted to the MSBA Delegate Assembly to eliminate the required minutes/hours of instruction (seat time requirement) to allow for more flexible and equitable ways for students to meet academic standards. Both MSBA and AMSD have approved/included it as part of their legislative platforms. A resolution redefining instructional hours has been adopted in the Senate Bill #1441 and the House of Representatives Bill #1644. Payne has testified before several legislative committees in support of eliminating or redefining the language regarding required instructional minutes/hours. Superintendent Duffrin explained how this change relates to the district's Strategic Plan by removing barriers and allowing students

to pursue their passions through mentorships, internships and service. Payne and Duffrin are working together on a guest blog for KnowledgeWorks on this topic. School Board Treasurer Tony Vosooney encouraged board members to email their legislators in support of this change.

Kevin Donovan, School Board Director, reported on the community conversation he co-hosted on the “Page Amendment,” which would update the Minnesota State Constitution’s language regarding education. In attendance were Superintendent Duffrin, School Board Chair Lucy Payne, School Board Clerk Julie McGraw and School Board Treasurer Tony Vosooney. The amendment states all children have a fundamental right to a quality public education that fully prepares them with the skills necessary for participation in the economy, our democracy, and society, as measured against uniform achievement standards set forth by the state. The amendment is scheduled to be on the 2022 ballot. Superintendent Duffrin stated this is an opportunity for the school board and community to join this conversation to insure it supports the district’s strategic plan regarding measuring student achievement. Donovan stated Justice Page has spoken at the White Bear Lake Rotary Club and David Schultz, Mitchell Hamline Law School Professor, is scheduled to speak at the May 5 Rotary Club Meeting.

9. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Board Member Calendar

The Board Member Calendar was reviewed.

B. Second Reading of Policies with Recommended Changes

Superintendent Barbara Duffrin discussed with school board members the following policies: Policy 213-School Board Committees; Policy 419-Tobacco-Free Environment; Policy 516-Student Medication; Policy 601-School District Curriculum and Instructional Goals; and Policy 607-Organization of Grade Levels. Most have MSBA recommended changes. These policies have been reviewed by the administration and the Policy Committee. They will be brought for a third reading/approval at the April 22 School Board Meeting.

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Donations/Grants Totaling \$6,140.95

School Board Chair Lucy Payne stated all donations and grants are greatly appreciated. The use of these funds will be to further the mission of the school district and are used towards the wishes of the donor.

1. From the Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF) to Mahtomedi Community Education Jumpstart Kindergarten - \$3,100.00
2. From L.N. Hodgson to Mahtomedi Community Education Hope Speaks - \$425.00

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3. From Wells Fargo Matching Gifts to O.H. Anderson Elementary School Blackbaud Giving Fund - \$140.00
4. From the Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF) to Mahtomedi Community Education MN Association for Family & Early Education (MNAFEE) Conference - \$1,597.95
5. From the Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF) to O.H. Anderson Elementary School Equipment - \$878.00

Donovan moved, Stout seconded, approval of donations/grants totaling \$6,140.95. Carried 6-0.

B. Approval of the Sale of \$645,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2021A

Jeff Priess, Director of Finance and Operations, introduced Kelly Smith, Director Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, who provided an overview of the bond sales to the school board. Three bids were received for the Sale of \$645,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2021A. Bids were awarded based on a true interest cost (TIC) basis of 0.74%. Colliers Securities LLC submitted the lowest bid. The Mahtomedi School District's credit rating has improved reflecting the improvement in the district's overall financial condition. Expected proceeds for this issue will be delivered to the school district on April 22. McGraw moved, Stout seconded, approval of the sale of \$645,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2021A. Carried 6-0.

C. Approval of the Sale of \$890,000 Taxable General Obligation OPEB Refunding Bonds, Series 2021B

Kelly Smith, Director Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, reported two bids were received for the sale of \$890,000 Taxable General Obligation OPEB Refunding Bonds, Series 2021B. . Bids were awarded based on a true interest cost (TIC) basis of 0.54%.. Northland Securities, Inc. submitted the lowest bid. Total savings to the district taxpayers achieved by the refundng sale is just under \$70,000 over the final two years of the bond issue. Expected proceeds for this issue will be delivered to the school district on April 22. Stout moved, Vosoonney seconded, approval of the sale of \$890,000 taxable General Obligation OPEB Refunding Bonds, Series 2021B. Carried 6-0.

D. Approval of the Bid for the 2021 Roof Replacement at Mahtomedi Middle School Gym 2 and Building Envelope Repairs and Roof Replacement at Mahtomedi High School Fine Arts Center

Jeff Priess, Director of Finance and Operations, reported seven bids were received and reviewed at the public February 24 bid opening. The bids include the scope of work that is part of the MDE approved LTFM expenditure plan. Priess recommended awarding the building repair work to Berwald Roofing and Sheet Metal, with a bid of \$939,300. Building repairs should be completed this summer. McGraw moved, Donovan seconded, approval of the bid for the 2021 roof replacement at Mahtomedi Middle School Gym 2

and building envelope repairs and roof replacement at Mahtomedi High School Fine Arts Center to Berwald Roofing and Sheet Metal. Carried 6-0.

E. Approval of Policies on the Six Year Review Cycle with Minor or No Changes

Superintendent Barbara Duffrin recommended approval of the following policies on the six-year review cycle. Vosooney moved, Reagan seconded, approval of policies: Policy 101-Legal Status of the School District; Policy 101.1-Name of the School District; Policy 103-Complaints-Student, Employees, Parents, Other Persons; Policy 202.1-School Board Compensation; Policy 528-Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination; and Policy 801.1-School Sponsored Student Groups or Activities. Carried 6-0.

11. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) Board

Tony Vosooney, School Board Treasurer, reported on the last AMSD meeting, which included a report from Representative Ruth Richardson of the House Education Policy Committee and approval of the AMSD 2021 Legislative Priorities. Guest speakers Dr. Karyn Lewis and Dr. Nate Jensen from Northwest Education Association (NWEA) reported on a Fall-to-Fall Study on the effects of COVID-19 on students' growth in literacy and math.

B. Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF)

School Board Clerk Julie McGraw reported they heard a Mission Moment Presentation by Julie Rolling, License Professional Clinical Counselor, on the use of MAEF Angel Funds. Nominations for the J. Stanley and Doris Hill Legacy Award to honor an individual that has shown a lifelong commitment to community service are being accepted until April 23. There is a link to the application on the MAEF website. Two Year College Scholarship applications are being accepted through early May. MAEF is selling "High Fives" for Mahtomedi High School and Middle School Staff from April 1 –13, and in lieu of the Spring Gala MAEF is having a Spring Giving Week Fundraiser from May 9-15.

C. Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) Legislative Liaison

School Board Chair Lucy Payne's report was included with the Superintendent's Report above.

D. Northeast Metro 916 Board

Kevin Donovan, School Board Director, reported the board unanimously approved Val Rae Boe as the new superintendent of the NE Metro 916 Intermediate School District. She is the current Director of Special Education.

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E. School Board Subcommittee Reports

School Board Clerk Julie McGraw reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held before tonight's School Board Meeting where the district's Standard & Poor's Global Financial Rating and the Governor's Budget was discussed.

F. Other Items/Reports

Tony Vosooney, School Board Treasurer, reported on the last Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Meeting, which included a principal's update on how they plan to hold smaller elementary end of the year celebrations and the changes to O.H. Anderson Elementary School's Nature Trail Event due to COVID-19 restrictions. PTO members are looking at ways they can help. Next fall the elementary open houses will be replaced with Family Connection Days on September 7 & 8. The PTO will contribute books for the students. Next month's meeting will be a PTO Work Session. School Board Clerk Julie McGraw reported there will be a ceremony honoring Julie Hendrickson, who passed away last summer, for all of her work on the Nature Trail.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Reagan moved, Donovan seconded, adjournment. Carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

13. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Items Approved Under #5)

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 25, 2021 - Regular Meeting

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report

C. Approval to Pay Bills

1. AP Check Register - Check No. 410218 to 410417 and 9800011967 to 9800012009

D. Approval of Wire Transfer Transactions

E. Personnel

1. Approval of Contracts

- a. Timothy Gormley - Parking Lot/Student Security - Mahtomedi Middle & High School (3/23/2021)

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b. Melissa Hiller - Registered Nurse - Mahtomedi High School & Middle School (3/22/2021)

2. Approval of Leave of Absence

a. Daniel Kizaur - Physic Teacher - Mahtomedi High School (3/22/2021-6/1/2021)

b. Lauren Konecny - First Grade Teacher - Wildwood Elementary School (4/2/2021-5/31/2021)

c. Julie Theisen - Math Teacher - Mahtomedi Middle School (11/30/2020-2/26/2021)

3. Approval of Resignations/Retirements

a. Julie Osterbauer - Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds - District-wide (6/30/2021)

b. Kristina Vaughan - Receptionist - O.H. Anderson Elementary School (7/31/2021)

4. Approval of Layoff Contracts

a. Margaret Mesick - Adult/Senior Program Coordinator - Mahtomedi Community Education (3/31/2021)

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK