

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, October 22, 2020**, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center -Community Room, 1520 Mahtomedi Avenue, Mahtomedi, Minnesota 55115

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the audience spoke to the school board about:

Robert Lieberman - Critical Race Theory

Kim Schwieters – Guardian Video and Posters at Mahtomedi High School

Jessica Carlson – Alternating Block Schedule and Racism Series at Mahtomedi High School

Jeff Poeschl – Learning Model Change from Hybrid to Distance Learning

2. CALL TO ORDER

This school board meeting was held in person and due to the declared health pandemic and declared state of emergency by conference call or interactive technology in accordance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021. The meeting was also live streamed and recorded.

Meeting called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Chair Lucy Payne.

3. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Kevin Donovan (virtually); Julie McGraw; Lucy Payne; Judy Schwartz (virtually); Stacey Stout; Superintendent Barbara Duffrin, ex-officio and Ismail Bah, school board student representative.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Payne moved, McGraw seconded, approval to add agenda item 9.E. Covid-19 Related Actions. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Stout-Aye, Schwartz-Aye (delayed sound). Carried 5-0. Stout moved, McGraw seconded, approval of agenda as amended. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Stout-Aye, Schwartz-Aye. Carried 5-0.

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

Donovan moved, Stout seconded, approval of the actions recommended on the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Stout-Aye, Schwartz-Aye. Carried 5-0.

6. PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

A. Student/Staff/Community Recognition

The following staff were recognized by the school board and administration:

- New School Resource Officer-Washington County Deputy Kelly Olson
- 2020-2021 Mahtomedi Teacher of the Year-Christine Carlson

7. REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

A. Ismail Bah, Student Representative, reported on the following events at Mahtomedi Schools: Wildwood Elementary and O.H. Anderson Elementary PTO Fun Run; Zephyr Wellness Event-Setting Limits & Avoiding Power Struggles; Mahtomedi High School Student Leadership Council's (SLC) "This Is Us Week" to learn about racism and promote anti-racism in our schools, SLC's Car Wash to raise money to buy gifts for the students at Jackson Elementary and the upcoming Trick or Can Event to collect food for the Food Bank at St. Andrew Church.

8. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Board Member Calendar

The Board Member Calendar was reviewed.

B. First Quarter Financial Update and October Enrollment

Jeff Priess, Director of Finance and Operations, updated school board members on the first quarter General Fund operations and student enrollment. Priess compared the revenue and expenditures from the 2019-2020 Budget with the 2020-2021 Preliminary and Revised Budgets. There was a \$1,890,367 surplus at the end of the 2020 Fiscal Year and a projected surplus of \$150,488 for the 2021 Fiscal Year. The projected fund balance for the 2021 Fiscal Year is 8.29 %. The revenue increase was due in part by increased Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds. Pupil Units for the 2020 School Year were 3,629.4 compared to the October 1, 2020 count of 3,583.8, a decrease of 1.3 %.

C. First Reading of Policy 413 Harassment and Violence

Nicole Flesner, Human Resource Supervisor, discussed the changes to Policy 413-Harassment and Violence with school board members. The definition of sexual harassment was updated to align with Policy 522-Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy. Policy 413 will be brought for a second reading/approval at the November 12 School Board Meeting.

D. Second Reading of Policies

Superintendent Barbara Duffrin discussed the changes to Policy 422-Policies Incorporated by Reference and Policy 522-Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process with school board members. The Mahtomedi School District's Title IX Coordinator was changed to the Human Resource Supervisor. The policies will be brought for a third reading/approval at the November 12 School Board Meeting.

E. Mahtomedi School Board Vacancy Process

School Board Chair Lucy Payne explained the process to fill a vacant school board seat by appointment. School Board Director Mike Chevalier resigned as of September 30. His term was set to expire on January 2, 2023. The appointed school board member will serve until the next election takes place in ISD 832. Applications (questionnaire and resume) may be emailed to lucy.payne@isd832.net or delivered to the Mahtomedi District Office by noon on November 9. Information on the process and timeline will be published in the White Bear Press and are available on the district's website. School board members will screen all candidates' applications and interview up to five candidates. A November 12 Special Meeting has been scheduled to continue the process.

F. Learning Model Change Update

Superintendent Duffrin presented on the indicators that inform current learning model operations, which included meetings and surveys of students, staff and families, along with Principal Roundtable conversations, student focus groups and an Incident Command Team/Advisory Team Meeting. The District's Leadership Team will be reviewing the data and working with building staff on areas of strength, improvement and the next actions for the learning models. Duffrin reported on the COVID-19 case notification process and the data from Washington County regarding positive cases per 10,000 residents, which was 32.65 during the weeks of September 27 – October 10. Under the MDE and MDH guidelines that would move the secondary schools from a Hybrid Model to a Distance Learning Model. Other indicators considered are student and staff attendance, health and safety operations and school services. Duffrin reviewed the learning model change process and recommended a change to distance learning for Mahtomedi High School and Middle School on November 9. Superintendent Duffrin and school board members discussed the physical health versus the mental health of students and staff when moving to distance learning and agreed to wait until next week's case numbers are released to vote on the learning model change. If needed a special meeting will be scheduled.

9. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Donations/Grants Totaling \$1,392.67

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.

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1. From Street Fleet World Class Couriers to Mahtomedi Swim and Dive Team - \$500.00
2. From American Legion Post 507 B-02208 to Mahtomedi High School Band - \$500.00
3. From Chipotle Mexican Grill to Mahtomedi Swim and Dive Team - \$392.67

Donovan moved, Stout seconded, approval of donations/grants totaling \$1,892.67. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Stout-Aye, Schwartz-Aye. Carried 5-0.

B. Approval of the World's Best Workforce Plan

Lynne Viker, Assistant Superintendent of Learning, gave a detailed public presentation on the Mahtomedi School District's World's Best Workforce (WBWF) 2019-2020 School Year Report and the 2020-2021 School Year Plan before tonight's school board meeting. The presentation included a report by Ali Middlebrook, Outreach Social Worker and Achievement & Integration (A & I) Coordinator, on the A & I Plan and the district's equity practices and improvements. Viker explained the five goals required by state statute, which are all students are ready to start kindergarten; all third graders can read at grade level; all achievement gaps between students are closed; all students are ready for career and/or post-secondary education; all students graduate from High School; and what the district's strategy is to reach those goals and how they have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The complete WBWF plan can be found on the district's website. McGraw moved, Stout seconded, approval of the 2020-2021 World's Best Workforce Plan. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Stout-Aye, Schwartz-Aye. Carried 5-0.

C. Approval to Accept the Resignation of School Board Member Mike Chevalier

McGraw moved, Donovan seconded, approval to accept the resignation of School Board Member Mike Chevalier. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Stout-Aye, Schwartz-Aye. Carried 5-0.

D. Approval of the 2021 School Board Meeting Schedule

Stout moved, McGraw seconded, approval of the 2021 School Board Meeting Schedule. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Stout-Aye, Schwartz-Aye. Carried 5-0.

E. Approval of Covid-19 Related Actions

Aaron Forsythe, Associate Principal of Athletics and Activities, requested the school board temporarily suspend Policy 902 Appendix B-Indoor & Outdoor Athletic Facility Use Rules & Regulations - Rule 18: The district will only allow for the natural melting of snow and ice. No snow removal effort, mechanical or otherwise, is permitted in order to ensure warranties along with appropriate care and maintenance of fields (both turf and

natural), tennis courts and track. Forsythe explained due to the delayed start of fall sports and the early snow, a snow pusher (not plow) could be used to safely remove snow from the artificial turf. McGraw moved, Stout seconded, approval to temporarily suspend Policy 902 Appendix B-Indoor & Outdoor Athletic Facility Use Rules & Regulations-Rule 18. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Stout-Aye, Schwartz-Nay. Carried 4-1.

10. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) Board

School Board Director Kevin Donovan reported AMSD presented the Friend(s) of Public Education Award to Dr. Nicola Alexander and Dr. Michael Rodriguez of the University of MN and Dr. Tom Melcher from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) presented on the School Finance Working Group's draft recommendations.

B. Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF)

School Board Vice Chair/Clerk Julie McGraw reported MAEF has chosen a new board member, Mike Dolezal.

C. Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) Legislative Liaison

School Board Chair Lucy Payne reported on the upcoming MSBA meetings: November 20 - Coffee and Conversation, November 21- Pre- Delegate Assembly, December 2 – Delegate Assembly, December 17 – Organizational Meeting, December 24 – Onboarding New Board Members and the January Leadership Conference. All meetings will be held virtually.

D. Northeast Metro 916 Board

School Board Director Kevin Donovan reported the board is polling its members to change the date of their December 2 Board Meeting due to a conflict with the MSBA Delegate Assembly. They are working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a search firm to recruit superintendent candidates. Distance Learning continues to be a challenge with students and staff coming from multiple counties.

E. School Board Subcommittee Reports – None.

F. Other Items/Reports

School Board Treasurer Stacey Stout reported on upcoming district meetings: Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Meeting – October 27, Elementary PTO – October 29, and Community Education Advisory Council – December 16. School Board Vice Chair/Clerk Julie McGraw reported the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 8.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Barbara Duffrin acknowledged that with everything going on this year decision-making is difficult. She thanked parents and community members for reaching out with support. Superintendent Duffrin also thanked the student leaders at Mahtomedi High School who shared their voices this week to build understanding to help everyone come together as Zephyrs in an inclusive environment. Duffrin visited several O.H. Anderson Elementary Classrooms and was impressed with the creativity and depth of learning taking place. Alice Seuffert, Communications Specialist, reported on the upcoming October 30 Community Connection Day, which will include a mask making class, a card making for seniors citizens and school/park clean-ups. A Community Connection Planning Group of about ten families and staff members are working to create peer to peer, family, and community member relationships through various events, such as a virtual luncheon or sharing a passion or career with students.

12. ADJOURNMENT

McGraw moved, Donovan seconded, adjournment, Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Stout-Aye, Schwartz-Aye. Carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

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

A. Approval of Minutes

1. September 24, 2020 - Regular Meeting
2. October 8, 2020 - Study Session

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report

C. Approval to Pay Bills

1. AP Check Register - Check No. 409028 to 409271 and 9800011705 to 9800011756

D. Approval of Wire Transfer Transactions

E. Personnel

1. Approval of Contracts and Work Agreements

- a. Jody Minke - Special Education Paraprofessional (LTS) - O.H. Anderson Elementary (10/2/2020)
- b. Liz Palvere - Special Education Paraprofessional (Fridays Only) - O.H. Anderson Elementary (10/9/2020)

2. Approval of Resignations/Retirements

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a. Alan Fossen - Theater Manager - Mahtomedi High School (11/5/2020)

F. Approval of the Revised 2020 School Board Meeting Schedule (November 12, 2020 Special Meeting to interview candidates to fill the school board vacancy).

G. Approval of Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Law Prohibiting Discrimination (completed and submitted electronically on the MN Department of Education website by Nicole Flesner, Human Resource Supervisor).

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK