

# Minutes of Study Session

## Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

---

A Study Session of the Board of Education of Mahtomedi Public Schools was held Thursday, October 22, 2015, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center - Community Room.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Judy Schwartz.

### 2. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Cathy Dalton; Mary Jo Deters (arrived 7:04 p.m.); Kevin Donovan; Julie McGraw; Lucy Payne; Judy Schwartz; and Superintendent Mark Larson, ex officio.

Also present: Acadia Hegedus, School Board Student Representative; Rochel Manders, 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, Payne seconded, to amend the agenda by adding discussion item #4. G. Review of Mahtomedi High School Guidance Changes, approval of the agenda. Carried.

### 4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. Hockey Arena Update

Superintendent Mark Larson introduced the members of the Rink 2 Corporation: Alex Rogosheske, J.P. Peltier and Paul Donna. They presented on a proposal to build a hockey arena on school district property. It would be a private and public partnership estimated to cost between 8 to 10 million dollars. All funds would come from the private sector. They would like to lease the land from the school district. The arena would be maintained on revenue from renting ice time. The need for the arena is due to the change in refrigerant from R22 to a green alternative, forcing many older arenas to close by 2020. The shortage of ice arenas in the area will make it more difficult to secure ice time for Mahtomedi Youth and Varsity Hockey. It would be a multiuse facility for the district.

## B. Activities Update

Activities Director Ray Kirch shared with the school board that Mahtomedi is having a successful Fall sports season with 204 boys and 266 girls participating. The football and girls soccer teams are in section finals and girl's tennis is heading to State competition. He reported sports like tennis, golf, cross country, swimming and track include students from 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade. He stated the current budget is good with strong support from booster clubs. Both Mahtomedi Middle and High Schools are performing Fall plays. Fab Lab students are building a glider. MN State HS League is celebrating 100 years and its foundation provides money for leadership work through student captains.

## C. Building and District Academic Goals/ How We are Closing the Achievement Gap

Director of Learning and Accountability Lynne Viker presented on the 2015 Districtwide Data Book on math, reading and science. The current district-wide achievement gap is 22% for math and 15% for reading. Each school is implementing programs to close the gap. Wildwood is doing reading assessments, EL push in, literacy classes, Press Reading Program for Tier 2 & 3 students. Diversity and MCP Coordinator Rob Pontious reported O.H. Anderson has incorporated WIN (What I Need) time of 20 minutes per day to provide extra help in math, reading or other subjects for each student. Growth Mind Set shared with both students and staff. Apex assessment program is being used to monitor students and includes social emotional piece. Extra efforts are being made to engage students achieving at lower levels. Middle School Principal Su Sorenson reported on the November staff development training. Staff is using reading strategies in other subject areas and mentoring lower level students. Growth Mind Set posters remind students to keep trying. ELL Teacher and Family Outreach Coordinator Deb Lauer reported on creating positive connections with families through the Back to School Bash, home visits, library cards, school view help, field trips, YMCA swimming lessons, after school tutoring and transportation. High School Teacher Jodi Tester reported on the testing strategies in place to help struggling students succeed such as: part of building being set aside for testing, MCA tests can be taken over several days on the computer and pre-test after school tutoring classes. In addition the ninth grade counselors will meet with each family to develop a personal learning plan. She stated looking at the whole child and developing personal relationships is the best way to help close the achievement gap.

## D. School Board Goal #4 Customer Service

Superintendent Mark Larson suggested forming a task force to go over the school

board goals which will consist of himself, Treasurer Kevin Donovan and School Board Member Mary Jo Deters.

E. Preparation for December School Board Meeting  
Presenter: Mark Larson

This item was tabled.

F. School Board Meeting Schedule for 2016

Superintendent Mark Larson and school board members decided on a January 7, 2016 Regular School Board meeting and a January 28, 2016 Study Session with a presentation from N.E. Metro 916.

G. Review of Mahtomedi High School Guidance Changes

High School Principal Kathe Nickleby reported to the school board that she is meeting weekly with counselors, will be conducting monthly school-wide staff surveys, holding student focus groups and researching other schools' counseling programs. The high school counseling staff will be meeting with the parent communication group in November. Counselors will be able to track a student's information through the MCIS tracking program from year to year. The new high school guidance changes will be reviewed again at the January 28<sup>th</sup> study session.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Payne moved, Chevalier seconded, adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.  
Carried.

---

CLERK