

Minutes of Study Session

The Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

A **Study Session** of the Board of Education of Mahtomedi Public Schools was held **Thursday, October 25, 2018**, 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: Kevin Donovan; Julie McGraw; Lucy Payne; Judy Schwartz; Stacey Stout and Superintendent Barbara Duffrin, ex-officio. Not Present: Mike Chevalier.

Also present: Kirsten Bouwens, O.H. Anderson Elementary Principal; Jennifer Israel, Gifted & Talented Coordinator; Bill Menozzi, Director of Business Services; Mike Neubeck, Mahtomedi Middle School Principal and Lynne Viker, Assistant Superintendent of Learning.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Payne moved, Donovan seconded, approval of the agenda. Carried 5-0.

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. CogAT Testing Implementation and Identification of Gifted & Talented Students

Mike Neubeck, Mahtomedi Middle School Principal, explained the CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) was added last year to the identification process of gifted and talented learners. This test captures the ability of a student and provides information for teachers and parents on how a student learns. It is only one part of the identification process. Lynne Viker, Assistant Superintendent of Learning, explained after the 2018-2019 school year all students in Grades 1-6 will have had or will take the CogAT. Kirsten Bouwens, O.H. Anderson Elementary Principal, explained the test is given over 3 days of 30 minute sections. All families receive the results at parent/teacher conferences in the form of a paper copy of a student narrative with a step by step guide to reading the results. Teachers are receiving training on reading and using the reports to identify students suited for advanced course work and to identify areas where students may need additional support. Jennifer Israel, Gifted &

Talented Coordinator, explained how the CogAT is used in combination with other achievement tests along with teacher and parent input to identify gifted learners. Parents can request the test for their child and new students will be given the CogAT if needed to determine placement at the Middle School level.

B. Enrollment and Quarterly Financial Update

Bill Menozzi, Director of Business Services, gave an update on the October 1, 2018 student enrollment and on the first quarter of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which included a budget summary comparison of the current year with the two previous years. The October 1 enrollment is two more than the school board target enrollment. Menozzi summarized the full and part-time classroom teachers added based on summer enrollment projections received from buildings and larger than predicted class sizes in first grade and leveled classes in math, Language Arts and French. The total percentage of budget spent in the general fund is comparable across years. Menozzi stated that he would review the elementary and secondary regular instruction budget in more depth, and potentially suggest mid-year budget adjustments reflecting the staffing additions discussed above. Each quarter the administration will provide an enrollment and budget update for the school board in order to analyze the current budget, anticipate any budget variances or necessary adjustments and to provide financial clarity.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Donovan moved, McGraw seconded, adjournment. Carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK