

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kendra Horn. Luke Cordingley, Ridgley Elser, Kendra Horn, Cory Rowberry, and Kaylie Theis were present. Superintendent Micheal Wetherbee and Principal Rodney Stout were present. William T. C. Wood was absent.

Visitors: Sara Decker (Zoom), Laurie Bartoletti (Zoom)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ridgley Elser led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

Public Comment

REPORTS:

Student Council: None at this time.

Student Co.

Negotiation Committee: Kendra Horn explained the first negotiation committee meeting was held with the SFT to set rules and guidelines for the negotiation process. The next meeting will be Jan. 20, when both sides will begin to bring items to the table for bargaining; monetary items will come a little later in the spring when more data is available regarding health insurance rates and budget numbers for the next fiscal year.

Negotiation
Comm.

BOARD GOALS AND TRAINING:

Sheridan School Board will support an engaged and collaborative learning environment to support all students and teachers.

Board Goals

Superintendent Wetherbee feels the Board meets this goal fairly well; due to our small student numbers, staff is able to support each student; staff is well supported by administration and the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

REVIEW OF SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN: Superintendent Wetherbee discussed the current plan, and how it reflects the Board's wishes, the administration has been monitoring the COVID situation closely, and the District hasn't had many student cases; even at the height of COVID, our schools didn't do a great job of masking, while other schools were very strict; our attendance was better through those times, showing that disinfecting and emphasizing hand hygiene were effective.

Safe Return to
School Plan

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED UPDATES TO POLICY-SECOND READING: #4330F-School Facilities/Grounds Use and Liability Release Agreement and Removal of Policy #4330F1-Assumption of Risk Waiver Form: Cory Rowberry moved to adopt revised policy #4330F as presented

Policy #4330F

by MTSBA and remove policy #4330F1. Ridgley Elser seconded the motion and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE CHAIR: Kendra Horn called for nominations for vice chair. She then nominated Cory Rowberry as vice chair, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, and the motion carried.

Vice Chair
Election

OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS: Cory Rowberry moved to approve the out of district placement agreement for a student, and Ridgley Elser seconded the motion. The clerk explained that the District may have to pay tuition to the school where the student was placed. The motion carried.

Out of District
Attendance

Ridgley Elser moved to acknowledge the out of district attendance agreement for the Ryan family, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HIRING AND/OR RESIGNATION:

Principal Stout recommended hiring Tracy Todd as the assistant middle school girls' basketball coach. Cory Rowberry moved to hire Tracy Todd as assistant middle school girls' basketball coach, and Luke Cordingley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hiring/Resignati
on

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Anthony Johnson as head middle school boys' basketball coach. The season is almost over, but the hiring was overlooked. Cory Rowberry moved to hire Anthony Johnson as head middle school boys' basketball coach, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REVIEW OF 2022 SCHOOL ELECTION CALENDAR: The Board reviewed the enclosed election calendar, and were advised that three Sheridan trustee positions and one Alder trustee position would be up for election.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF MOU WITH OPI AND DPHHS FOR CSCT SERVICES: The Trustees reviewed the enclosed MOU between the District, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Department of Health and Human Services; the agreement will facilitate the revised funding and payment structure for the CSCT program that provides mental health services to students; Cory Rowberry moved to approve the MOU, and Ridgley Elser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DPHHS/OPI
MOU

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION-DISTRIBUTE FORMS AND DISCUSS PROCESS: The Board reviewed the enclosed superintendent evaluation form; the clerk will create a google form so results can be submitted electronically and compiled automatically, and the January meeting is more efficient. New trustees were advised of the process and background of the superintendent evaluation.

Supt. Eval.
Forms

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FY2021 AUDIT REPORT: Superintendent Wetherbee stated that the audit went well, with no findings or comments; the auditor will give recommendations for improvement, and the District

FY2021 Audit
Report

office makes a consistent effort efficient, effective, and transparent; he recommended approval of the report. Ridgley Elser moved to approve the FY2021 Audit Report, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

READING AND/OR APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) MINUTES:

Ridgley Elser moved to approve minutes from the November 9, 2021 regular meeting, November 9, 2021 technology committee meeting, and December 1, 2021 negotiation committee meeting as presented, and seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minutes

REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS AND EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS:

Ridgley Elser moved to approve the December warrant list as presented, including warrants #109753 through #109787 totaling \$72,941.87, and Kaylie Theis seconded the motion. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: The expenditure for bus fuel is down due to running three bus routes instead of four; the original blinds in the elementary building are being replaced with new blinds that are more efficient; warrant #109787 to Whitehall Schools was discussed: this is for the 21st Century Grant, for which Sheridan Schools is the fiscal agent for the consortium between the two schools. The motion carried.

Expenditures

Expenditure Proposals: Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that new LED lights are being installed systematically in the elementary building; this project is progressing a little at a time; the lights cost approximately \$65/fixture, but are more efficient and provide better lighting; when all the lights in the elementary building are replaced, he plans to submit an application to NorthWestern Energy for an energy credit. Performing projects like this as part of routine maintenance help the District avoid bigger, one-time expenses.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Principal Stout reported on the following:
- November attendance for grades JS-6 = 91%, 7-8 = 94%, 9-12 = 93%, and JS-12 = 92%
- November students of the month;
- The District and the PALZ program hosted the annual family gingerbread house night, with a chili feed, and had around 90 people which was a great turn out;
- Bus barn maintenance has continued; the gaskets around the door were replaced and he requested bids for gutters and snow stops; these will help with erosion around the building and snow piling up in front of the doors; Got Gutters from Ennis had the lowest bid at approximately \$4,500;
- Enrollment continues to increase; it is currently 122 students, and he anticipates adding 7 students after Christmas break; enrollment during his tenure as principal has been between 88 and 95 students; Jumpstart has added some, but does not account for all of the increase; the increased enrollment will require reviewing curriculum to meet where students are when they come into school, and reorganizing staff to ensure that all students

Principal's Report

needs are met; our strong Title I program helps with early intervention for students who need extra support. Further discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: our new students in middle and high school seem to be the students who need IEPs or 504 plans, and it is unfortunate they were not identified before coming to our school; teachers are not close to being overwhelmed by the increase in numbers, but there will be a plan for how to handle larger class sizes; why families are moving to the area and whether they will stay or not;

- Upcoming events were discussed. (See enclosed.)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following:

Supt. Report

- Provided the Trustees with a copy of the newsletter that he's been putting around town in an effort to improve communication with the community; he has also started emailing all staff members his Monday Morning Coffee to start the week;
- He has seen a drastic turn in the junior high and high school in the past month, seeing better behavior overall; some students are struggling outside of school, but when they are in the building they are doing the right thing; staff has really been pushing the tardy and cell phone policies, and he feels things are getting back to where they should be, not where it has been;
- He would like the Board to consider if it is time to eliminate ZOOM meetings; it would be another step toward normalcy, and would like it to be an agenda item in January; the public has the option to attend in person, there isn't limited access to the District anymore.
- The board retreat will also be an item for the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:11 p.m., Cory Rowberry moved to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of this meeting were recorded and transcribed by Rebecca E. Larsen, District Clerk.



CLERK



CHAIRMAN