

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kendra Horn. Kendra Horn, Therese Sutton, William T. C. Wood, Principal Rodney Stout and Superintendent Micheal Wetherbee were present. William Fabel, John Russ Hamilton, and Klint Todd attended the meeting electronically.

Visitors: Mackenzie Fabel, Donna Gilman (Zoom), Laurie Bartoletti (Zoom)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Therese Sutton led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORTS:

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Superintendent Wetherbee reported that the safety committee discussed the safety drill schedule for the school year and a comprehensive school safety software called Navigate 360, which facilitates training, drills, and crisis management.

STUDENT COUNCIL: Student Council President Mackenzie Fabel reported on the following: Homecoming was held with most events taking place as usual, except for not having a parade and the addition of a staff and student capture the flag game; the volleyball team is having an average season, but were quarantined due to COVID, and remote learning went well for the players; the Ruby Valley Invitational for FFA was held online, and had a lot of participation from FFA chapters around the country; football is going very well for the Panther's first year back in 8-man; the ACT test was postponed due to seniors in quarantine.

BOARD GOALS AND TRAINING:

Sheridan School Board will encourage board training for all members using state and local resources.

MCEL: Superintendent Wetherbee commented that MCEL is the biggest training event for school boards for the year, and the District tries to incorporate training at board meetings that align with the board's goals.

OLD BUSINESS:

EARLY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: Principal Stout reported that Pam Birkeland, county superintendent of schools, met with him and Superintendent Wetherbee about the pre-kindergarten program; the program can be funded using Title I money, and the District will receive some ANB money based on enrollment of students in the program; the program will need a teacher certified in early childhood education, or with a provisional license; there is a survey on Facebook

Pledge

Public
Comment

Safety
Committee

Student
Council

Board Goals

MCEL

Early
Kindergarten

to help gauge interest in the community; there are logistics to figure out regarding classrooms, curriculum and supplies; Superintendent Wetherbee will contact OPI for additional guidance; the first step will be adopting the policies 3100 and 3100P, and revising policy 3110; students will need to be age 4 by September 10 for enrollment. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: the program could start in January; there are COVID related concerns, such as having to close the program if school is closed, but parents may face that in a pre-k program anywhere; the initial expenditures for half a year of pre-k is something that could be absorbed by the existing Title I and general fund budgets, and the District would receive ½ time ANB in the ensuing year's budget; the preference is for a half day program; students can ride the bus in the morning, have lunch at school, and parents will need to provide transportation home; the CBA with the union does not have a provision regarding the addition of positions. Therese Sutton moved to approve the administration moving forward with the prekindergarten program. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS: William T. C. Wood moved to acknowledge the attendance agreement for the Buyan family, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Out of District
Attendance

William T. C. Wood moved to approve the attendance agreements for the Canelis, Ellis, Freeman, Gilman, Meyer, Miller, Morgan, Schrapps, Scott, Smail, Todd, VerHow, and Willauer families. Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

HIRING AND/OR RESIGNATION: Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that Rosie Bartoletti had resigned her paraprofessional position, effective October 22, due to relocating. William T. C. Wood moved to accept her resignation, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hiring/Resigna
tion

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Janelle Schmit as head middle school girls' basketball coach. John Russ Hamilton moved to hire Janelle Schmit as head middle school girls' basketball coach, and William Fabel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Rod Stout as assistant middle school girls' basketball coach. Therese Sutton moved to hire Rod Stout as assistant middle school girls' basketball coach, and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REVIEW TITLE I PROGRAM: Superintendent Wetherbee informed the Trustees that periodic review of the program by the Board is a requirement; he provided a handout (enclosed) and discussed the following: the District currently utilizes certified and classified staff members to meet the needs of students who require intervention in reading and math; students are identified for Title I participation

Title I Program

using the District's assessments and recommendations from teachers and parents; he noted that most students who receive Title I support are showing improvement in their academic achievement; students with a higher need for support receive intervention through the program before they move into special education.

TITLE IX POLICY UPDATES-REQUIRED REVISIONS: The Board reviewed the revised Title IX policies as provided by MTSBA; the revisions are required due to changes in Title IX laws. The 3000 policy series applies to students, and the 5000 policy series applies to employees. (See enclosed.)

William T. C. Wood moved to adopt policy 3210 with the additional optional provision and Laurie Bartoletti designated as the District's Title IX coordinator, and Lanaie Morgan designated as the District Section 504 coordinator. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John Russ Hamilton moved to approve policies 3225, 3225P, and 3225F as presented, and William Fabel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

William T. C. Wood moved to approve policy 3226 as presented, and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Therese Sutton moved to approve policy 3310 as presented, and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John Russ Hamilton moved to approve policy 5010 as presented, and William Fabel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Therese Sutton moved to approve policies 5012, 5012P, and 5012F as presented. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

William T. C. Wood moved to approve policy 5015 as presented, and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Policy 3225,
3225P, 3225F,
3226, 3310,
5010, 5012,
5012P, 5012F,
5015

NEW POLICY FOR EARLY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: Principal Stout recommended the board adopt the new policies for enrolling students into the prekindergarten program with Option A. (See enclosed.) Therese Sutton moved to approve first reading of policies 3100 & 3100P as presented, with Option A. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. Discussion included the board admittance process for the program, and at this time, the administration plans to handle it the same as out-of-district attendance agreements. The motion carried.

Policies 3100,
3100P

REVISED POLICY FOR EARLY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: Principal Stout recommended revising Policy 3110 to include the italicized language regarding exceptional circumstances. Therese Sutton moved to approve first reading of amended Policy 3110 as presented, and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Policy 3110

CONSIDERATION OF ELIMINATION OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS WITH COUNTY TREASURER: Based on a recommendation by the auditor, the clerk asked the Board for a motion eliminating the investment accounts managed separately by the District. The County Treasurer invests cash in the state investment pool, and the additional investment line that the District has does not increase the amount of interest the District earns in a fiscal year. William T. C.

Eliminate
Investment
Accounts

Wood moved to eliminate the investment accounts with the county treasurer. William Fabel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

FALL ENROLLMENT DATA: The first Monday in October and first Monday in February are the annual collection dates for ANB; due to some issues with staffing and data entry, the reports have not been submitted to the state yet. The Clerk will bring the fall enrollment reports to the November meeting.

Fall
Enrollment

COMMERCIAL ENERGY: The Board reviewed the enclosed renewal packet from Commercial Energy; based on the market's current volatility and the upcoming election, Commercial Energy recommends the fixed price for the 2020-21 agreement. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: the board chose the collared price in 2018 and the fixed price in 2019, and both worked out well; the statewide school closure didn't affect usage very much; the forecast is for a hard winter, and we can anticipate that our usage will be higher. William Fabel moved to approve renewing the Commercial Energy agreement for one year at the collared price, and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commercial
Energy
Agreement

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR MS SPORTS: Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that the schedule for middle school sports may include games in Dubois, ID; when any student group travels out of state, it requires Board approval. William T. C. Wood moved to approve out of state travel for middle school sports. Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Out of State
Travel-MS
Sports

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

William T. C. Wood moved to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2020 regular meeting and the August 18, 2020 special meeting as presented. Therese Sutton seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Minutes

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

William T. C. Wood moved to approve the October warrant list as presented, including warrants #109185 through #109222 totaling \$102,526.33, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. Discussion included the payment to Bridgeway Academy, which was tuition for 11 students participating in remote learning; if the students choose to come back to in-person learning, the District will receive a prorated refund; there is an enrollment cut-off, and students may not choose remote-learning after that date. The motion carried.

Expenditures

Expenditure Proposals: None at this time

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Stout reported on the following (see enclosed):

- September attendance was 94% for K-12;
- Parent/Teacher conferences were held virtually, and went very well;

Principal's
Report

- Students K-6 took their fall MAPS tests; considering students have been out of the classroom since March, the results were not as bad as anticipated; the District has also seen an influx of students from other schools who haven't seen a MAPS test before; the scores are not where we typically are in the fall, but results will help us target areas that need work;
- He and Superintendent Wetherbee are using Digi-Coach system for staff evaluations; it is a cloud-based program that gives teachers immediate feedback, coordinates with e-pass (the state system used for formal evaluations through OPI), and helps meet the goal of helping teachers improve;
- MEA/MCEL is this week, and teachers are completing their renewal units virtually, and will turn them in to Superintendent Wetherbee;
- The virtual parent/teacher conferences will be helpful if the District needs to go to remote teaching; 5th and 6th grade students are getting really comfortable with their Chromebooks, and even 4th grade could manage the technology, and staff will be more comfortable using it as well.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following:

- Virtual parent/teacher conferences aren't as effective in middle and high school as in-person conferences, and they didn't go as well as the elementary side;
- The high school students are also participating in their fall assessments, and he is still receiving the results; so far, it seems that our students are doing well, although the results from remote-learners and new students are varied;
- He noted that there have been some expenditures to repair the high school siding, and there is some painting going on around campus;
- NorthWestern Energy contacted the District regarding some problems with their billing, and as a result, we are not realizing the savings on electricity due to the new solar panels as previously reported;
- The Vo-Ag construction class and poured concrete for the apron on the shop addition today; the garage door will be delivered soon;
- COVID-19: He reported that every day, we are one case away from closing school; there is pressure on everyone; some students have gone through quarantine and did well with their distance learning; district wide, we have only lost one day of instruction; he plans to keep doing what needs to be done to keep school open, but feels we are prepared to go to remote learning if necessary; the staff will be expected to teach remotely from campus; expectations will be higher for students in general, because we have done remote learning before, and the District needs to maintain its high standards of learning; teachers have noted that classes are slightly behind where they are normally at the beginning of school, but they are catching up to where they need to be;
- There have not been any major discipline issues;

Supt. Report

- He and Mrs. Bartoletti are able to monitor the progress and achievement of students who are participating in remote learning through Bridgeway Academy.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:27 p.m., William T. C. Wood moved to adjourn the meeting.

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



CLERK



CHAIRMAN

Adjourn