

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

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

Visitors: Laurie Bartoletti (via Zoom), Rhonda Boyd, Pam Birkeland (via Zoom)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: William Fabel led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORTS:

STUDENT COUNCIL: Student Council President Mackenzie Fabel reported on the following: High school basketball practice began on December 8, and there are approximately 16 students on the boys' and girls' teams; mid-terms were the first week of December; students are suggesting that teachers should have a deadline for grading assignments and entering grades in the gradebook so that students can see where they are. The Board will discuss this at the next meeting.

BOARD GOALS AND TRAINING:

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

Superintendent Wetherbee stated that a great example of the rapport between students, staff and administration is the Student Body President bringing a concern to the board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

EARLY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: Principal Stout reported that there were four prospective students for the Jump Start Kindergarten program; he will make a hiring recommendation for the position later on the agenda. Discussion included, but was not limited to the following: Mr. Stout will start ordering supplies and curriculum as soon as he is able; the class will be structured as a half-day, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; students may ride the bus in the morning, will be able to participate in the school food program for breakfast and lunch, and parents will pick students up; the teacher will have a prep period following dismissal; research has shown that a full day is too much for students of that age; the classroom will be self-contained, the state standards will be used as a guideline for planning instruction; as this program will feed into our Kindergarten, the curriculum will be tailored for preparedness. Members of the public have approached board members with concerns that the program isn't a full day; it is harder on the kids to go full days; the program is intended to be educational, not a daycare; we might lose some

Pledge

Public
Comment

Student
Council

Board Goals

Early
Kindergarten
Program

prospective students to other programs that are full day; the Board and administration can revisit the issue; funding for the program will be primarily through Title I, but there is room in the general fund budget for the additional startup expenses.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENT OF ALDER TRUSTEE: (Moved by Board consensus.) The clerk read a letter from County Superintendent Pam Birkeland appointing Rhonda Boyd to the vacant trustee position until the May 4, 2021 school election. (See enclosed.) William Fabel moved to approve the appointment of Rhonda Boyd, and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Appointment
of Trustee

OUT OF DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS: None at this time.

Out of District
Attendance

HIRING AND/OR RESIGNATION:

Principal Stout recommended hiring Kristi Wetherbee as the JumpStart Kindergarten teacher; Therese Sutton, Paula Elser, and Jen Patriitti participated in interviews. Therese Sutton moved to hire Kristi Wetherbee as the Jump Start Kindergarten teacher, and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hiring/Resigna
tion

Principal Stout recommended hiring Michael Grover as a paraprofessional. Therese Sutton moved to hire Michael Grover as paraprofessional, and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. He will be filling a vacancy from an employee who moved, and will be very helpful filling in where needed. The motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Clay Pierson as the assistant varsity boys' basketball coach. William T. C. Wood moved to hire Clay Pierson as assistant varsity boys' basketball coach. The motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Wendy Fabel as the assistant varsity girls' basketball coach. Rhonda Boyd moved to hire Wendy Fabel as assistant varsity girls' basketball coach, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried, with William Fabel abstaining.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Rod Stout as the head middle school boys' basketball coach. Therese Sutton moved to hire Rod Stout as head middle school boys' basketball coach, and Klint Todd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Anthony Johnson as assistant middle school boys' basketball coach. Therese Sutton moved to hire Anthony Johnson as assistant middle school boys' basketball coach. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended hiring Rachel Minert as forensics advisor. John Russ Hamilton moved to hire Rachel Minert as forensics advisor,

and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. Superintendent Wetherbee informed the Board that there are five students participating, and most events will be held virtually, although there will be a few that are in-person. The motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee moved to hire Anthony Johnson as drama director. William T. C. Wood moved to hire Anthony Johnson as drama director, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. Superintendent Wetherbee stated that the position is dependent upon being able to have a spring play. The motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended adding Torricelly Santana to the substitute teacher list. John Russ Hamilton moved to hire Torricelly Santana as a substitute teacher, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FY 20 AUDIT REPORT: The Board reviewed the audit report for the school year ending June 30, 2020. The Clerk reported that although most of the audit was positive, there was a finding regarding fixed assets and long term liabilities. The District's response to the finding is included in the audit report. John Russ Hamilton moved to approve the FY20 Audit Report, and Klint Todd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF MTSBA FY22 DUES ESTIMATE: The Board reviewed the MTSBA dues revenue estimate for FY22. (See enclosed.) MTSBA requires a vote from member boards, which will be submitted by the Clerk on behalf of the Board. William Fabel moved to approve the estimate, and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION FORM: The Board discussed the normal evaluation form, and the interest in simplifying the form, while maintaining the integrity of the process; Superintendent Wetherbee provided a simplified evaluation form and Kendra Horn provided a model evaluation (see enclosed); the Board struggles with the staff piece of evaluation every year, and having the staff survey for feedback is helpful; the Board reviewed the staff survey questions; there is a distinction of duties between the principal and superintendent roles; principal duties are more day-to-day operations, and superintendent duties encompass policy, grants, accreditation, and curriculum; the evaluation should focus on superintendent duties and take into consideration test scores, employee retention, and CFO duties. Therese Sutton moved to use the simplified evaluation form with the sections A-F of the rubric from the model evaluation as supporting documents and guidelines. William Fabel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF REVISED POLICY #5010 AND POLICY #5012: After taking the Title IX training provided by MTSBA, the administration felt it was necessary to change the Title IX coordinator for staff Title IX complaints from Laurie Bartoletti to Rebecca Larsen. Mrs. Bartoletti will still be the Title IX coordinator for student matters. William T. C. Wood moved to approve revising

FY 20 Audit
Report

FY22 MTSBA
Dues

Supt. Eval.
Form

Policy #5010
& #5012

policies #5010 and #5012 to change the Title IX coordinator to Rebecca Larsen. William Fabel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF ALDER TRUSTEE: Previously addressed.

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

John Russ Hamilton moved to approve minutes from the November 10, 2020 technology committee and regular meetings as presented. Klint Todd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minutes

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

William Fabel moved to approve the December warrant list as presented, including warrants #109257 through #109289 and totaling \$54,649.47. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Expenditures

The Clerk reported that the Governor's Coronavirus Relief Funds have been spent fully. The District received \$99,600, and had until December 30, 2020 to expend the funds. Expenditures included Chromebooks, internet service, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, PPE, and wages for employee leave associated with COVID. The funding was based on ANB, and there were additional funds available for transportation and technology purposes. The administration determined that the District was not in need of those additional funds, and did not apply for them in an effort to be fiscally conservative.

Expenditure Proposals: None at this time

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Stout reported on the following: (See enclosed.)

- November attendance was 95% for grades K-6, 95% for grades 7-8, 95% for grades 9-12, and 94% overall; most students who were quarantined have returned to school;
- November students of the month were listed for the elementary grades;
- Modifications to annual holiday traditions include a virtual winter concert, PALZ students will be decorating classroom doors, a gingerbread house competition, and an Ugly Sweater Day;
- School will be released at 1:00 on Wednesday, December 23, and will resume January 4.

Principal's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following

- We are addressing a problem with the gym heater before basketball season starts;
- Enrollment is currently 67 students in the high school, 26 students in middle school, and 92 students in K-6;

Supt. Report

- High school has had no behavior issues, and middle school is making improvements;
- Middle school girls' basketball is almost over; students in 5th through 7th grades participated and had a good experience; middle school boys' basketball will start in January,
- Mr. Johnson and Mr. Abbott are recording winter concert performances, and will edit the videos and post them to the Panther YouTube page;
- January 7 is the end of the first semester, and students will take finals the week they return from winter break;
- He reiterated that he felt the Board made the right decision to have students in school;
- Upcoming items will include elections in May, a board retreat, and superintendent negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:28 p.m., Therese Sutton moved to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourn

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


CLERK


CHAIRMAN