

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
School District of Mauston**

DATE: Monday, March 17, 2014
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: District Administrative Office
510 Grayside Avenue, Mauston WI 53948

MEMBERS PRESENT: Buss, Rogers, Kryka, Fox, Zilisch, Vinopal, Berkos
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

1. Board Vice-President Carrie Buss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken; all members were present.
2. Mrs. Buss led the Board members, administrators, and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Public Comments:

3. Carrie Buss commended the district staff and administration for their extensive and compassionate response to the tragic loss of an Olson Middle School student, Zack Schiller.

Reports:

4. **Mauston High School FFA:** Charitee Seebecker reported on the success of the recent FFA Pancake Supper. More than 350 people were served. The FFA made \$650 in sales of shakes. The Annual FFA Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m. The Mauston FFA has donated \$1,000 to the Juneau County Fair Board to be used toward the improvement of the show ring.
5. **MHS Key Club:** Melissa Falagian reported on Key Club elections for 2014-15 officers. Kyle Barribeau was elected President, and Vanessa Klein was elected Vice-President for next year.
6. **Summer School 2014:** Summer School Coordinator Diane Winker and Director of Teaching and Learning Lynda Oleinik reported on the summer school program being planned for 2014. (Ref. Exhibit #1/District File). The course offerings are a blend of remedial and enrichment, with many opportunities for students. The Board commended Mrs. Winker for her planning and preparation.
7. **Possible Welding Program at MHS:** Principal Jim Dillin summarized issues related to the topic of offering a comprehensive welding program at Mauston High School. This concept is in the very beginning stages, and was initiated in response to the industrial community's need for trained welders. There was consensus that Mr. Dillin should continue to research the possibilities, function and costs of a welding program.
8. **Board Committees:** No reports other than what is on the pending action agenda.
9. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Weymouth updated the Board on several items. A special Board meeting was confirmed for April 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., to meet with facility study representatives Bray and Associates (*Note: later was moved to April 8, 2014*). The 2014 Membership Audit has been successfully completed, and no exceptions were identified by district auditors Wegner CPAs. Dr. Weymouth also expressed her thanks to the district administrators and staff for their excellent response to the Schiller family

and to the students at Olson Middle School during the difficult days following the passing of Zack Schiller.

10. **Administrative Reports:** District Administrators reported on building and department events, student accomplishments and staff training and programming initiatives.

Pending Action:

11. Motion by Zilisch/Berkos to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 7/0, whereby the following items were approved:
 - a. Minutes of the February 17, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting.
 - b. Payment of monthly vouchers totaling \$1,434,441.86.
12. Motion by Buss/Kryka to accept the retirement resignation of Mary Bender, grade six teacher at Olson Middle School, effective at the close of the 2013-14 school year. The Board expressed appreciation for Mrs. Bender's 30 years of service to the School District of Mauston. The motion carried 7/0.
13. Motion by Buss/Kryka to accept the resignation of Hannah Palm, family and consumer education teacher at Olson Middle and Mauston High Schools. Hannah has been with the district for three years. Following discussion, the motion carried 7/0.
14. Motion by Rogers/Kryka to waive the third reading of Board Policy 522.8 – Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety for Staff, and to approve the policy as revised by the Policy and Personnel Committee. Following discussion, the motion carried 7/0.
15. Motion by Berkos/Zilisch to approve the Summer School proposals for 2014. Following discussion, the motion carried 7/0.
16. The Board reviewed the proposed CESA 5 Contract for the 2014-2015 school year. The contract will come before the Board for approval at the Regular Board Meeting in April.
17. Motion by Fox/Zilisch to approve the WIAA Girls' Hockey Co-op Application for Mauston High School students to participate in 2014-2015. Following discussion, the motion carried 7/0.
18. Motion by Vinopal/Fox to accept with appreciation the donation of golf balls valued at more than \$2000 from John and Helen York to the Mauston High School golf team. Following discussion, the motion carried 7/0.
19. Motion by Vinopal/Zilisch to accept the donation of a \$1000 scholarship from Craig Kobylski (BTU Management) to be awarded to a Mauston senior in 2014. The Board expressed appreciation for this donation. Following discussion, the motion carried 7/0.
20. Motion by Vinopal/Zilisch to accept with appreciation the donation of athletic equipment from the JJ Watt Foundation, valued at \$5,784.00. Following donation, the motion carried 7/0.
21. Motion by Buss/Vinopal to approve the increase of support staff wages by \$0.28 per hour, as recommended by the Board Negotiations Committee. Following discussion, the motion carried 7/0.
22. Dr. Weymouth reviewed preliminary budget considerations for the 2014-2015 school year. She summarized the projected deficit for the 2014-2015 school year to be approximately \$293,000, and summarized proposed reductions (Ref. Exhibit #2/District File). The Board discussed possible staff reductions which may be necessary due to lower enrollments at some grade levels. The CESA 5 Contract proposal for 2014-2015 was also reviewed. Budgetary considerations will be revisited at the April Regular School Board Meeting. No action was taken.

23. Motion by Vinopal/Zilisch to Adjourn to Executive (Closed) Session in compliance with State Statute (19.85(1)(c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; and (f) "Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, ...which, if discussed in public would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data..." [Discuss Selected Support Staff Proposed Wage Increases; Review and Approval of Expulsion Findings]. A roll call vote was taken; the motion carried 7/0.
24. The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:55 p.m. Motion by Zilisch/Fox to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried 7/0.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Mauston Board of Education**

DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2014
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: District Administrative Office
510 Grayside Avenue, Mauston WI 53948

MEMBERS PRESENT: Buss, Rogers, Kryka, Vinopal, Berkos

MEMBERS ABSENT: Fox, Zilisch

1. Board Chair Carrie Buss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call of members was taken; five members were present.
2. Superintendent Christine M. Weymouth summarized the Board's work to date related to an in-depth facility study approved by the Board in September, 2013, and conducted by Bray Associates (Ref. Exhibit #1/District File).
3. Matt Wolfert of Bray Associates spoke to the components of and processes necessary for the Board to make any decisions about reorganization of building/grade configurations or the potential closure of any district facilities. He stated that the goal is to close the annually recurring deficit in operational funds that is currently experienced by many districts across the state; and which is due to reduced state aids, declining enrollments and increasing costs to school districts for goods and services.
4. Bray representative Clint Selle distributed a packet of updated schematics, showing possible space use in three building configuration scenarios. He noted that these drawings are very preliminary in nature, and were developed in response to the Board's requests at the previous facility study workshop, and following in-depth discussion with the district's leadership team. (Ref. Exhibit #2/District File). A quick overview of these options would include:
 - a. Continue to operate all five district school buildings, and approve a referendum for the cost of needed upgrades;
 - b. Close one or more school buildings, and consolidate elementary students into existing Grayside and Olson Middle School buildings. This option would require more comprehensive study of the renovations and remodeling that would be required to transition younger students into the existing Grayside building, and move one or two grades into OMS. Both buildings would require infrastructure modifications, at a cost to be determined.

5. Mr. Wolfert noted the time lines required if the Board is considering floating a referendum in 2014 or 2015. Two upcoming general elections would offer referendum opportunities: (1) November, 2014, which, according to WI statutes, would require official Board action no later than August 2014; and (2) April, 2015, which would require official Board action by January of 2015.
6. Administrators shared that concerns from parents and citizens continue to focus on the possible closure of Lyndon Station Elementary, and the idea of moving 7th grade students to the high school building.
7. Board members commented on general responses and questions received from the public. Some members have received suggestions for potential grade reconfigurations, and re-purposing the Lyndon school building.
8. Mrs. Buss asked about the possibility of an option that would include housing all students PK-5 at Grayside, with a building addition. The general response was that public support for a referendum to add on to a building would be negative, unless all available space at the high school building is being used efficiently.
9. Administrators shared the concept of designating Lyndon Station Elementary School as a Montessori/Charter school. The State of Wisconsin is offering a grant opportunity for schools to plan and implement a Montessori/Instrumentality Charter school with a three-year funding plan (Year 1 – Planning (\$175,000) and Years 2-3 (\$150,000 per year). There was general discussion about the possibility of an early learning charter school succeeding at Lyndon Station. Would it draw open enrollment students from other neighboring districts? It was noted that SAGE funding can continue in a charter/Montessori setting.
10. The Board discussed potential education program possibilities related to moving 7th and 8th grade students to the high school building. Dr. Weymouth reminded the Board that program enhancements are inextricably tied to funding; when the district solves the problem of the annual operating deficit, enhancements may be explored.
11. Another meeting was set for Monday, May 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., at which time Bray will present more detailed information related to the potential costs of building renovations and tax impact which would result from Board approval of a referendum resolution for the following building configurations: PK-3 at Grayside Elementary; Grades 4-6 at the current middle school building; and Grades 7-12 at the high school building. Matt Wolfert reminded the Board of the potential timeline for approving a referendum resolution.
12. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Recorded by:
Melodye Jones, Recording Secretary; and
RJ Rogers, Board Clerk