

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSION OF THE MARSHALL BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020 AT 7:00 PM VIRTUALLY @ [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo\\_Dw2K8ptX5eFKauouPJZO/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo_Dw2K8ptX5eFKauouPJZO/)

PRESENT: DESMET, NICHOLSON, WILLIAMS, GAMBLE, LINDSEY, DAVIS, JONES, MIDDLETON JOINED THE MEETING AT 7:17 PM

ABSENT: DAWSON

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President DeSmet. A moment of silence was observed.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Treasurer Gamble.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Gamble, supported by Lindsey, that the agenda be approved with the addition of Trustee Lindsey acting as secretary for the meeting. A roll-call vote unanimously carried the motion. Secretary Middleton was not present for the vote.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

President DeSmet explained since the meeting was being held virtually individuals were asked to complete an online Public Comment Request Form by 7:00 p.m. May 18, 2020. Only individuals that completed the online request form would be invited to provide comment. There were no requests for public comment received.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA MINUTES AND EXPENDITURES**

Items included on the consent agenda were minutes of the April 20, 2020 combined work/business sessions and the May 4, 2020 Work Session and closed/executive session; and April disbursements in the amount of \$5,856,306.80.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Williams, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda – Minutes and Expenditures as presented. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously. Secretary Middleton was not present for the vote.

#### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

*SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:* Superintendent Davis congratulated Athletic Director Dan Coddens for being named Regional Athletic Director of the Year by Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Superintendent Davis recognized and thanked retiring staff members Laura Altic, Maureen Earl, Lisa Gibbs and Mark Minkwic; he shared background information about their time with the district. All four will retire at the end of the current school year.

Superintendent Davis congratulated Marshall High School's Top 10 Seniors and Departmental Recipients as follows:

Top 10 Seniors

Jack Crull  
Thomas Huyge  
Benjamin Lee  
Karlee Malone  
Ashley Ottjepka  
Paul Radulescu  
Zachary Ufkes  
Douglas Voigt  
Robert Voigt  
Mara Wilson

Departmental Recipients

Spencer Zick ~ Applied/Fine Arts  
Mara Wilson ~ English  
Karlee Malone ~ Mathematics  
Lexi Holt ~ Music  
Elizabeth Dowell ~ Science  
Emmett Rosenzweig ~ Social Studies  
Emily McLane ~ World Language

*COMMENCEMENTS:* Superintendent Davis plans continue to refine how graduating seniors will be recognized. The following will occur:

- Oaklawn Hospital has donated the program that will be printed to memorialize the Class of 2020. Each graduate will receive two programs.
- A donor will be contributing \$30 in Marshall Chamber Bucks to each graduate to spend at businesses in Marshall.
- A car parade will be held Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at MHS and traveling downtown around the fountain, down main street and back up to the high school where seniors will receive their diploma folder.
- All participating employees and board members are to wear a mask during the event.
- Seniors will schedule a time to pick up their diploma, book deposit and turn in applicable items at MHS.
- Commencement videos for both MHS and MOHS will be released Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> to the public for viewing.

*FACILITIES COMMITTEE:* Superintendent Davis reported due to the pandemic the committee has not convened in two months. All members are still active and ready to move forward. A refreshed timeline is being developed based on a May 2021 election for a potential bond. He indicated it will be up to the Board of Education to decide, if and, when an election will take place. Board members that participated on the committee shared the following thoughts/comments:

- Equity across the district has been a focus of good conversation.

- Recognizing the current unknowns and how to move forward has been a topic of consideration.
- Questions brought up prior to the pandemic need to be talked through.

*LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS:* Superintendent Davis indicated pertinent Leadership Team Reports were included in the board packet. He highlighted the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy and that 93% of the students received high school diplomas. The students were released by platoons in different parking lots across the district in order to maintain distancing on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Davis reported there was nothing new to report about how distance learning is going. Students were given the final two packets to work on through May 29<sup>th</sup>, the last day of school for students.

Board members asked questions and responses were made related to technology for students and staff needs that will be addressed through the CARES Act grant; curriculum camp – professional development to prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 school year; and software that protects students from cyber bullying.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*2020-21 BUDGET:* Superintendent Davis indicated there is nothing firm yet from the State of Michigan Revenue Conference to address per pupil funding; it is expected to be reduced for the current school year and for the 2020-2021. The district anticipates a proration of \$900 per pupil. There are not many options with the state budget office. He added all districts will experience unstable enrollment for 2020-2021.

Director of Business Operations Becky Jones reported she continues to work through the budgeting process. She anticipates a reduction of \$650-\$700 in the foundation allowance for the current school year and the upcoming school year.

Superintendent Davis reviewed the governor's plan phases for lifting restrictions.

*PROPOSED HANDBOOK CHANGES FOR 2020-21:* Superintendent Davis presented proposed handbook changes for 2020-2021. He indicated there were minimal changes and that additions to handbooks may be necessary as time passes depending upon requirements that may come from the State of Michigan due to the pandemic. The proposed changes will be available for 30 days in the superintendent's office for the public to review should they wish to do so.

#### **APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION - TRIPS**

*OVERNIGHT AND/OR OUT-OF STATE FIELD TRIPS:* Approve customary school-sponsored overnight or out-of state field trips for the 2020-21 school year. Trips included: Mackinac Island trip for fourth graders, Sherman Lake YMCA & Outdoor

Center for sixth graders, National FFA Convention for FFA members (9-12<sup>th</sup> grades), State FFA Convention for FFA members (9-12 grades), Fall FFA Leadership Conference for FFA members (8-12<sup>th</sup> grades), FFA Washington Leadership Conference for three FFA students (11-12<sup>th</sup> grades), and Regional FFA Leadership Camp for FFA Officers (9-11<sup>th</sup> grade).

*OVERNIGHT AND/OR OUT-OF-STATE TRIPS:* Approve customary overnight or out-of-state trips conducted primarily on non-school days. All trips are optional and included: grade five trip to Chicago, grade eight trip to Northern Michigan (Yooper Wilderness Adventure); grade eight music student trip to Cedar Point; trip to the East Coast for middle school students, Marshall-Koka Sister-City Exchange for four middle school students to travel to Koka City in Japan, junior and senior Spanish student trip to Chicago, IL; and Michigan Youth in Government Conference for high school students.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Gamble, that the Board of Education approve Action Items – Curriculum and Instruction - Trips as presented. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS  
– CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION - OTHER**

*HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOK PROPOSALS:* Approve high school textbook proposal that includes the following textbooks: AP Chemistry, Biology, Conceptual Physics, Chemistry and Conceptual Chemistry and Physics. The textbooks have been available since being presented to the Board at the April 20, 2020 Business Session.

*COMPUTER SCIENCE FUNDAMENTALS COURSE:* Approve Computer Science Fundamentals Course for high school students.

Moved by Williams, supported by Middleton, that the Board of Education approve Action Item – Curriculum and Instruction - Other as recommended. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEM – FINANCIAL**

*AWARD BIDS FOR LAWN MOWING SERVICES:* Award bids for lawn mowing services as recommended by the Facilities Director. There has been no change in vendors or costs since lawn mowing services were awarded April 22, 2019.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Williams, that the Board of Education approve Action Item – Financial as recommended. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEM – OTHER**

*RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED CALHOUN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT (CISD) GENERAL FUND BUDGET:* Approve a resolution regarding the proposed 2020-21 CISD general fund budget.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Nicholson, that the Board of Education approve Action Item – Other as recommended. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Vice President Nicholson referenced an email message from a student about the perceptions of inequalities between Marshall and Albion students. She referenced the difference in COVID-19 stats as they relate to races. She indicated there is something out there that should be addressed, and that people need to talk about it.

Trustee Gamble shared that she spoke with quite a few students and the students don't expect anything to change, to be different. Conversations to foster change were to occur however COVID-19 came about.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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LISA MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

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KIMBERLY VANWORMER, RECORDING SECRETARY