

MINUTES OF THE COMBINED WORK BUSINESS SESSION OF THE MARSHALL BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 PM VIRTUALLY @

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo_Dw2K8ptX5eFKauouPJZQ/

PRESENT: DESMET, NICHOLSON, MIDDLETON, WILLIAMS, DAWSON, GAMBLE, LINDSEY, DAVIS, JONES

ABSENT: NONE

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 Trustee Lindsey.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Middleton, that the agenda be approved as presented with item 10. Executive Closed Session being removed. A roll-call vote unanimously carried the motion.

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. April 20, 2020. He added that the form was made available to the public at 3:15 p.m. Friday, April 17th and has been available since. Only individuals that completed the online request form would be invited to provide comment. One individual submitted a request form however they had not yet joined the meeting. The Board will hear the public comment once the individual joins the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA MINUTES, EXPENDITURES, AND PERSONNEL

Items included on the consent agenda were minutes of the February Business Session; February disbursements in the amount of \$2,594,347.82 and March disbursements in the amount of \$2,685,336.37; and employments of Samantha Clark as paraprofessional at Marshall Middle School, James Hackworth as behavior support specialist at Marshall Middle School and Tara Ribbey as food service secretary.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Gamble, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda – Minutes, Expenditures, and Personnel as presented. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Superintendent Davis presented background information about each hire included in the consent agenda.

FOOD SERVICE AND TECHNOLOGY REPORTS: Superintendent Davis indicated that Food Service and Technology Reports were included in the Board's packet. They both demonstrate the incredible efforts that are being done to feed our students and provide technology for them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wanda Kemp, a parent of a Harrington Elementary student and a MHS student asked why classroom work was not being presented through Zoom or in a similar manner as the teacher could explain the lesson content and then have the students work on it and be able to ask questions. She asked how distance learning was going to roll out; worries that students will fall behind; knows the district is working on it; and asked if survey results were available.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOK PROPOSALS: Superintendent Davis presented textbook proposals for the high school that included textbooks for the following courses: AP Chemistry, Biology, Conceptual Physics, Chemistry and Conceptual Chemistry, and Physics. The Board will consider approving the proposed textbooks once they have been made available for the public to review.

COMPUTER SCIENCE FUNDAMENTALS COURSE PROPOSAL: Superintendent Davis reviewed a proposal for a new course at the high school, Computer Science Fundamentals. This course would take the place of the Digital Imagery course. The Board will consider approving the proposed course once it has been made available for the public to review.

Board members asked questions and made suggestions as follows:

- do the textbooks being presented fit an online education;
- why are the textbooks being replace so old (17-18 years old); and
- a periodic update on curriculum and textbooks would be appreciated.

Superintendent Davis will ask Director of Curriculum and Instruction Chad Holt to provide the Board with more details at a subsequent meeting before it is brought back to the Board to consider approving both the textbooks and the course proposal.

OPERATIONS UPDATE RELATED TO CLOSURE OF SCHOOL: Superintendent Davis provided a power point presentation that outlined steps the district has taken since February 28, 2020 preparing to the anticipated pandemic to-date in response to the governor's orders to provide distance learning for all students for the remainder of the school year. He shared informative information and responded to Board member questions/comments as follows:

- Through this closure, student grades will not suffer.
- The 3rd quarter grade will also serve as the semester grade.
- For high school students in grades 9-11, the 3rd quarter grade will be the students' final grade for the semester.

- 12th grade students that had a failing grade at the 3rd quarter marking period are being assisted to help them complete their work and pull their grade up from failing.
- Much of the funding for distance learning has been covered with grant dollars and expenditures for needs outside of grant dollars has been minimal.
- A reduction in the foundation allowance is expected for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Some individuals are having trouble keeping up with information being disseminated; the district's web page should be utilized as a resource for information as all communications are available for viewing.
- There are several variances teachers are working with and it is understood what works for one student does not necessarily work for another.
- The distance learning opportunity will be used to enhance learning.
- Parents are not necessarily understanding that teachers will provide feedback about the learning activities, but there will not be "official" grading.
- Parents were surveyed to determine specific needs for students such as computer availability and internet connection. The survey resulted in 100 respondents; this number has grown as families made contact with teachers and school buildings.
- At this point commencement and all related activities are cancelled until the state lifts stay at home provisions. Seniors will be recognized at some point; and there have been some exciting ideas to consider.
- The 2020-2021 school calendar has not yet been established. The first day of school will be August 26th but beyond that nothing has been decided. 2021 Spring Break is in limbo as to whether it will even occur. The governor has suggested districts look at changing to a balanced calendar. The district will await direction from the government before moving forward with establishing a calendar.
- Students requiring paper packets have been determined and the first packets will be delivered April 21, 2020 and every Tuesday thereafter.

APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEM – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

ESTABLISH A DISTRICT-WIDE PD ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Approve retroactively, as of August 21, 2019, the establishment of a District-wide Professional Development Advisory Committee.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Middleton, that the Board of Education table Action Item – Curriculum and Assessment. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously.

This action item will be placed on the next Board Agenda for consideration once more information is provided.

APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS – FINANCIAL – TECHNOLOGY

APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES: Approves purchases of the following technology upgrades:

- 45 access points, parts, installation costs and licenses for the Wireless Access Point Upgrade
- 3 network switches, parts, and installation costs for the Network Switch Upgrade
- 38 new uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for the UPS Upgrade

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Williams thanked Superintendent Davis and MPS Staff for the work they have put in during the current difficult times. All Board Members echoed Treasurer Williams' statement.

Secretary Middleton thanked the Food Service Department for getting food to kids. She offered to read to kids remotely if there as an interest in doing this and she suggested folks sign up to help distribute food.

Superintendent Davis lauded the Transportaion Department for their involvement in delivering food to the children in our district.

President DeSmet asked how students at the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) were doing to which Superintendent Davis responded they program continues operations with the students since they fall under a residential program. He indicated that all staff members at the MYCA are doing an incredible job during this time. Teachers are providing distance learning lessons remotely and cadre are keeping students focused during class time. He added that Dr. Marcum is doing an outstanding job leading her staff and coordinating to keep the students on track.

Trustee Gamble indicated the video MHS staff put together was awesome.

Trustee Lindsey added that Marshall Middle School Staff also presented a video as well.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

LISA MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

KIMBERLY VANWORMER, RECORDING SECRETARY