

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSION OF THE MARSHALL BOARD OF
EDUCATION HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 AT 7:00 PM
VIRTUALLY @

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

PRESENT: NICHOLSON, MIDDLETON, LANKERD, GAMBLE, LINDSEY,
WILLIAMS, DAVIS, JONES

ABSENT: DESMET

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Treasurer Williams.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Gamble asked before approving the agenda if the Board would consider moving some items off the agenda to a special meeting. The agenda was long and in order to avoid overload she felt it should be considered.

Fellow Board members suggested the meeting proceed as presented.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Middleton, that the agenda be approved as presented with a change in the dates listed in Item 16 to January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022; and the order of agenda items may change should the auditor not be available to present as laid out. A roll-call vote unanimously carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President Nicholson called for any members of the virtual audience to address the Board on agenda items only. There were none.

DISCUSSION

RISK OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION IN SCHOOLS: Superintendent Davis reviewed a document, published by Kent County Health Department, titled *Risk of COVID Transmission in Schools: A Framework for Public Health Recommendations*; this document is being used statewide. Additionally, he would like the board to consider adopting it at a future board meeting. He indicated the Calhoun County Health Department provides an update on COVID-19 positive cases across the county. This information is received weekly on Wednesday; the data from the update is used to help in determining how to proceed with school.

Vice President Nicholson shared she does not agree with the decision that all students would be attending school virtually without considering comments from the public/parents before doing so. Further, she would like more information provided to the community to help individuals understand why the school makes the decisions it does regarding in-person versus 100% virtual.

Secretary Middleton concurred with vice president's comments.

MPS COVID-19 TRENDS: Superintendent Davis reviewed COVID-19 confirmed and probable positive statistical data gathered since the first day of school through November 14, 2020. Consideration is being given to bringing in-person students back a week earlier than the current planned date of January 19, 2021.

NWEA K-8 ASSESSMENTS FALL 2019 AND FALL 2020: Director of Curriculum and Instruction Chad Holt presented a PowerPoint of the district's Assessment Overview for K-8th grade – Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 Comparison. He reviewed what NWEA MAP Assessments are; how NWEA MAP Assessments are conducted; the purpose of the assessments, and what the scores mean. Math and ELA test scores were reviewed. He finished the presentation by sharing recommendations from the Assessment Committee.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT TEAM DATA REVIEW: Superintendent Davis reviewed recommended changes to the district's COVID-19 extended preparedness plan for learning as recommended by the District Improvement Team.

**REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO THE DISTRICT'S
COVID-19 EXTENDED PREPAREDNESS PLAN FOR LEARNING ONLY**

Superintendent Davis asked if there were any comments or questions about the district's COVID-19 extended preparedness plan for learning now that recommendations have been presented. There were none.

ACTION ITEM – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION – OTHER

RECONFIRM COVID-19 EXTENDED LEARNING PLAN: As required the district must hold a Reconfirmation Meeting every 30 days to review the COVID-19 Extended Preparedness and Response Plan for Learning and to consider reconfirmation of the plan.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Middleton, that Action Item – Curriculum and Instruction be approved as presented. A roll-call vote unanimously carried the motion.

DISCUSSION - AUDIT

FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 AUDIT REPORT: Director of Business Operations Becky Jones introduced Nathan Baldermann, CPA, CGFM Principal of Rehmann Robson, to present the draft fiscal year 2019-20 Audit.

Mr. Baldermann indicated the audit was done completely remotely which made it unique and different. He indicated the audit was itself clean (unmodified) audit; and that other than three findings there were no other material weaknesses and significant deficiencies found.

APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEM – AUDIT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 AUDIT REPORT: Accept the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Audit Report as prepared and presented by Rehmann Robson.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Gamble, that the Board of Education approve Action Item – Audit Report as presented. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA
MINUTES, EXPENDITURES, PERSONNEL AND OTHER**

Items included on the consent agenda were minutes of the November 9, 2020 Combined Work/Business Session and the November 19, 2020 Special and Executive/Closed Session; October disbursements in the amount of \$5,065,800.24 and November disbursements in the amount of \$3,166,408.88; and employments of Hannah Blume as library technician at Harrington Elementary, Margaret Collins as paraprofessional at Walters Elementary, Terry Day as paraprofessional at Walters Elementary, Cierra Montoya as assistant cook at Gordon Elementary, Aimee Peterson as assistant cook at Marshall High School, and Mark Thrasher as general maintenance worker for the Facilities Department; adopt resolution regarding the open meetings act and virtual meetings; allow school board members to attend workshops and/or classes throughout the 2021 calendar year; and for Dr. Davis to attend the 2021 Michigan Association of School Boards Virtual Midwinter Conference January 20-21, 2021.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Lanker, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda – Minutes, Expenditures, Personnel, and Other 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.

Superintendent Davis shared Board President Bill DeSmet's history as a member of the Marshall Board of Education as his service as a member of the board will conclude on December 31, 2020. President DeSmet has served on the board for over 11 years; he was thanked for his service.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT: Superintendent Davis reported a letter of agreement was signed on December 4th that addresses the delivery of education and expectations of the teaching staff for the time period of November 18th through January 15th:

LEADERSHIP REPORTS: Superintendent Davis indicated Leadership Reports were included in the board's packet.

DISCUSSION

FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORK GROUP UPDATES: Superintendent Davis indicated the work group has been meeting regularly with the most recent meeting occurring on December 9. At that meeting the group began looking at the process for prioritizing projects and the needs that are established for each of the buildings. Building administrators and teacher representatives were re-invited back in to join the committee to work through the process and to see the needs of other buildings in the district. He met virtually with Jeremy Root to review needs for music departments which will be added to the list of projects for consideration.

Trustee Lindsey asked if there is a capital improvement plan/replacement schedule as he was surprised at how old some of the furniture is in the district. Ms. Jones responded that

such replacements are done on an as needed basis. He added he believes the district should consider having a capital improvement plan as it would be helpful.

Superintendent Davis articulated that he knows are some things that have a shelf life and the district needs to plan for such needs.

BOARD POLICY UPDATES: Superintendent Davis presented the Board with NEOLA Board Policy Updates for Title IX Regulations and November 2020 Special Update. He explained a second reading and consideration of adopting them will be at the January 11, 2021 Annual Organizational Meeting and Work Session. He asked board members to review the policies and ask questions should there be any.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Vice President Nicholson shared that President DeSmet asked Secretary Middleton to chair the Nominating Committee. Other members serving on the committee include Vice President Nicholson and Trustee Gamble. The committee will properly post their meeting when it is scheduled.

SET DATES FOR TWO OPEN BOND WORKSHOPS: Superintendent Davis asked board members to check their calendars and make suggestions for setting community forums for the purpose seeking community input on the Facility Needs Assessment Work Group's suggestions and prioritization of district needs as they relate to a potential bond. Board members suggested dates and times. Consensus was to hold four meetings as follows:

- Saturday, January 9 @ 11:00 AM
- Wednesday, January 13 @ 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, January 19 @ 7:00 PM
- Saturday, January 23 @ 1:00 PM

ACTION ITEMS – FINANCIAL – TECHNOLOGY

PURCHASE REPLACEMENT DATA CENTER SERVERS: Approve the purchase of a replacement data center servers to refresh and have more capacity at a cost of \$59,240.61. CARES Act funds will be utilized to purchase the servers

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Williams, that Action Items – Financial be approved as presented. A roll-call vote unanimously carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President Nicholson called for any members of the virtual audience to address the Board. There were none.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Middleton took a moment to thank President DeSmet for his time, service and commitment to the Board during his tenure as a member of the board; adding he will be greatly missed.

Superintendent Davis thanked Vice President Nicholson for taking the lead and running the meeting well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved Lindsey, supported by Gamble, that the Board move into executive session under Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act for a strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement at 9:27 p.m. A roll-call vote unanimously carried the motion.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 9:35 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEM – FINANCIAL - PERSONNEL
RATIFY TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH MPS SUPPORT PERSONNEL
ASSOCIATION, MEA / NEA:** Approve the ratification of the tentative agreement with the MPS Support Personnel Association, MEA / NEA for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

LISA MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

KIMBERLY VANWORMER, RECORDING SECRETARY