

MINUTES OF THE COMBINED WORK/BUSINESS SESSION OF THE MARSHALL BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020 AT 7:00 PM, @ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo_Dw2K8ptX5eFKauouPJZQ/

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

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President DeSmet.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Nicholson.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Nicholson, that the agenda be approved as presented with the deletion of Discussion Item A – Dr. Johnson’s presentation. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President DeSmet called for any members of the audience to address the Board on agenda items only.

Zachariah Garcia asked if students start on-line can they change to in-person learning before the semester ends and what are projected class sizes.

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

Items included on the consent agenda were minutes of the June 8, 2020 Work Session and June 29, 2020 Business Session and the annual renewal of the Mar Lee Cooperative Agreement for 2020-2021

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Middleton, 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:

- **TEACHER TENUR** – Superintendent Davis presented to the Board the following teachers who will achieve tenure at the end of the current school year, 2019-2020, unless otherwise indicated: Jake Casey, Jennifer Englehart, Kelly Karns (9/11/2019), Debra Oosterhart, LoriKay Shivley.
- **BACK TO SCHOOL MAILER AND WELCOME BACK / COMMUNITY BREAKFAST:** Superintendent Davis and Director of Business Operations Jones shared that the Back to School mailer would be arriving in mailboxes soon, and has been revised to accommodate the changes due to COVID-19. It is being mailed to all mailing addresses in the zip codes of Albion, Ceresco, Homer, Marshall and Tekonsha. It is also being mailed to all district

employees and parents/guardians that reside outside the aforementioned zip codes. Superintendent Davis announced that the Welcome Back / Community Breakfast will not be held in-person, but he is considering a virtual option.

- *DR. JOHNSON, ALBION COLLEGE PRESIDENT* – Dr. Johnson was able to join the meeting. He highlighted Albion College’s Diversity Inclusion Action Plan & Blueprint to Belonging plan. He is looking forward to growing the partnership and relationship with Marshall Public Schools. He spoke about the planned expansion to the Washington Gardner Fitness Center and the opportunities this would present for community youth activities.
 - Trustee Gamble asked Dr. Johnson to speak about his plans for the Marching Band held at Albion College. Dr. Johnson said he would like to invite high school bands to Albion College for a Marching Band Festival with both parade and field judging.
 - Trustee Lindey and Trustee Middleton both welcomed Dr. Johnson to the area and are looking forward to building the relationship with Albion College.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT: Superintendent Davis welcomed David Martin of Kingscott to review the Facility Assessment and Master Planning. The information presented included the assessment review, wants and wishes, next steps and timeline. The information was presented for the board to review and prioritize needs, no action is required at this time.

Board members asked questions and made suggestions as follows:

- Are there current upgrades planned to air filtration due to pandemic
- Could the proposed location of Early Childhood be changed
- Should we include Dr. Johnson in any plans in the Albion community
- Concerns were express with building equity between elementary buildings
- Concerns were expressed with what is the highest priority item for the district, facilities, curriculum, equity and inclusion

PRELIMINARY RETURN TO LEARNING PLAN – Superintendent Davis shared that the committee has been meeting weekly since June 25, 2020 and includes representatives from each stakeholder group. It demonstrates our steadfast commitment to a rigorous, inclusive, and equitable education for all. Our Return to Learn Plan needs to be approved by the board at the August 10th meeting. There are several subcommittees - budget and staffing; communication; social emotional learning; curriculum, instruction and assessment; professional development; athletics and extracurricular activities; facilities; grading and attendance; technology; child care; transportation; food service; health; special education. Representatives from the following committees provided input: communication, social emotional learning and athletics and extracurricular

Board members asked questions and suggestions as follows:

- Who are we considering as partnering with for the Virtual Only instruction
- What classes/course will be offered virtually
- Can parents preview what a virtual lesson/day would look like
- Concerns were expressed with the wearing of masks and the teaching of the need for masks and what policy would be implemented
- Concerns were expressed with the change from phase 4 back to phase 3 and meeting the needs of students
- Concerns over possible teacher layoff based on the number of students choosing virtual

Superintendent Davis explained that we have three main focuses for Return to Learning

1. The health and well-being of our students, staff, and teachers
2. Instruction of students
3. Social and emotional learning and mental health

PUBLIC COMMENT

President DeSmet called for a motion to move the public comment and board comment before the action items on the agenda. He called for any members of the audience to address the Board, adding that we will take notes on all questions and provide answers at a later time via both the Marshall Public Schools webpage and Facebook.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Middleton to move the public and board comment time on the agenda. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously.

- Elisa Hooper – Concern about what busing will be like and how proper social distancing will occur.
- Megan Vandeboss – Concerned with students who have asthma, anxiety, etc. wearing masks, concerned over proper ventilation in the schools, wondering if fall and spring sports may switch seasons
- Andrea Nessel – Concern over topic placement on the agenda, as an MDE employee she believes there is still an option for the entire district to be on-line during phase 4, concerned over the timing of the virtual only deadline and the board's final approval of the Return to Learn plan, her final concern is that there is a firm plan for social distancing.
- Chris Rupp – Concerns with social distancing, concern with 3rd party vendor for virtual education being aligned with Marshall's scope and sequence, feels it may be a better solution for MPS teachers to provide MPS curriculum on-line.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

President DeSmet called for any board members for comment.

- Trustee Lankerd – Lots of anxiety and questions with return to learning. Feels we need much more communication to parents, teachers and staff. Consider focus groups, FAQ's answered on the website. Understands that a virtual option is not the best fit for all students, and that schools are a safe zone. She is willing to sit on any of the subcommittees.
- Trustee Lindsey – Also feels that much more communication needs to happen, and suggested a separate meeting specifically for this topic.

- Trustee Nicholson – Feels we should consider building specific town hall meetings with principals. Also questions why masks are not required for all grade levels.
- Trustee Middleton – Requests patience from everyone during this time while we work through this complicated and constantly changing issue.
- Trustee Williamson – Agrees with fellow board members that student, staff and safety be the primary focus
- Trustee Gamble – Agrees with fellow board members and encourages the lines of communication to remain open. We need to make sure we are keeping our special needs students in mind.
- Superintendent Davis – Agrees that communication is vital and will answer all questions in a timely manner and make arrangements for special meetings.

APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS –FINANCIAL: FOOD SERVICE BAKERY GOODS FOR 2020-2021: Award bid for bakery goods for the 2020-2021 school year to Aunt Millies.

DAIRY PRODUCTS FOR 2020-2021: Award bid for dairy products for the 2020-2021 school year to Prairie Farms.

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

APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEM –FINANCIAL COPY PAPER FOR 2020-2021: Approve quote for copy paper for the 2020-2021 school year using REMC bids.

FUEL BID FOR 2020-2021: Award bid for fuel for the 2020-2021 school year to Folk Oil.

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

APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEM –FINANCIAL: MYCA CONTRACT RENEWAL – CAPITAL SERVICES: Approve the renewal for vended school meals with Capital Services with unchanged prices,
Moved by Lindsey, supported by Gamble, that the Board of Education approve Action Items – Financial: MYCA as recommended. A roll-call vote carried the motion unanimously

APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEM –FINANCIAL: FACILITIES AWARD BIDS FOR REPAIRING BRICK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL COURTYARD: Award bids for repair of crumbling brick in Middle School interior courtyard to Elite Companies.

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

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS FOR WHICH
NO ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING**

President DeSmet called for any board members for comment; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

LISA MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

BECKY JONES, RECORDING SECRETARY