

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSION OF THE MARSHALL BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020 AT 7:00 PM VIRTUALLY @ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo_Dw2K8ptX5eFKauouPJZQ/

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

ABSENT: WILLIAMS

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 Secretary Lisa Middleton.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Gamble, that the agenda be approved as presented. A roll-call vote unanimously carried the motion.

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

Superintendent Davis provided a synopsis of the district's COVID-19 extended preparedness plan for learning only. He shared statistics of how the district is doing in making sure virtual students are active and that at least two interactions have occurred with every student each week; and that 75% of the students satisfy the attendance requirement. He is pleased with the outcome.

Superintendent Davis shared current results of a "1st Quarter Survey" survey that was conducted with parents/guardians as well as a staff survey. A likert-type scale of 1-4, with 4 being the highest was used.

Board members asked questions and shared comments as follows with responses, as applicable, shown in italics:

- Were staff responses that resulted in a score below two reviewed with staff to determine what could be done to improve in those areas; *it is understood how tired teachers are that provide both in-person and virtual learning to students. Middle school teachers have time in their schedule to prepare for delivery of virtual instruction; high school teachers do not.*
- Could district's share teachers; *that has not been explored. Virtual education is a challenge for all school districts.*
- It's disappointing that extracurricular activities that students participate in outside of school is where kids are passing COVID-19 to one another; *the district has experienced very few COVID-19 cases in K-5 students (three in-person/three virtual). The biggest challenge are the students in grades 6-12. Excluding the 55 Michigan Youth Challenge Academy cadets that were affected there have been three students at Marshall Middle School (MMS) and thirteen students at*

Marshall High School (MHS) that have tested positive for COVID-19. The biggest challenge has been with staff members; there have been positive COVID-19 staff members and several staff members that have been quarantined due to familial (close contacts).

- *What about sports, has there been any decision made about them; Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) has not stopped sports. Hopefully MHSAA decides soon to make changes.*
- *Based on the circumstances the district is doing well.*
- *Were the survey results shared with staff; the district will make sure staff receive the results.*
- *Will changes be made to MHS's schedule so that teachers will have more prep time; the district is open to what it can do to support its teachers.*

ACTION ITEM – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA MINUTES, EXPENDITURES, AND PERSONNEL

Items included on the consent agenda were minutes of the October 26, 2020 Business Session; September disbursements in the amount of \$2,734,678.46; and employments of Carrie Begg as positive behavior support specialist at MMS, Anna Eastin as special education paraprofessional at Harrington Elementary and Michael Loveless as technology help desk technician.

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Lanker, 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.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT: Superintendent Davis reported a letter of agreement was signed on November 4th that adjusted student schedules the week of Thanksgiving and the week after. Students will attend as follows:

- In-person elementary students will attend their normal school day November 23rd and November 24th

- In-person grades 6-12 will attend either November 23rd or November 24th with the opposite day being virtual (i.e.- group A attends Monday and group B attends Tuesday).
- The week of November 30th, all K-12 students will attend school remotely/virtually. The district will return to its normal schedule the week of December 7th.

Superintendent Davis indicated the hope is to stave off new cases that may develop due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Consideration will be given to doing something similarly for Christmas break.

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

DISCUSSION

FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORK GROUP UPDATES: Superintendent Davis thanked everyone that was able to attend the recent Facility Needs Assessment Work Group. These work group meetings will be posted now forward so to allow all members of the board of education to attend should they choose to do so. He indicated consensus of the committee members was to present a bond proposal to voters at the August 2021 election. The main difference in presenting a proposal to voters August 2021 versus November 2021, and should it be a positive vote, a new elementary school in Albion would be able to be opened sooner. Delaying the vote to November would push an opening of the school building to 2023. It was felt kids deserve it sooner rather than later.

Kingscott Director of Client Services Principal David Martin explained the process the committee will undertake as it works to prepare recommendations to include in a bond proposal to present to the board for consideration. The committee will need to present to the board the bond proposal in February to meet the requirements of an August 2021 election; or present to the board in May to meet the requirements of a November 2021 election. He indicated the major difference in election date is the amount of preparation time the committee would have between now and when the committee would present its recommendation to the board. In addition, an approved bond proposal from an election in November 2021 would have the opening of a new school occur mid-year which is difficult to accomplish.

CSM President Todd McDonald confirmed the timeline requirements Mr. Martin provided adding that it is a quick timeline.

Comments were made and questions were asked by the superintendent and board members as follows with responses, as applicable, shown in italics:

- When will constituents and stakeholders in the community see the plans for the bond proposal; *community forums should be held the month preceding the committee's presentation to the board in order to receive feedback.*

- Thought leaders in Albion are saying there is no dialogue going on in their community about a potential bond.
- Teachers and principals need to work through their “what ifs” with the committee.
- When the committee presents to the board it should be done at a workshop that is dedicated to just that.
- An August election date would require board approval to call for the election in May.
- The board will have three choices following the presentation by the committee; the board may approve the proposal, modify it or deny it.
- Needs of athletics has not yet been heard by the committee.
- Both clarity and prioritization of the proposal need to occur to have cohesiveness in order to present to the public.
- Good sound rational of how the proposal will be paid needs to be presented to the public.
- This feels like a tight timeline for a presentation to the board in February given the holidays that are coming up and the unknown effects of the pandemic; *three months is the typical timeline under normal circumstances, and it is doable.*
- Can the content of the proposal be changed after it has gone to treasury; *what goes to treasury is a broad sense of the plan with dollars attached to it. There is a little flexibility for enhancement projects that are often achieved with savings on projects in the proposal.*
- The real work is after treasury approval when a “Yes” committee will be formed to talk with constituents, get the word out to everyone and answer questions and explain why the bond is needed. The “Yes” committee would be separate, outside of the school.
- Transparent communication needs to be done ahead of the board’s approval. Real solid input, not the “Yes” campaign. This is why both communities need to be involved; not sure the short timeline is enough time.
- Seek input from the community by sharing what the committee is thinking in order to see if the community will or will not support a bond.
- Virtual meetings do not garner public involvement; nobody is asking questions or making public comments at these meetings.
- The schedule feels tight; not sure there is enough time to seek community input.
- The committee has been meeting for a long time and members of it come from a diverse background; it includes representation across the district. A date was picked by the committee to set a deadline; it was needed to have a goal to work toward.
- Engagement and timeline need to be taken back to the committee; is it achievable.

COVID-19 DASHBOARD: Superintendent Davis explained the COVID -19 Dashboard is being worked on continuously and will launch soon. COVID-19 Alerts are being posted to the district’s home page and there is a tab on the homepage to access all communications that have gone out under the “COVID-19” tab. He reported that MPS School Nurse Danielle Siebert is doing a great job organizing the districts COVID-19 data, tracking and following up with the health department. He added that Ian Gilyard-Schnaitman is posting school bulletins and notifying all staff as COVID-19 alerts occur.

ACTION ITEMS – FINANCIAL

RESOLUTION FOR COLLECTION OF SUMMER TAXES: Adopt a resolution that provides summer collection of the school tax levy in Marshall and Fredonia townships and also the City of Marshall for the 2021 tax year.

PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR HARRINGTON ELEMENTARY: Approve the purchase of new playground equipment for Harrington Elementary from Gametime/Sinclair. The bid award total is \$41,824.99; the costs includes new playground structure(s), the demolition and removal of the old playground structure and installation of new structure(s). The cost will be paid for through sinking fund dollars.

AWARD BIDS FOR AIR CONDITIONING PROJECT AT HUGHES ELEMENTARY: Award bids for the installation of air conditioning at Hughes Elementary at a cost of \$2,439,450. The project will be funded by a private donor and sinking fund dollars.

PURCHASE REPLACEMENT DOCUMENT CAMERAS: Approve the purchase of “up to” 242 Elmo document cameras, at a cost of \$579.00 each from VSC, Inc. (REMC ITEM #192095) for a total cost of “up to” \$140,118. The number of cameras purchased will depend upon what CARES Act funds are available through the end of 2020.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice President Nicholson shared concerns about Harrington Elementary in that when the district was annexed to Marshall Public Schools it was anticipated that it would be 3-5 years for it to turnaround. She would like to see a report, in the next month or two, on what progress has been made; and what needs to change to bring equality to the building.

Trustee Lindsey indicated he has heard a lot of concerns about Harrington Elementary over the last few months. He wants to see more regular updates; specifically, if the district is doing what it said it would. He recommended a strategic planning session be held soon.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

LISA MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

KIMBERLY VANWORMER, RECORDING SECRETARY