

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE MARSHALL BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 AT 7:00 PM, IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA AND IT WAS AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY @ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo_Dw2K8ptX5eFKauouPJZQ/

PRESENT: DESMET, NICHOLSON, MIDDLETON, WILLIAMS, GAMBLE, LANKERD, 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 Vice President Nicholson.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Lindsey, supported by Middleton, that the agenda be approved as presented with an additional item to the Consent Agenda, Item H Employment of Andrea Davis as mental health services specialist. A roll-call vote unanimously carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President DeSmet called for any members of the audience to address the Board on agenda items only. Individuals can comment in person and will be invited in one person at a time or comments may be made virtually as board meetings are limited to ten persons as currently mandated by the state. There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA PERSONNEL

Items included on the consent agenda employments as follows: Kari Brandon - dispatcher for transportation, Andrea Gerloski - science teacher at Marshall Middle School, Ian Gilyard-Schnaitman - central office secretary, Sara Huggett - elementary art teacher, Dana Miller - athletic secretary, Whitney Pennington - positive behavior specialist at Walters Elementary, Amanda Quinn - health care clerk at Marshall Middle School, and Andrea Davis - mental health services specialist.

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

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

- HIRES – Superintendent Davis presented to the Board for employment the new hires; he shared their educational background information.

BOARD TOPICS

RETURN TO SCHOOL: Superintendent Davis reported the return to school started with teacher professional development before students returned. Outside funding from Mr. Tom Franke and the Cortright Foundation offset some of the cost to provide stipends to teachers who participated. Students returned to school on August 26, virtually on the first day making connections and engaging with staff; all in all, it was a good start of back to school. He added that parents and students are practicing social distancing; and there has been some anxiety about returning to school but most are excited to return. There was one hiccup the second week of school making sure hotspots availability and coordinating meal drop offs were defined; both have been resolved. Teachers are reporting students are a bit more subdued, so they are working to connect with them. Filling open staff positions has been a challenge. There has been an unusual amount of life circumstances for district staff and their families with the start of school. Call ins from staff have increased; they've been told to stay home when sick; thus, finding subs has been difficult. A few more support staff positions remain unfilled. The district added teachers for the online virtual learning. The district is also working with parents that want to change delivery of their child's education from virtual to in-person instruction; as space permits.

ATHLETICS AND E O 2020-176: Athletic Director (AD) Dan Coddens provided an update of the ever-changing direction of how to proceed with athletes, practices, competition and participants. He indicated that sometimes the executive orders are not in line with the Michigan High School Athletic Association's (MHSAA); and that such orders are interpreted differently from person to person. Navigating this has been difficult as changes occur often. He shared that student-athletes are allowed two spectators each of their choice to attend their competition. He indicated the tracking method for the athletes' spectators has been to check them off by student athlete's name as they enter. Parents have been cooperative, considerate and positive of the process. He is exploring how to livestream athletic events to see if it is doable.

Superintend Davis responded to a board member's comment about liability for athletics that was developed by Thrun Law, the district's legal team. He indicated the Michigan Department of Health and Human services has recommended no sports should occur if six-foot distancing cannot be maintained; the health department recommended it differently; and finally, Executive Order 179 and 180 mandate masks must be worn if social distancing cannot be maintained. He gave kudos to AD Coddens for the energy that he has put forth in managing the requirements of athletes during this time.

COVID-19 RESPONSE: Superintendent Davis recapped the recent letters sent out, one Labor Day and a second letter the day following, notifying staff and parents of the district's first positive COVID case involving a student; a second student tested positive the day following. He indicated the cases are unrelated and that contact tracking of both students found their exposure did not occur at school or on school grounds, and not from each other. Channel 3 News covered news of the cases well and the local health department was pleased with the district's contact tracing process. He reported that teachers have been instructed to spend incidental time with students one-on-one; less than 15 minutes with at least a six-foot distance between them.

EXTENDED CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN: Superintendent Davis lauded Director of Curriculum and Instruction Chad Holt for his work on the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan and explained the plan is an extension of the plan that was established before school started associated with COVID. The Board will receive an update of the plan each month. He reviewed the goals, timelines and the goal related to achievement or growth presented in Mr. Holt's report.

Board members shared their concerns about how students will be able to make the benchmarks set by the state given they were away from school for five months; how assessments and mandated tests will be administered now. Assessment tools are strong ways to know where a student's growth is.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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

President DeSmet called for any board members for comment.

Trustee Lankerd asked what the overall inclusion plan was; she wants to make sure the district practices inclusion. She suggested the districts facility needs should be pursued as the needs will never go away.

President DeSmet praised students, staff and parents for all they have done to make the start of school successful.

Trustee Gamble suggested future board meeting locations be split equally between Albion and Marshall. A change from the current schedule that has board meetings being held once quarterly in Albion with all other meetings being held in Marshall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

LISA MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

KIMBERLY VANWORMER, RECORDING SECRETARY