

- I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, April 24, 2023 was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chair Hunter Feldt. Board members present: Feldt, Burns, Schultz, Danielson, Guetzkow, and Neaton. Board members absent: Onell. Administrative team members present: Superintendent Schuler, HS Principal Hennen, MS Principal Guertin, ES Principal O'Connell, SPED Director Gronseth, CE Director Dimmler, Director of Teaching & Learning Vieau, and Activities Director Szymanski. Absent: None.
- II. **Visitor requests and consideration of the agenda.** Visitor MMS (Motion made and Seconded by) Danielson and Neaton to approve the agenda as presented. Passes 6-0.
- III. **Consent Agenda**
MMS Burns and Guetzkow to approve the following consent agenda items: Regular Board Meeting of March 20, 2023; Personnel Consent Agenda; Business Consent Agenda. Passes 6-0.
March Disbursements = \$1,944,568.89
Wire Payment #s - 53358-53360, 53362, 53363, 53377-53379, 53381-53387, 53495, 53497-53499, 53541, 53548-53555, 53560, 53561, 53564-53573, 53575-53578
Check #s - 62044-62277
Misc Payroll - \$3,088.51
- IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/ Showcase:**
 - Activities Director Szymanski introduced Mercedes Burmeister as the Athena Award Recipient for 2023.
 - Mr. Hennen introduced the WM Robotics team advised by Jeremy Bosquez. Four current robotics participants gave a program overview of their program including a demonstration of their robot. The WM Robotics group has qualified for state competition on May 6th.
 - Finance Director, Lisa Raiter, presented to the board the COVID Funding Review for FY 23 which includes the COVID funds received, spending of the funds, and update on the abatement bond process, and legislative updates that might affect funding.
- V. **Action Items -**
 - A. MMS Feldt and Schulz to approve Resolution 23.02 reducing education programs and positions including 1.0 FTE MS teacher and 1.0 FTE HS teacher. Roll call vote: Ayes - Guetzkow, Neaton, Danielson, Schulz, Burns, Feldt. Nays - None. Passes 6-0.
 - B. MMS Burns and Neaton to approve Resolution 23.03 relating to the termination and nonrenewal of teaching staff: Dakota Streifel, Craig Schaefer, Stacy Palmer, and Monica Goodrum. Roll call vote: Ayes- Guetzkow, Neaton, Danielson, Schulz, Burns, Feldt. Nays - None. Passes 6-0.
 - C. MMS Danielson and Feldt to approve donations, contributions, and Fundraising. Passes 6-0.
 - D. MMS Burns and Feldt to approve the Watertown-Mayer Athletic/ Activity Fee Schedule for 2023-2024. Passes 6-0.
 - E. MMS Danielson and Guetzkow to approve the Watertown-Mayer 2028 Strategic Plan. This is the new strategic plan that will begin for the 2023 school year starting July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2028. Passes 6-0.

VI. **Review/ Information Items -**

- A. ICS Representative Chris Rear gave updates to projects across the district. MS/ HS warranty claim on the marmoleum is still ongoing; the carpeting claim is not being contested - a room in the MS will be getting recarpeted to test to see if an alternate installation will hold up - if so, the carpet will be replaced over the summer in all areas. The locker rooms still have two punch items remaining including painting and the epoxy floors and walls. The last items remaining for the stadium areas are landscaping work as well as the finishing of the softball fence due to be completed in June per Peterson's availability in scheduling. The greenhouse structural plan is continuing with early summer construction as well as the storage building set to be constructed in July/ August of this year.
- B. Chair Feldt presented to the board the request to negotiate by Education Minnesota representing Education Support Professionals.

VII. **Administrative Reports -**

HS Principal Hennen reported the many activities that are going on this last month including the Senior Athletic banquet, the Senior Awards night and graduation to be held at the stadium field on May 26th. He noted that the Students of Excellence banquet will be held Wednesday, April 26th. This year the honorees are Sophia Oscarson, Julia Otto, Wyatt McCabe, and Albert Rundell. Mr. Hennen presented the edits and process of updating our current Profile of a Graduate. Mr. Hennen and staff members Jen Pfeffer-Dittes and Chris Fiscus did extensive group work to evaluate and update this with some of the most valuable feedback from group work with our current students. The six decided categories are: 1. Creative Critical Thinker, 2. Skilled Communicator, 3. Effective Collaborator, 4. Healthy Individual, 5. Engaged "Community" Member, and 6. Self-Motivated Learner. Mr. Hennen hopes to have a final infographic with the updated information to the board at May's meeting.

MS Principal Guertin reported that the current 4th grade students will be coming to take a tour at the middle school next week with a parent informational meeting to take place on May 11th. Sixth and eighth grade registration is completed and they hope to have the master schedule completed soon. Mr. Guertin announced that the year-long vacancy in 7th grade science will be filled by Paige Owzarek and that Melinda Young will be taking over the STEM program. Mr. Guertin acknowledged the generosity of WMEF who donated \$1800 so they can launch this new program. Upcoming events include a 5th & 6th grade activity night this Friday, band concerts, choir concert, 8th grade celebration on MAY 30th and an all-school Royal Assembly on May 31st.

ES Principal O'Connell reported that she and her team continue to make phone calls and reach out to prospective kindergarten families. As of April 17th there are 68 registered, 7 that have started registration, and 12 that have verbally committed. The ES has completed MCA testing in 3rd and 4th grade for reading and are almost done with the math testing. Ms. O'Connell reports that she is encouraged by the students and staff who are determined to 'Know Their Impact' and 'Flip the Triangle'. The ES has recently held their last Royal Recognition and they are looking forward to their annual Strides for Students event on May 6th. At the time of this meeting, they

had raised \$7,976.21 with their goal of \$22,000.00.

CE Director Dimmler stated that they are almost back to pre-pandemic numbers in regards to summer registration and are already working towards the fall catalog set to launch at the end of July. Numbers are strong for preschool for next year (93) and have 161 children signed up for childcare over the summer and into the school year (130).

Teaching & Learning Director Vieau reiterated much of what was reported regarding MCA testing. He did note that of the potential 900 students to take MCA testing, About 3% of parents opted their student out of testing. The Teaching & Learning Advisory Council met last week to discuss not only MCA testing but also discussing the wrapping up of curriculum chosen by faculty after reviewing options. Mr. Vieau plans on presenting these choices to the board in May - for now, it appears that Savaas will be chosen for HS chemistry, biology, anatomy and physiology while Turn It In will be chosen as an LA software to assist in the increasing AI resources available to our students.

SPED Director Gronseth gave updates to staffing for next year. At this time, they will be contracting with an outside entity for school psychology services and are looking for another speech & language pathologist as well as teachers and paras to fill positions for the extended school year program this summer. She and soon-to-be-new SPED director, Rande Peyton have been talking and are working towards a smooth transition into her role starting the 23-24 school year.

Superintendent Schuler reiterated the new SPED Director hire, Rande Peyton and wanted to thank all the SPED department staff that took time out to be part of the interview team and process. He reported that a group of staff including board Vice Chair Burns were part of a review team to see 4 different vendor demonstrations to determine our new website vendor- the team determined that FinalSite is the vendor of choice and this happens to be the same vendor that bought out our current vendor, blackBoard. Mr. Schuler hopes to have our new website up and running by the fall. Mr. Schuler reported that WMEF has been hard at work and have planned several events during Rails to Trails including a 'Own the Crown Trap Shootout' fundraiser on July 28th as well as an alumni all school tour of the construction work done in the middle and high school the same day. On October 7th, they are planning another fundraising event 'Casino Royal Night' and plan on continuing their endowment drive from November to December.

VIII. **Board Member Reports or open comments by School Board Directors -**

- Treasurer Erika Schulz gave a verbal report regarding a recent SW Metro meeting she attended.
- IX. MMS by Guetzkow and Danielson to adjourn for a closed meeting for purposes of Contract Negotiations at 7:54 PM and is duly passed.
- X. MMS by Neaton and Feldt to open a closed session for purposes of contract negotiation strategies at 8:03 PM.
- MMS by Burns and Schulz to close the session at 8:51 PM and is duly passed.

Chair

Clerk