

- I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, March 20, 2023 was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chair Hunter Feldt. Board members present: Feldt, Burns, Schultz, Guetzkow, Neaton and Onell. Board members absent: Danielson. 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) Guetzkow and Onell to approve the agenda as presented. Passes 6-0.
- III. **Consent Agenda**  
MMS Burns and Schulz to approve the following consent agenda items:  
Regular Board Meeting of February 27, 2023; Personnel Consent Agenda; Business Consent Agenda. Passes: Ayes-Feldt, Burns, Schulz, Guetzkow, Neaton; Nays None; Abstain-Onell (conflict of interest).  
**February Disbursements** - \$1,032,287.20  
**Wire Payment #s** - 51345-53147, 53149, 53156, 53158-53164, 53255, 53256, 53271-53283, 53364-53372, 53380  
**Check #** - 61932, 61936 - 62043  
**Misc Payroll** - \$561.85
- IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/ Showcase:**
  - Activities Director Szymanski introduced Lyndsey Penegor as an ExCEL Finalist for the state of Minnesota, and introduced Mickal Erickson as the Section 5A Assistant Coach of the Year.
  - Kurt Becker and Bill McDonald introduced their state participants: Joel Friederichs, Titan Friederichs, Kaleb Mead, Jonah Hamberger, Bryce Burkett, Ian Burau
  - Lori Sieling, Sara Soley and Pat Neaton introduced their state participants: Julia Otto, Logan Bimberg, Morgen Juncewski, Kennedy Olson, Bennett Meyer, Riley Delaney, Nora Delaney, Eliza Rowan, Cate Drahos, Ella Hunkins
  - Mr. Szymanski introduced the BPA state participants as well as those advancing to Nationals: Caleb Barnhart, Logan Bimberg, Claire Brandenburg, Eric Costello, Jonah Hamberger, Ava Heun, Jack Jewison, Justin Kind, Lyndsey Penegor, Jacob Rowan, and Albert Rundell
  - Steve Hangartner introduced the members of the state team and individual competitors: Desi Bergstrom, Reagan Kelley, Julia Kolb, Payton Hecksel, Maggie McCabe, Maddie Sanders, Kate Gilmore, Evelyn Mielke, Helle Anthony, Grace McCabe, Hadassa Gonzalez, Kallie Jackson; Managers: Ella Baumann, Libby Burns, Alaina Burns, Norah Kelley
  - Tammy Diehn presented to the board the 2 B Continued Mental Health mission, philosophy and evidence-based curriculum they have been presenting here at

Watertown-Mayer Public Schools. Noted was the participation and positive response to Mental Health First Aid by our WM HS Staff.

V. **Action Items -**

- A. MMS Burns and Guetzkow to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations. Passes 6-0.
- B. MMS Schulz and Feldt to approve the first and only read of Policy 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, and 306. Passes 6-0.
- C. MMS Feldt and Neaton to approve the Watertown-Mayer Facilities Handbook. Passes 6-0.

VI. **Review/ Information Items -**

- A. ICS Representative Chris Vogel presented project updates. He noted that Chris Rear will be taking over and seeing the project through to completion as his last day with ICS is Friday, March 24, 2023. ICS has received approval for full replacement for the carpet tiles and will be running a test of 3 classrooms first before replacing all classrooms. The claim for the marmoleum floors is continuing to progress, a test run with another contractor re: the epoxy walls for the MS and pool locker rooms will be done soon, and the storage facility and greenhouse plans continue with the goal of late spring/early summer construction. Vice Chair Burns thanked Mr. Vogel for all his fantastic work dealing with the entire project and challenging contractor issues and wished him the best on behalf of the BOC committee.
- B. Superintendent Schuler presented to the board the request by SEIU Local 284 to start the negotiation process for both the Food Service and Maintenance/ Custodial Staff.

VII. **Administrative Reports -**

HS Principal Hennen reported that 95% of the returning students have turned in their schedule requests and he hopes to release a draft of the master schedule next month. CTE class request numbers continue to be solid. Mr. Hennen and several HS faculty have been presenting and receiving feedback from schools and community members (recently the Chamber of Commerce) regarding an update to our current Profile of a Graduate and hope to have a final draft to present at the May board meeting. Mr. Hennen also reported that after surveying the current Senior students, they will be planning to hold graduation at the new stadium. He will be working with Mr. Rear and others to ensure that appropriate adjustments are made, ie. no high heels on turf, etc. Each student will again receive 8 tickets per graduate to ensure room for all. Back-up plans will also be generated.

MS Principal Guertin reported his recent presentation to the current 4th graders to prepare them for transition and the continuing positive response from students to participate in the WEB mentor program to help these students in their transition. Mr. Guertin thanked both Tammy Vraspir and Suzann Ernhart for their many years of dedicated service to the school as both are stepping down from their positions. Mr. Guertin is looking to take full advantage of their newly remodeled Innovation lab and is working on generating funds to start supporting a STEM program experience. He hopes to secure money from sources to support this endeavor and will be re-posting this teaching position specifically as a STEM position. This endeavor has a

\$30-\$35, 000.00 start up cost. Vice Chair Burns wondered about adding an Ag element to create more of a STEAM program and Mr. Guertin was open to this.

ES Principal O'Connell reported a wonderful turn out for their first ever Camp-Read-A-Lot family event and thanked Katie Brandenburg for all her work in this successful event. The ES Student council also recently led a successful food drive for our local food shelf. Ms. O'Connell has received word that they will be able to have 2 additional Americorps workers in the school to tutor students specifically in math in addition to the 2 reading tutors they already have. Kindergarten enrollment is up to 67 and she continues to make personal phone calls to connect with parents who either attended the Open House event or have children at the incoming Kindergarten age. Ms. O'Connell gave a shout out to her staff who have stepped up to cover recess supervision as they are down to 1 recess supervisor at this time.

CE Director Dimmler stated that they are currently wrapping up winter classes and that the Summer booklet is out - registration begins April 3rd. Enrollment is open for summer childcare and for Young Royals. Currently 128 are signed up for summer care and 85 are enrolled in the Young Royals preschool program.

Activities Director Szymanski gave a shout out in thanks and appreciation to the Royal Booster Club for recently hosting a successful event to help raise funds for the activities department. Mr. Szymanski reported that the Hall of Fame induction scheduled for Homecoming in 2023 has been pushed back one year to take place next in 2024. At this time, because of redistricting that is currently taking place, the fall schedule is not yet out which makes planning this important event difficult. A decision was made to push this back a year - HOF inductions will now take place in even years, however, nominations are still being accepted. Mr. Szymanski then reported on the recent winter activity participant surveys - the results of this survey revealed an overwhelming positive response from students about their winter sport/ activity experience.

Superintendent Schuler reported that the SPED Coordinator position is still open and is set to close on March 27th. The first round of interviews will be April 4th with the second round being April 12th. He thanked board member Guetzkow for her willingness to be part of this final interview process. Mr. Schuler reported that currently there are about 10 candidates who have shown interest. Mr. Schuler reported that Vicki Braegelmann will be leaving the district office after her many years of service and Cindy Iten will be taking on some of her duties with the rest being outsourced with a third party as there were no applicants. Supt. Schuler reported that the Marketing and Communication Committee met and gave feedback regarding the updated Strategic Direction infographic and he is continuing to work with administration regarding the goals and actions for each benchmarking piece. Supt. Schuler invited the board to lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday this coming week as Chef Brian from Taher is providing a special meal for students and staff to try - paella, and reminded all that he is hosting his next Coffee and Conversation at the New Mayer Fire Department tomorrow, March 21st from 7:30-8:30 AM.

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

Vice Chair Burns reported that the personnel committee has been negotiating with teachers their contract and are currently looking for more April dates to continue negotiations. This committee will also be starting the negotiation process with the food service and custodial staff.

Chair Feldt reported that the CE Advisory Committee has recently done a program review and that the facilities committee will continue to meet every other week at this time.

MMS by Burns and Guetzkow to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM and is duly passed.

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Chair

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Clerk