

- I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, January 23, 2023 was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Hunter Feldt. Board members present: Feldt, Burns, Danielson, Schultz, Guetzkow, Neaton and Onell. Board members absent: None. Administrative team members present: Superintendent Schuler, HS Principal Hennen, MS Principal Guertin, ES Principal O'Connell, CE Director Dimmler, Director of Teaching & Learning Vieau, and Activities Director Szymanski. Absent: SPED Director Gronseth.
- II. **Visitor requests and consideration of the agenda.** Visitor MMS (Motion made and Seconded by) Schulz and Guetzkow to approve the agenda as presented. Passes 7-0.
- III. **Consent Agenda**  
MMS Burns and Danielson to approve the following consent agenda items: Regular Board Meeting of December 19, 2022; Truth in Taxation Meeting of December 19, 2022; Special Session Organizational Meeting of January 9, 2023. Passes 7-0  
**December 2022 Disbursements = \$1,855,046.60**  
**Wire payment #'s - 52753-52756, 52768, 52769, 5283852844, 52851, 52852, 52855, 52895-52909, 52924-52926, 52934**  
**Check #'s - 61629 - 51751**  
**Misc Payroll - \$2,981.70**
- IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/ Showcase:**  
Mr. Szymanski recognized:  
All-State Volleyball player - Kate Thibault  
Amy Dimmler introduced Susie Retterath (Young Royals Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator) and Michelle Hess (Kids' Co./ Caring Hands Childcare Coordinator). Both Ms. Retterath and Ms. Hess presented program updates and goals to the board and answered any questions.
- V. **Action Items -**
  - A. MMS Burns and Feldt to approve Policies 413, 413F, 514, 516, 522, 524, 601, 607, 607.1, 616, and 806 for first and only reads due to non-substantive and/or legal reference changes. Passes 7-0.
  - B. MMS Feldt and Neaton to approve the first read of Policies 410, 414, 414F, 415, and 506. Passes 7-0.
  - C. MMS Burns and Guetzkow to approve the second read of the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar including grayscale version. Passes 7-0.
  - D. MMS Danielson and Onell to approve Resolution 23.01 directing Administration to make recommendations for adjustment in Curriculum Programs and Staffing for the 23-24 school year. Passes 7-0.
- VI. **Review/ Information Items -**
  - A. ICS Representative Chris Vogel updated the board regarding ongoing construction project finishing. At this time, ICS has completed approximately 89% of the remaining punch list items. New lockers have recently been installed in the pool locker rooms and benches have recently been installed in the MS locker room. Two outstanding issues regarding the new masonry

walls and epoxy flooring are in the process of being addressed. The Greenhouse and other ancillary projects will need to be completed in Spring/ Summer of 2023. Clerk Danielson inquired about the progress of the warranty work on the flooring and plans for the masonry walls if the initial attempts are not satisfactory. Mr. Vogel stated that there are two other options for the masonry walls and warranty work regarding the flooring is progressing. Mr. Vogel did present a list of the original referendum bond projects and a list of those projects that were able to also be addressed beyond the original scope because of favorable pricing.

- B. Chair Feldt advised the board that he received a request from Education Minnesota Watertown-Mayer to enter into contract negotiations as the current contract expires on June 30, 2023. Negotiations will begin within the next few months.
- C. Superintendent Schuler gave an update regarding the 2022-2023 Safe Learning Plan. This plan has recently had a few minor changes and was updated on 01.17.2023. A six month review of this plan is required by MDE because of the use of ESSER funds.
- D. Activities Director Szymanski presented to the board the current list of co-op activities with other schools and presented to the board the current interest of a boys LaCrosse co-op with Mound Westonka - this would be a sport that would be for grades 8-12 and is unique as there is only ONE class for this sport currently. Mr. Szymanski went over his process for determining if a co-op is feasible and he plans to bring a formal request to the board for review and approval at February's regular board meeting. Questions were asked and answered by the board.

#### VII. **Administrative Reports -**

HS Principal Hennen reported that today was the beginning of the third quarter and registration for the 23-24 school year will start to pick up. They will be able to offer 7-8 new classes including an advanced engine course, math logic through games, healthy living with a mental health focus, mass media and others. Open house options will be happening soon to help with guiding the registration process to include parents and to help transition 8th graders and their families to high school. Mr. Hennen acknowledged the 4 paraprofessionals that work with students and all the hard work they put in with students to provide the extra support they need to be successful.

MS Principal Guertin reiterated the thanks to their paraprofessionals and their work with middle school students. Work is beginning for the 23-24 school year master schedule and building initiatives continue regarding implementation of the MTSS framework. Currently, staff is tracking interactions with students with the goal of a 5-1 ratio (5 positives to 1 negatives). MS PTO has their upcoming family BINGO fundraiser this Saturday the 28th, Reading for the Love of It will be happening the week of February 6-10th, and the annual Wolf Ridge trip will be happening February 13-17th.

ES Principal O'Connell expressed appreciation for the 12 paraprofessionals they have in many different settings and each day they are getting a themed treat in their

mailboxes. Ms. O'Connell shared the newest data from FastBridge and there have been decreases in the numbers of high level needs in reading; they are nearly complete with the math assessments and hope to see similar trends. The ES gym wall will be fixed soon and they are excited to have Royal Recognition in person once again. Dreambox is new software that has been purchased - this is a web-based math tool that is great to have and can be utilized at home as well as in school. The big highlight for the ES is the Kindergarten Royal Round Up happening on February 2nd starting at 4:30PM. This is a structured event with stations including making a crown, riding a bus, photo booth, and swag bags upon registering for Kindergarten. Watertown-Mayer Elementary has been identified as a Star of Honor program from the University of Minnesota. As a result, 6 students from each grade will be selected to attend a U of M girls basketball game on February 1st to represent Watertown-Mayer. A final highlight to the upcoming month is I Love to Read Month with the theme "Camp Read-A-Lot".

CLC Director Dimmler acknowledged the over 20 paraprofessionals they have working with students at the CLC. Ms. Dimmler reported that winter programming has been a great success so far and many of the new classes are filling up including a woodworking and welding class. Also popular are the open rec basketball and pickleball programs and gymnastics & pool packages. The deadline for summer rec classes to be included in the summer catalog are at the end of January.

Activities Director Szymanski presented the board with the finding of 120 responses from a recent survey sent to students. Questions asked included other activities they would be interested in having available (1. Archery, 2. Bowling, 3. LaCrosse), why students participate (1. Fun), why they don't participate (1. Not interested, 2. Busy). Mr. Szymanski stated that 82.8% of students strongly agreed or agreed that they feel connected with their coach or advisor and 95.3% of those who completed the survey stated that they strongly agreed or agreed that they are satisfied with the opportunities provided to them here at WM.

Superintendent Schuler reviewed for the board the recent professional development day this past Friday, January 20th. DEI+B information and training was followed by a 90-minute presentation by MTSS guru Kim Gibbons. The WM Mental Health team hosted many activities for self care including snowshoeing, games, activities and lunch by local restaurant LaCatrina. The rest of the day was an opportunity for staff to do classroom work and the ES staff were able to gain valuable knowledge from a local expert regarding mainstreaming SPED students. This past week, communication was sent out to families regarding next action steps to take if more inclement weather takes place. Superintendent Schuler clarified for the board that each district can handle these differently, but there is no negotiating for more than five flex learning days. Finally, Superintendent Schuler thanked the many paraprofessionals in all our district buildings and their important role they play in the success of our students here at WM.

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

Clerk Danielson reported a meeting for the Marketing and Communications committee for this week, January 25, 2023 at 6 PM at the district office.

Director Schulz reported re: SW Metro Intermediate Board and their organizational

meeting the previous Tuesday which included a presentation of all the SW Metro programs.

Chair Feldt reported on his participation in the recent MSBA Leadership conference which included a presentation by Governor Walz and keynote speaker, Adolf Brown. Chair Feldt also reported that he was able to attend a district 13 group made up of other board members in nearby districts.

IX. Chair Feldt declared a five minute recess to end the formal board business.

X. **Discussion and Presentation of the 23-28 Strategic Plan Progress**

Superintendent Schuler presented to the board the current 2023-2028 Strategic Plan that includes the current Vision, Strategic Commitments and Benchmarks. Discussion and word-smithing was completed. Board also agreed that current data be placed into this plan to capture the initial baseline. Board agreed that this current Strategic Plan is accurate to the group data collected and reviewed. The current plan can be forwarded to the Marketing and Communications committee for continued work and final look. Superintendent Schuler feels that the plan may be at the content approval stage as part of February's agenda, the members of the board agreed.

MMS by Danielson and Burns to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM and is duly passed.

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Chair

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Clerk