

- I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, November 22, 2021 was called to order at 6:03 PM by Chair Feldt. Board members present: Feldt, Thompson, Burns, Schulz, H. Guetzkow, Danielson and J. Guetzkow. Absent: None. Administration team members present: Superintendent Schuler, HS Principal Hennen, MS Principal Guertin, SPED Director Gronseth, Community Ed Director Dimmler, Director of Teaching & Learning Vieau, Activities Director Szymanski. Absent: ES Principal Pauly

**Public Comments**

One speaker signed in with their contact information to address the school board. The speaker expressed his support of the to-be-proposed dissolution of the boys soccer co-op and feels that Watertown-Mayer can stand alone based on numbers.

- II. **Visitor requests and consideration of agenda.** MMS (Motion made and Seconded by) Thompson and J. Guetzkow to approve the agenda as presented. Passes 7-0.

III. **Consent Agenda**

MMS Burns and Danielson to approve the following consent agenda items: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 25, 2021; Personnel consent agenda; and Business consent agenda. Passes 7-0.

IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/Showcase**

Each Principal introduced to the Board their selection for the ESS (Educational Support Staff) Award. The recipients are as follows: HS - Denise Gehlhausen; MS - Valerie Preston; ES - Melissa Foley; CLC - Patty Reinert. Each of these honorees were recognized recently at the ESS banquet on November 17, 2021. The Board appreciates their supportive work and thanked them for sharing their gifts with our students and school community.

Director Szymanski presented to the Board those fall athletes receiving special recognition in being named to All State teams in their sport. The recipients this year were:

Ashley Olson - Class AA All State - Volleyball  
Kate Thibault - Class AA All State - Volleyball

Maris Heun - First Team All State Class A- Girls Soccer  
Megan Barnhart - Second Team All State Class A - Girls Soccer  
Mercedes Burmeister - Second Team All State Class A - Girls Soccer

Director Szymanski then recognized Coach Andrea Raser for being named Section 5AA Coach of the Year and Coach Steve Hangartner who was named last year to the MN State High School Coach's Association Hall of Fame and was inducted this year.

Mr. Hennen then introduced FFA Advisor Nathan Anderson. Mr. Anderson who introduced two current members of FFA, Julia Quast and Riley May. Each discussed their highlights to their chapter this year including: their National Convention they recently attended as well as their state judging teams which are both moving onto state in the spring. They also discussed their new activity they started this year, Feed A

Farmer. Delivered 60 meals this past harvest season.

V. **Action Items**

- A. 2020-2021 Audit was presented by Nancy Schulzetenberg from audit partner Bergen KDV. MMS Feldt and H. Guetzkow to approve the 2020-2021 audit is requested at this time. Passes 7-0.
- B. Kelly Smith from Bakertilly presented the results of the sale. MMS Burns and Schulz to approve the 2021A Bond Ratifying Resolution for the Refinance of 2012B Bond. Passes 7-0.
- C. Superintendent Schuler presented a proposed date for both the reorganizational meeting and first regular board meeting in January. MMS Danielson and H. Guetzkow to approve reorganization meeting of January 3, 2022 and first regular meeting of January 24, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Passes 7-0
- D. MMS Burns and Thompson to approve first and only reads of Policies 701, 701.1, 702, 704, 705, 706, 708, 710 and eliminate 707A due to non-substantive and/or legal reference changes.

[701](#) - **Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget**

[701.1](#) - **Modification of School District Budget**

[702](#) - **Accounting**

[704](#) - **Development and maintenance of an Inventory of Fixed Assets and a Fixed Asset**

**Accounting System**

[705](#) - **Investment**

[706](#) - **Acceptance of Gifts**

[707 A](#) - **Eliminate this Attachment**

[708](#) - **Transportation of Nonpublic School Students**

[710](#) - **Extracurricular Transportation**

- E. Superintendent Schuler presented adjustments and updates of Policies 707, 709, 709A and 709B. Specific question asked about incorporating language in 709 regarding implementing any federal mandate requirements - that if there are federal mandates in regards to busing, that they are followed. Superintendent Schuler will look into this and report back at the next meeting. MMS Danielson and Feldt to approve first readings of these policies. Passes 7-0.

[707](#) - **Transportation of Public School Students**

[709](#) - **Student Transportation Safety**

[709A](#) - **Add this Attachment**

[709B](#) - **Add this Attachment**

- F. Director Szymanski presented the MSHSL Foundation Application for Grant Student Participation. MMS Thompson and H. Guetzkow to approve MSHSL Foundation application. Passes 7-0.
- G. Director Szymanski presented the current recommendation to dissolve the current Boys Soccer Cooperative. By dissolving this cooperative, the team would be moved down from Class AA to Class A. MMS Thompson and Burns to approve the dissolution of the current Boys Soccer Team Cooperative. Passes 7-0.
- H. World's Best Workforce (WBWF) Annual Report presented by Director of Teaching & Learning, Joe Vieau. MMS Danielson and J. Guetzkow to approve the

**VI. Review/ Information Items:**

- A. Referendum Project updates were given by ICS representative, Chris Vogel. Mr. Vogel reported on supply issues still being experienced. Tilework in serving area and the school store is complete, but will have some punch items to complete. SPED suite should be completed by the end of the week. The middle school is about 75% completion with punch list completion. ICS has been meeting with a pricing organization in the attempt to help the MS and District Offices. He hopes to present on this plan next month. White boards arrived for the ES with installation to be complete within the next 2 weeks. The outdoor stadium gates are installed and hydro seeding and mulching are nearly complete -- the punch list for the outdoor stadium will carry through to the spring/ summer of 2022. Outdoor concession stand light fixtures and garage door installation will be complete by early December, and then punch list items will need to be addressed. The outdoor track was able to be laid and will be able to be striped in the spring. ICS and others are currently meeting regarding the locker room renovations due to start next summer. They will soon be scheduling meetings regarding the Quarry Ave. expansion.

**VII. Administrative Reports**

Verbal administrative reports were presented.

HS Principal Hennen reported that the first quarter ended really well. Academically, kids are doing well and he reports that this improvement is directly related to the addition of another school counselor, and the work of both counselors and the Dean of Students. Mr. Hennen complimented the flexibility and sacrifice of his teachers to cover staffing shortages - many teachers are sacrificing their prep times to make sure that the day is as seamless as possible for the students. They are looking forward to opening the school store soon and this process has been led by discussions they have had with a group of students throughout this year. COVID update: at the time of the meeting, they have had one positive case.

MS Principal Guertin gave his COVID update: at the time of the meeting there were 5 confirmed cases, 11 additional students were in quarantine because of a confirmed family member, and 14 students were absent based on being ill. Feedback from MS staff has been supportive regarding any staffing issues and all have stated they are in support for doing whatever it takes to keep kids in school and safe. The Royals Commons and book area are fully open now and the transition to using these spaces has gone very smoothly. MS has adopted a rotating schedule so that all kids have access to those spaces and are able to utilize them appropriately. The first student activity night and dance were recently held with the support of the student council and were a great success. Additional thanks were given to the MS PTO group for their support so far this first quarter of school and for all they do to support as well.

CE Director Dimmler reported that YR, ECFE, and child care programs are going well. They have adopted a COVID-19 mitigation strategy that if there are two (2) positive cases in a group, it is easier to quarantine rather than attempting to mask at these young ages. There has been successful collaboration between program to help provide coverage for any staffing needs there might be. Community Education just found out that they received the MN Regional Arts Council grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their Summer Youth Theatre program.

Superintendent Schuler wanted to express gratitude to all staff across the board with their willingness to step in and help out, subbing where necessary and where they can. The daily bulletins of coverage needs are not easy, but the team mentality of being in it together and being willing to be flexible has kept things moving regardless of the challenges that have been presented. Superintendent Schuler will continue to encourage families and community members to find ways they can contribute by simply being willing to be a para or sub in any of our schools. He reported that families are also doing the right thing by keeping their children home when they are not feeling well. The mitigation measures currently being utilized in the ES are more than other surrounding districts and this is commendable. Superintendent Schuler reported that 3 paras have been hired in the MS and HS and there is still need for two (2) more paras at the ES. Two (2) custodial positions are currently open in our district and need to be filled. A group has recently met to discuss and gather input for the MS and swim locker room areas. This feedback has been relayed to the architectural group and hopefully this group will be able to share their ideas on how these improved spaces might look like moving forward.

**VIII. Discussion of issues or open comments by School Board Directors.**

Director H. Guetzkow reported that the WMEF (WM Education Foundation) is continuing to meet and to mark your calendars for a gala event they will be sponsoring on October 8, 2022 here at the Watertown City Hall.

Director H. Guetzkow reported that the Marketing and Communication Committee met again and are continuing to look at branding guidelines and better protocol when use of the brand is needed as in apparel, or other situations.

Director Thompson reported that the Personnel Committee has met and have wrapped up the negotiations for the ESP contract. The Custodial contract has also come to a tentative agreement. The remaining group to do contract negotiations is the Food Service group.

Director Feldt reported that the Community Education Advisory Committee has met and are excited about partnering opportunities with HLWW Community Ed to offer classes to promote better participation. Additionally, starting in January, a program evaluation survey will be sent to every community education participant.

Director Danielson reported that the Teaching and Learning Committee met and was well attended with good feedback from those participating. She also reported that this Committee is looking for new members and invites new members, including parents, to join by simply reaching out to Mr. Vieau.

Director Schulz reported that the SW Metro Intermediate Board recently met and approved their audit results for FY21.

**IX. MMS Burns and Danielson to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM and was duly passed 7-0.**

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Chair

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Clerk