

- I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, October 25, 2021 was called to order at 6:01 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**

Three speakers signed in with their contact information to address the school board. One expressed concern regarding the masking and quarantine protocols currently in place in the ES. Two communicated concern regarding the cancellation of the costume parade and costume wearing at the ES. Both expressed concern that parents were not consulted in this decision, more transparency was warranted in this decision and that a reconsideration should be made.

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

III. **Consent Agenda**

MMS Burns and Schulz to approve the following consent agenda items: Minutes of the Special Session Board Meeting of September 27, 2021; Regular Board Meeting of September 27, 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 LEEA (Leadership in Educational Excellence Award). The recipients are as follows: HS - Scott Olson; MS - Angie Mellies; ES - Marilyn Thompson; CLC - Kristy Phipps. Each of these honorees were recognized recently at the LEEA banquet on October 13, 2021. The Board appreciates their leadership thanked them for sharing their leadership gifts with our students and school community.

Director Szymanski presented to the Board information on the Royal Hall of Fame, its process and the recipients inducted this year. The inductees were honored with a reception before the homecoming football game and then inducted during halftime of the game. Director Szymanski introduced each of the recipients: Marissa Janning - Outstanding Athlete; Matt Janning - Outstanding Athlete; Dave Nace - Outstanding Coach; Pat Neaton - Outstanding Graduate; Vern Richter - Outstanding Advisor; Dale Hoeft - Outstanding Fan. Each inductee received a plaque and a duplicate plaque will be displayed at the school in a soon-to-be redesigned area of the school. The hope is that previous inductees will get plaques in the same format for consistency and better visibility to visitors.

V. **Action Items**

- A. Superintendent Schuler presented once again on the specifics of updates and changes to Policies 612.1, 613, 618 and 624. MMS Danielson and H. Guetzkow to approve the second reading of the following policies:

[Policy 612.1 -Development of Parent and Family Engagement Policies for Title I Programs](#)

[Policy 613 - Graduation Requirements](#)

[Policy 618 - Assessment of Student Achievement](#)

[Policy 624 - Online Learning Options](#)

Passes 7-0.

- B. Superintendent Schuler presented to the board the Annual Fundraiser Report as required per Board Policy 511, Student Fundraising. Superintendent Schuler pointed out that not all are active, but are still included in the listing for reference. All Administrative team members have reviewed and approved this list.

MMS Feldt and Thompson to approve the Annual Fundraising Report.

Passes 7-0.

- C. Teaching and Learning Director Vieau presented to the board the 2021-2022 District Teaching and Learning Goals. Director Vieau stated that there are not a lot of changes from last year with the focus continuing to keep personalized learning in mind and keeping with the six attributes of our Profile of a Graduate. This plan includes a district-wide professional Development Goal with a Development Action Plan, Curriculum and Instruction Goal and Curriculum and Instruction Action Plan.

MMS Danielson and H. Guetzkow to approve the 2021-2022 District Teaching and Learning Goals. Passes 7-0.

- D. Superintendent Schuler and Finance Director Raiter discussed the process of assessing the current health insurance policy. After consulting with the district's insurance broker, Mark Beltz, it was determined to make a change starting January 1, 2022 for better coverage and pricing.

MMS Thompson and H. Guetzkow to approve the Minnesota Healthcare Consortium proposal. Passes 7-0.

- E. Superintendent Schuler and Finance Director Raiter introduced Kelly D. Smith from Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC to answer questions regarding the opportunity to refinance the 2012B Bond. Questions were asked and answered.

MMS Burns and Schulz to approve the 2021A Bond Resolution for Refinance of 2012B Bond. Passes 7-0

**VI. Review/ Information Items:**

- A. Referendum Project updates were given by ICS representative, Chris Vogel. Mr Vogel shared updates on the variety of material shortage delays. The goal is to have all the new bathroom stalls in place by the end of the week and start installing whiteboards in classrooms. At this time there are about 450 punch list items to be addressed at the middle and high school buildings and 60 items at the elementary school. Trees were delivered for the outdoor stadium areas and should be finished up this week as well. The hope is to start to begin to install the rubberized material for the track this week - this all depends on the weather and temperatures. Director Danielson inquired about the installation of the windows on the correct side of the press box as well as the alterations to the bleachers so that both doors to the press box

can be utilized. Chris confirmed that those changes will be able to be completed over the fall and winter - the windows and bleachers will be done in the same time period. Questions were also asked regarding the softball dugouts. Mr. Vogel stated that Mr. Jazczek and his crew of students are doing that project and the block portion should be done before winter, however, the roofing may not yet be complete. Mr. Vogel stated that there will be additional discussions on design work regarding the MS locker room areas as well as the swimming locker rooms which are both originals to the buildings. There will be group meetings set up soon to get input from Directors Szymanski and Dimmler as well as others. Director Danielson wanted to note the appreciation of the Stacy Vanderlinde family to donate funds so that the previous concession stand matches more closely to the new concession stand.

- B. Director Szymanski brought to the Board's attention the current co-op with Norwood Young America, Mayer Lutheran, Lester Prairie and Watertown-Mayer. Director Szymanski explained that the largest of the schools in the co-op enrollment for grades 9-12 are counted at 100%, the other schools in the co-op are counted at 50%. Each school/ school co-op is then listed in order to decide class. The top 64 teams are AAA, the next 64 are AA and the team in the 64th spot and under are A. As it stands right now, our boys soccer co-op is at 761 which places this group in AA. Currently AA starts at 631 and goes up to 1280; A is 631 and lower in enrollment. Director Szymanski stated that next year there is the option to re-form the co-op, however, the current co-op has to dissolve first. Clarification was made that co-ops are good for 2 years, however, our rotation is off by a year for section determination - this will be done again after the 22-23 school year. Chair Feldt asked how many participants we have from each of the schools represented in the co-op - Director Szymanski didn't know. Director Danielson asked if the numbers from Watertown-Mayer were enough to be on their own. Director Szymanski stated that we are in a much better position than in previous years. Director Burns stated that his gut feeling would be to recommend dissolving the current co-op in anticipation of forming a new one, but wondered if we will be in the same position as other co-ops will be in the same situation for reform - there are no guarantees that we will be able to drop down a section. Director Szymanski stated that new co-ops can be formed up to one month before the beginning of the season. He will bring his recommendation to the board next month.

## VII. **Administrative Reports**

School Improvement Plans were presented by Principal Hennen, Principal Guertin and CE Director Dimmler. Included in each were specific building goals, action steps, deadlines, resources and responsible parties. Questions from Board Directors were asked and answered.

Verbal administrative reports were presented.

Director Szymanski reported on the improvements and "soft openings" for the new outdoor facilities and looking forward to spring and what new opportunities will present themselves with the new track and softball field improvements. Director Szymanski reported that there has been a resurgence of school pride with these new facilities as well as increased attendance at home events. He specifically thanked the Board for their vision and courage to take on the initiative for improvements, the community at large for saying "Yes", to the administration team for all their work and patience throughout the process, to ICS for their partnership, to the custodial staff for all of their

extra above-and-beyond work with all the project, and to all staff, players, and coaches as the process has not always been smooth or easy at times.

Director Gronseth reported that there are still paraprofessional openings at all building levels. She is also going to be conducting some interviews with contract companies to provide speech pathology services at the middle and high school as there have been no applicants for that position. Director Gronseth stated that paraprofessionals have been asking for more training in a variety of different areas and she is looking into having these opportunities available on early release days. She was glad to announce that the Transitions 18+ program was recently awarded a grant for some new retail curriculum from WMEF(Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation).

Superintendent Schuler gave updates regarding upcoming training for staff with Ramon Pastrano along with some additional in-house training done by our own Amy Frink on data literacy and Jenna Olson our school psychologist. Superintendent Schuler reported an increase in the ES with positive COVID-19 cases recently and the offerings to test staff monthly if desired and continued distribution of take-home test kits for those students who are symptomatic. Also noted was community testing opportunities in nearby Waconia on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for anyone interested.

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

Director Thompson updated the board with information regarding the start of the paraprofessional negotiation process and feels that it is going well.

Director H. Guetzkow stated that the Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation Board will be planning a gala event and will be having their first meeting to start planning next week.

Director H. Guetzkow stated that the Marketing and Communication Committee met recently and will be re-establishing this as a working committee.

Director Schulz stated that SW Metro has decided to cancel their gala for their foundation and plan on selling their Valley Green location.

Director Burns wanted to compliment the individuals responsible for the flyover event for our new stadium homecoming game. A lot of time and practice went into the event and it was well received by all.

IX. MMS Thompson and Burns to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM and was duly passed 7-0.

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Chair

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Clerk