

I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, September 27, 2021 was called to order at 6:02 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, ES Principal Pauly, Community Ed Director Dimmler, Teaching & Learning Director Vieau, and Activities Director Szymanski.

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

III. **Consent Agenda**

MMS Burns and Thompson to approve the following consent agenda items: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 23, 2021; Personnel consent agenda; and Business consent agenda. Passes 7-0.

July 2021 Disbursement - \$3,495,583.10

Wire Payment #s - 49445-49449, 49451, 49463, 49464, 49467-49475, 49512, 49517, 49518, 49563-49569, 49577, 49733, 49735-49744, 49756, 49758

Check #s - 59039 - 59132

Misc Payroll Checks - \$1,752.16

August 2021 Disbursements - \$3,665,641.38

Wire Payment #s - 49572-49574, 49578-49580, 49632-49638, 49640, 49641, 49644, 49645, 49704, 49720, 49721, 49726-49732, 49762, 49829-49839

Check #s - 59133-59266

Misc Payroll - \$1,958.95

IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/Showcase**

Technology Integrationist Brittany Misuraca presented the Technology Plan for 2021-2024. This three-year plan was developed as a result of Technology Advisory Committee Meetings discussing the needs and visions for the future of Watertown-Mayer, comparing our plans to other MN school districts, and reviewing our Profile of a Graduate and the ISTE Standards for students. Five areas of focus were determined and goals and target dates were set.

V. **Action Items**

A. MMS Feldt and J. Guetzkow to approve the first and only reading of the following policies due to non-substantive and/or legal reference changes:

[Policy 614 - School District Testing Plan and Procedure](#)

[Policy 614 F - Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure](#)

[Policy 615 - Testing Accommodations, Modification and exemptions of IEPs,
Section 504 Plans and LEP Students](#)

[Policy 619 - Staff Development for Standards](#)

[Policy 620 - Credit for Learning](#)

Passes 7-0.

- B. Superintendent Schuler presented adjustments and updates to Policies 612.1, 613, 618 and 624. Questions were asked and answered.
MMS Thompson and Burns to approve the first reading of:

[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.

- C. Superintendent Schuler presented to the board the change in Substitute Teacher and Paraprofessional Rates. Chair Feldt asked the frequency of when this is reviewed and if there is enough increase to help in getting suitable candidates to apply.
Superintendent Schuler and Finance Director, Lisa Raiter stated that this is reviewed as needed and that they are hoping to be more competitive with the rate increase.

MMS Danielson and Schulz to approve Substitute Teacher and Para rates. Passes 7-0.

- D. Superintendent Schuler presented the 2021-2023 Education Minnesota Watertown-Mayer Teachers Contract . Superintendent Schuler stated that this was ratified in late August and thanked the group on both sides for their efforts. Directors Thompson and Feldt reiterated the sentiments of appreciation to the teachers and all those who were a part of the negotiations committee and their efforts.

MMS Thompson and H. Guetzkow to approve the 2021-2023 Education Minnesota Watertown-Mayer Teachers Contract. Passes 7-0.

- E. Finance Director Lisa Raiter went over the 2021 Payable 2022 Levy Certification. Director Raiter went over the similarities and differences of the three funds that receive levy revenue. Overall, each area is pretty consistent from previous years.

MMS Burns and Danielson to approve the 2021 Payable 2022 Levy Certification.
Passes 7-0.

VII. **Review/ Information Items:**

- A. Referendum Project updates were given by ICS representative, Chris Vogel with additional updates from Todd Larson with Cuningham Group. Much of the focus was on updating the board regarding material delays and how it has affected many areas of the project. At this time one of the main concerns is the middle school flooring and the whys of its issues. Currently, there are workers doing some work to see if the issues can be resolved. Initially, there were some adhesion issues with the new carpet, however, this has resolved itself with minor adjustments. Todd Larson stated that in both cases, the manufacturer has been really responsive and are willing to fix any issues and see it through to acceptable completion. Chris Vogel stated that he wants to be sure these issues are fixed. Superintendent Schuler conveyed his appreciation of Chris Vogel and his time in double checking over Labor Day and through other events to make sure things were operational for kids to start school on time. Schuler also expressed his appreciation to administration and teaching staff for being so

accommodating throughout the process and especially during teacher workshop week and the days and hours before school started.

- B. Superintendent Schuler presented to the board the 2021-2022 Policy Review Schedule. This new plan is intended to spread out the policies over the entire fiscal year and not just the school year to make reviewing of the policies more manageable.

VII. **Administrative Reports**

Verbal administrative reports were presented.

Principal Hennen reported that everyone is doing well adjusting back to a five-day school week. There continues to be staffing issues with a late resignation and lack of applicants to fill upcoming vacancies in addition to a para shortage. Mr. Hennen commended his staff for picking up a lot of extra duties with many forfeiting their planning time to take on these additional needs. The new look of the school has been well-received and everyone is looking forward to participating in typical traditions for Homecoming week. Director Danielson asked about the evaluation of Wednesday and using the entire day as a catch-up day. Mr Hennen said that he has encouraged staff to really encourage use of daily LEAP time and will be reviewing what works best. Principal Hennen stated that, for the most part, attendance has been better and that there have been approximately 20-30 students per day for illness-related issues which is a great indicator that people are not coming to school if they do not feel well.

Principal Guertin reported that they are enjoying their new spaces and are anxious for the other spaces to open up and be useable. Right now the focus is on re-connecting with students and establishing routines as well as finishing up fall baseline testing. The MS has adopted the use of 'Royal Way' cards - a way to catch kids doing great things. Each Friday, the office does a drawing for a prize or privilege of their choice. Additionally, staff have introduced 'Stop and Think' tickets to help coach/ teach behavior modifications. After five tickets, parents are contacted and problem solving discussions are had. Band is moving back to the newly refurbished band room and the curtains for the gym should be arriving soon as well. Principal Guertin reported that there have been approximately 25-30 students out for illness or illness-related issues and have had 6 confirmed cases of COVID-19. The MS has had no staffing issues overall and staff has done a great job covering for others if needed.

Principal Pauly reported that the kids are doing well, the pod spaces and innovation lab space are great and they are finishing up fall data review. The main obstacle they are facing right now are staffing shortages. As there were three positive COVID-19 cases in one classroom, one classroom had to be quarantined as of today. As of date, there have been seven positive COVID-19 cases in the school between students and staff and there is continued conversation regarding mitigation strategies. Also as of date, they have yet to have one day that is fully staffed. The elementary school is not allowing outside volunteers and are addressing field trips on a case-by-case basis. Staff, at large, have been doing a great job stepping in and helping as well as other administrators and staff substitute teaching as needed. Approximately 30 students per day are absent for illness or illness-related reasons at this time.

CE Director Dimmler reported that things are going pretty well and there have been smooth transitions into the school year. YR, ECFE and Kids' Co have had limited cases of illness at this point. Programs are full and there are waiting lists. More staff are needed in order to open up these waiting lists. With the approval and adoption of the

new facility contract, new requests are coming in. Director Danielson inquired about the asphalt issues on the south side of the CLC. Superintendent Schuler explained that this is a result of trucks used for the roofing project. This will be fixed at the roofing company's expense, but probably not until the spring.

Director Vieu introduced himself to the board. He started on August 20th and is excited to work with the teachers and especially the crew of new teachers we have in the district. At this time he is still trying to find his way in understanding his role in the district and is currently prepping the 'World's Best Workforce' presentation for November. He is in need of members to be a part of his committee in planning curriculum as the high school english/ language arts department is up for review. Additionally, he is working with Brittany Misuraca to get MCA scores into IC to enable parents to access this data.

Superintendent Schuler reported that it has been a pleasure to have the excitement of students in buildings again and using the new facilities. Staffing presents an issue as the district is short on staff and paraprofessionals. Absentee rates are pretty consistent at this time with a lot of strep throat this year. The nursing staff are doing a great job record-keeping and trying to navigate the start of the year. Vault tests will be provided soon to those experiencing some symptoms. These are sent home and then parents return them on their own. Not a lot of districts are doing this and Superintendent Schuler is glad we are able to provide this service to students. Mr. Schuler clarified that the staffing issues are a major issue across districts - not only for teachers and paras, but for bus drivers. Food shortages are also an issue with little to no way to circumvent. Our vendor, Taher, did get permission to order supplies a month in advance with the thought that there might be more options available. Superintendent Schuler pointed out the COVID-19 dashboard located on our school website and that this would be updated every Friday.

IX. Discussion of issues or open comments by School Board Directors.

Director Feldt reported on the Finance Committee and thanked Finance Director Lisa Raiter for her insight into the levy numbers and keeping it all straight.

Director Thompson reported that the Personnel Committee has concluded teacher negotiations, and have started language negotiations with the paraprofessional group.

Director H. Guetzkow reported that the Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation Board is hoping to plan an event to raise funds for continued scholarships.

Director Danielson reported that the Marketing and Communication group has a meeting on October 11, 2021 to get this group back up and running regarding branding. She did note that the branding that is being done across the district has been great to see.

Chair Feldt reported it has been good to see classes are filling up and events are back on track. Art to Remember is an event happening soon. This group is still writing grants and receiving some as well because of the accreditation that Community Education programs have.

Director Schulz reported that they met on Tuesday and they also had a successful bus tour of the Dean Lakes facility. SW Metro has launched their E-Learning and there are approximately 300 participants opting in across the various participating districts.

IX. MMS Danielson and Burns to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM and was duly passed 7-0.

Chair

Clerk