

- I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, August 23, 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, ES Principal Pauly, Activities Director Szymanski, SPED Director Gronseth, Community Ed Director Dimmler.

- II. **Public Comments**
Seven speakers signed in with their contact information to address the school board regarding the upcoming school year and potential mask mandate. All seven speakers addressed the school board in support of NOT requiring masks for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

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

- IV. **Consent Agenda**
Director Danielson made an inquiry regarding what schools would benefit from the SHIP grant in the Business Consent Agenda. This grant helps to support wellness by purchasing a variety of equipment; these monies have been utilized at the elementary, middle and high schools.
MMS H. Guetzkow and Burns to approve the following consent agenda items: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 26, 2021; Personnel consent agenda; and Business consent agenda. Passes 7-0.

- V. **Recognitions/ Presentations/Showcase**
None.

- VI. **Action Items**
 - A. Superintendent Schuler presented once again on the specifics of updates and changes to Policies 602, 603 and 611. MMS Feldt and Thompson to approve the second reading of the following policies:
[Policy 602 - Organization of School Calendar and School Day](#)
[Policy 603 - Curriculum Development](#)
[Policy 611 - Home Schooling](#)
Passes 7-0.

 - B. Superintendent Schuler presented to the board the Health & Safety Resolution for the 2021-2022 school year. Superintendent Schuler stated that this Resolution is the starting point for the school year, but gives Superintendent Schuler the opportunity to change the plan if needed as well as changing learning models if necessary. This Resolution also includes the Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan. Director H. Guetzkow questioned why this Plan is embedded within the Resolution and not separate. Clarification was given - we are starting the year with a baseline which we were not able to do last school year. Director Burns clarified that the Safe Return to

In-Person Learning Plan can be amended - this was confirmed. Director Guetzkow commented that she felt the Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan was light in details and to have more of these details in place before school starts. She also stated that she would like a tighter frequency of data review by the COVID-19 Advisory Committee. Director Danielson asked that the Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan dates for masking on buses are updated.

MMS Burns and Thompson to approve the Watertown-Mayer Health and Safety Resolution for the 2021-2022 school year. Roll-call vote:
Feldt - Aye, Thompson - Aye, Burns - Aye, Schulz - Aye, H. Guetzkow - Nay, Danielson - Aye, J. Guetzkow - Aye. Passes 6-1.

- C. Superintendent Schuler presented to the board the Facility Use Contract Revisions. Superintendent Schuler informed the board that CE Director Dimmler has done a great job defining and processing this Contract and has made it easier to understand and interpret. CE Director Dimmer has taken this to stakeholders and all have reviewed and agreed to the new Contract. CE Director Dimmler also stated she plans to review this annually. Chair Feldt stated that the fees included for stadium and athletic facilities are very much in line with neighboring districts.

MMS H. Guetzkow and Danielson to approve the Facility Use Contract Revisions. Passes 7-0.

- D. Superintendent Schuler presented the Settlements for Right of Way Acquisition with Carver County Hwy 10 Resurfacing Project. No specific changes were made to this document and the board did approve the purchase price at the July 26th regular board meeting. This document has been reviewed in its entirety by legal counsel and is ready for final approval. Clarification was made that these improvements will not commence until spring of 2022.

MMS Thompson and Schulz to approve the Settlements for Right of Way Acquisition with Carver County Hwy 10 Resurfacing Project. Passes 7-0.

- E. Superintendent Schuler presented to the board the Flex Learning Day Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. This plan is similar to last year and will be used in the event of inclement weather. The school is given 5 days of flexible learning and can petition to add more if needed. Director Burns inquired as to if there will still be opportunity to use a typical snow day with no supplemental learning. This can be utilized if there is no electrical power as a result of the inclement weather.

MMS H. Guetzkow and J. Guetzkow to approve the Watertown-Mayer Flex Learning Day Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Passes 7-0.

- F. Superintendent Schuler presented to the board his performance goals for the 2021-2022 school year including building the infrastructure for implementation of the MTSS framework to improve student outcomes, the manage the district construction projects to its completion, developing a hiring manual for district administration and to renew and develop the Watertown-Mayer Marketing and Branding Initiative along with his action steps to complete each of these goals. Chair Feldt asked that Superintendent Schuler add areas to document progress towards each goal.

MMS Feldt and Burns to approve the Superintendent Performance Goals for 2021-2022. Passes 7-0.

VII. Review/ Information Items:

- A. Referendum Project updates were given by ICS representative, Chris Vogel. Mr Vogel shared that work is being done to complete the bleacher pad for the guest bleachers and the stitching of logos for the field will be complete soon with the rubber to be filled into the field the following week. The home bleachers should start to be installed the week of August 30th. All electrical conduit has been pulled. The date for receiving the new scoreboard is still slated to be the week of September 13th and they hope to have this fully operational by September 24th. In the meantime, they will have a temporary scoreboard and sound system available for use. The new concession stand is anticipated to be open by the first football game of September 17th. Mr. Vogel shared with the board that there was a significant leak in the middle school gym. This area was repaired and the roofing company will be paying for the damage from this leak. Additionally, there have been supply shortages and hold-ups that were not expected. Mr. Vogel assured the board that all buildings will be able to be occupied and functional, but not fully complete. Director Danielson inquired about the punch list process and getting all buildings where they need to be. Mr. Vogel confirmed that there are several rounds of punch lists done on each of the areas, once a final punch list is complete, there is an additional 11 month warranty on any work done. Mr. Vogel confirmed that in those situations where there have been material delays a better product has been substituted at the same cost. In situations where an equal product is not available, the material will be exchanged once the original quality product or better is available. Director Burns commented that he is on the BOC Committee and commends Mr. Vogel and ICS for being our advocate with all the delays and contracting issues. Director Thompson seconded Director Burn's sentiments.
- B. Chair Feldt presented to the board Mr. Schuler's 2020-2021 Evaluation Summary. Superintendent Schuler was evaluated on his previous 4 goals and focus areas for each. Superintendent Schuler received a 3.7 consensus rating on a 4 point scale. Superintendent Schuler is doing an effective job in his leadership role in leading the Watertown-Mayer school district. Director Feldt stated that the school board will continue to support Superintendent Schuler in his development and leadership of the Watertown-Mayer school district.

VIII. Administrative Reports

Verbal administrative reports were presented.

Principal Hennen reported that they are wrapping up the finalization of schedules. Ninety-four percent of students were able to get all class requests for this school year. Todd Warzecha has come in as the new Dean of Students and has done a great job as well as the new school counselor, Dani Domeier. Open house for 9th grade will be September 1. The leadership team has met and all are excited for the year to begin. A lot of discussion has happened about how to utilize some of the new flex spaces effectively as well as new processes in utilizing these new spaces. Principal Hennen reviewed that when they surveyed the students at the end of last year they received over 300 responses - they have reviewed these responses and are continuing to draw insight from their answers.

Principal Guertin reported that they did move their 5th grade open house to the 31st. At this time, 5th grade will have their open house from 3-5 pm with the 6-8th grade open house following. Regardless of where their building is in the construction process they are looking forward to getting back into the building and into their new spaces and inviting new staff additions as well.

Principal Pauly reported that they, too, are excited to have students back in the building. She reported that K-2 completed new math curriculum training as well as doing a lot of work regarding reading and early literacy strategies. Royal Connections will be happening soon - this is over 3 days and allows students to sign up and come in for an individual time with their teacher as well as time to do assessments and take their school picture. Leadership team at the elementary will be meeting this week to discuss MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) and how to incorporate these practices into their teaching practices as well.

CE Director Dimmler reported that they are wrapping up their summer programming and will be back to in-person programming for the fall. She is working on increasing programming in the new adult wing. She is excited to welcome new teachers and paras and is excited to have 9 sections of Young Royals preschool this year. At this time, childcare is also at capacity with Caring Hands and Kids' Company.

Director Szymanski reported that they are already a week into fall activities and things are going well. He announced that six individuals will be inducted into the Watertown Hall of Fame during our Homecoming football game on October 8. A reception will start for these individuals at 5:30 pm. The inductees for 2021 are: Matt Janning- Athlete, Marissa Janning - Athlete, Dale Hoeft- Fan, Vern Richter- Coach/ Advisor, Dave Nace- Coach/ Advisor and Pat Neaton- Outstanding Graduate. All have been contacted and are honored to be inducted. Superintendent Schuler commented that the Hall of Fame had been on hold for almost 10 years and thanked Director Szymanski for rekindling this process. He also stated that the HOF areas will be upgraded in the near future and will be relocated for better visualization. Director Szymanski stated that the goal is to do the HOF every 2 years. Anyone not chosen one year will carry over to the next nominating year for a total of 10 years.

Director Gronseth reported that staff is very excited for their new spaces at the elementary, middle and high schools. She reported that according to new legislature, any student with an IEP are required to have an IEP meeting before December. This increases the workload of all special education teachers so fall will be busier than usual this year. At this time the speech and language pathology position is still open and the school may be looking at contracting these services. Additionally, there are para positions open at all the buildings at this time and will be attempting to fill some of these needs with substitutes from Teachers On Call.

Superintendent Schuler reported that there are many openings for staff especially for paraprofessionals and bus drivers and to encourage anyone they know might be interested in applying. On September 25 and 26, New Teacher Workshops will be happening - this is an expansion from a 1 day intense workshop. Superintendent Schuler is also incorporating a tour of Watertown narrated by Josh Guetzkow and a tour of Mayer narrated by Nikki McNeally. E-Learning will be happening with SW Metro and at this time, there are 3 families who are going to take advantage of this learning opportunity.

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

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

Director H. Guetzkow stated that she and Director Danielson met with Superintendent Schuler and discussed plans for Marketing and Branding to begin again.

Director H. Guetzkow stated that the Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation Board is continuing to look at potential fundraising pieces and are doing a nice job on social media to engage alumni. This group is not only looking for more members, but also new opportunities to expand in order to support scholarship opportunities for our students.

Superintendent Schuler reported that Interim Teaching and Learning Director, Joe Vieau has started and is looking into setting up dates for Teaching and Learning meetings.

Treasurer Schultz stated that SW Metro is launching their e-learning programs and to please let her know as soon as possible who might be interested in participating in their tour of their new facilities in September.

Chair Feldt reported that he participated in the MSBA Summer Seminar which did an excellent job discussing mental health in learning with a student perspective. He encourages any board member to participate and register for additional trainings through MSBA and to connect with Heather Heun to register.

X. MMS Burns and Danielson to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM and was duly passed 7-0.

XI. Closed Session

MMS Danielson and H. Guetzkow at 8:09PM to open a closed session for the purpose of teacher negotiation strategies. Passes 7-0.

MMS Burns and Thompson to adjourn the closed session at 9:15 PM. Passes 7-0.

Chair

Clerk