

- I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, February 26, 2024 was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Hunter Feldt. Board members present: Feldt, Burns, Danielson, Schulz, Guetzkow, Neaton, and Onell. Board members absent: None. Administrative team members present: Superintendent Schuler, MS Principal Guertin, ES Principal O'Connell, and SPED Director Peyton. Absent: HS Principal Hennen, CE Director Dimmler, Director of Teaching & Learning Vieau, and Activities Director Szymanski
- II. **Visitor requests and consideration of the agenda.** Visitor MMS (Motion made and Seconded by) Danielson and Neaton to approve the agenda as presented. Passes 7-0.
- III. **Consent Agenda**
MMS Burns and Schulz to approve the following consent agenda items: Regular Board Meeting of January 22, 2024; Personnel Consent Agenda; and Business Consent Agenda. Director Guetzkow Abstains. Passes 6-0-1
- IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/ Showcase:**
 - A. Ms. Tax and 1st grade students presented to the board the instruction of reading currently being used at the ES. The students then read an example to the board. It was noted that the new instruction (UFLI) is based on the science of reading.
 - B. Mr. Schuler presented to the board the WM winner of the Section 17 Triple 'A' Award, Lyndsey Penegor.
 - C. Mr. Schuler presented to the board, with the help of 1st grade students, certificates of appreciation for February's School Board Recognition Month. Mr. Schuler thanked the members of the board for their time and dedication to the school district by serving on the Board.
- V. **Action Items -**
 - A. MMS Onell and Burns to approve Resolution 24.16 acknowledgement of donation, contributions, and fundraising. Passes 7-0.
 - B. MMS Feldt and Guetzkow to approve the second and final read of district policy 413 (Harassment and Violence). Passes 7-0.
- VI. **Review/ Information Items:**
 - A. Mr. Schuler gave updates regarding projects still happening across the district. On 2.21.24 ICS met with New Look Construction regarding the upcoming parking lot projects slated to start this summer. This is the same group that helped to construct the stadium project. The pool is now up and running and hosted its first swimming lesson on 2.20.24. There has been some concern for the rougher texture of the walls, which is standard in pools with competitive teams, but they are working to problem solve this for those young students who are not used to this for swim lessons. The greenhouse has received its temporary occupancy permit and they are still hopeful for a Mother's Day plant sale. The rest of the main level middle school floor is scheduled to be removed over spring break with the new flooring to be installed over the summer.
 - B. Superintendent Schuler presented to the board the intricacies of the READ Act (Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act), reviewing what WM has

adopted up to this point including the extensive training that has already happened, and the training and curriculum still to come.

- C. Mr. Schuler discussed conversations being held with our bus vendor, Koch Bus Co., and the re-evaluation of pick up and drop off times at the elementary, middle, and high schools but without incurring increased cost to the district. This discussion is a result of concerns over current long wait times before and after school. Some concern was generated about having the MS/ HS dismissed later than the ES because of possible sibling transportation. Board members suggested that communication go out to families sooner than later once the board votes and approves, and to also communicate to the bus company to have just one number on each bus for better clarification for students.
- D. Superintendent Schuler gave his monthly Strategic Plan update. This month, his communication will be about 'All Means All'. This was a strategic direction that was carried over from the last strategic plan. The first student survey revealed positive results, but they would like to see higher percentages in some areas.

VII. **Administrative Reports**

Supt. Schuler gave HS Principal Hennen's report. Registration is complete for next year with less than 10 students yet to submit their scheduling requests, and a big increase in the desire to take Woods, Welding, and CIS classes. The HS is excited to announce a school-wide hands on CPR & AED training sponsored by Ridgeview and the Watertown Fire Department on March 5th. Board was reminded to mark their calendars for graduation scheduled on May 24th with hopes of it being held at the outdoor stadium, and scholarship information for the senior class will be coming out around spring break.

MS Principal Guertin reported that the entire staff are continuing to work on reaching the goal of 85% amongst all their students in reading and math proficiency and he is meeting with teachers individually to ensure that they know where their students currently are and where they need to be. The MS leadership is working on looking at homework and how to meet the standard without it being based on homework. In response to the question asked how this practice would translate into preparedness at the high school level, Principal Guertin stated that he has had conversations with Principal Hennen about this. They feel that if the MS focuses on competencies of productivity and efficiency in learning and time management, that will only help in the transition into HS in being productive and efficient learners.

ES Principal O'Connell reported more on the activities of I Love to Read Month. Each student in the school received a book they wanted, rooms had guest readers each week, and they are looking forward to hosting their Family Night event on February 29th. Principal O'Connell also stated that the 4th grade Junior Coaching program that they have implemented to help with recess play has been a great success and that she has worked with Principal Hennen to create a class at the high school level. These HS students will be facilitating games and activities at the ES during their LEAP and lunch times while getting credits for school. Other upcoming activities include Mr. Guertin coming to speak to the 4th graders about middle school, upcoming 4th grade spring music concert, MS band and HS choir coming to visit on February 29th,

and Conferences on March 14th and 19th.

SPED Director Peyton reported that 22 of the SPED paraprofessionals have earned a minimum of 60 college credits as well as passed the paraprofessional proficiency test making them 'highly qualified'. She reports that this shows the dedication of the paraprofessionals here at WM and notes that having highly qualified paras is also tied to funding. Ms. Peyton will be conducting interviews for the SPED teacher opening at the MS and she is working with those students who will be transitioning to other buildings for next year.

Superintendent Schuler reported that he and the administrative team are currently working on the 24-25 budget and revisions that will need to be made. There is also a finance meeting scheduled soon and he hopes to present a preliminary budget with suggested reductions to the March meeting with final suggestions to present and vote on in April. He noted the positive successes from our current activities and sports teams. He thanked Admin. Asst. Heather Heun for her work via social media regarding the busy celebration month of February and all the social media posted recently.

VIII. **Board Member Reports**

Director Guetzkow stated that, for the most part, the larger group negotiations have mostly wrapped up. Clerk Danielson reported the virtual policy committee meeting scheduled for March 6th. Chair Feldt reported that the recent CE Advisory Committee discussed what to do to attract talent to staff the needs at Caring Hands Childcare and Kids' Company. They would like to eliminate the wait lists that exist at this time. This committee also made suggestions for the Facilities Handbook. He also noted that he recently attended a MSBA retreat to meet other district board members and discuss how to engage more board members to the various training offered. Noted was that Phase III and IV are coming up and to reach out to Heather to register. Treasurer Schulz noted her recent SW Metro meeting and that they have recently gone through mediation with their teaching contract. March 4th is their next meeting.

MMS Danielson and Burns to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM and was duly passed.

Chair

Clerk