

I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, September 23, 2024 was called to order at 6:01 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, HS Principal Hennen, MS Principal Guertin, SPED Director Peyton, CE Director Dimmler and Director of Teaching & Learning Vieau. Absent: ES Principal O'Connell and Activities Director Szymanski.

Public Comments: No public comments at this time.

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

III. **Consent Agenda**

MMS Burns and Guetzkow to approve the following consent agenda items: Regular Board Meeting of August 26, 2024; Personnel Consent Agenda; and Business Consent Agenda. Passes 7-0

IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/ Showcase:**

A. SPED Director Peyton presented to the board an overview of the district's special education department. She reported that the department is finally fully staffed for 24-25. She reported on the work recently done to help local parochial schools in supporting their teachers in strategies to help students before referring to WM for evaluation- in 23-24, parochial nonpublic students made up 17% of students being served. She reported that 43% of the evaluations done were from the parochial schools. Also reported was the caseload of the SPED teachers at all grade levels - WM has fairly large caseloads comparative to other districts. Director Peyton stated that she hopes to continue to work with and grow the SPED Advisory Council with the goal of meeting 3x a year. The next meeting is Friday, October 4th at the CLC.

B. Teaching & Learning Director Vieau presented the 2024 MCA Data. Overall, the district made huge improvements in all three areas (Science, Math, & Reading) comparative to the state average. The improvements are greater than they were last year by far and unlike other Minnesota schools, we are getting back to the kind of scores we had pre-pandemic. WM data-driven teams, MTSS Tier I supports as well as the implementation of the Science of Reading are efforts that are contributing to these improvements.

C. Superintendent Schuler recognized each WM School Board Director with a certificate in honor of School Board Recognition month.

V. **Action Items -**

A. MMS Feldt and Onell to approve Resolution 25.04 Acknowledgement of Donations, Contributions, & Fundraising. Passes. 7-0.

B. MMS Guetzkow and Burns to approve the first and only read of district policies:

Policy 522	TITLE IX SEX NONDISCRIMINATION	Policy 615	TESTING, ACCOMMODATIONS,
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	POLICY, GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE AND PROCESS		MODIFICATION, AND EXEMPTIONS FOR IEP, SECTION 504 PLANS, AND LEP STUDENTS
Policy 612.1	DEVELOPMENT OF PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICIES FOR TITLE I PROGRAMS	Policy 618	ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
Policy 613	GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	Policy 619	STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR STANDARDS
Policy 614	SCHOOL DISTRICT TESTING PLAN AND PROCEDURE	Policy 620	CREDIT FOR LEARNING
Policy 614F	ASSURANCE OF TEST SECURITY AND NON-DISCLOSURE	Policy 621	LITERACY AND THE READ ACT
		Policy 624	ONLINE INSTRUCTION

Passes 7-0.

- C. MMS Onell and Burns to approve the 2024 Payable 2025 Levy Certification. The proposed levy is as follows:
- 2023 pay 2024 Levy Limitation- \$7,779,359.28
 - 2024 Pay 2025 Levy Limitation- \$7,848,386.54

This is an increase of \$51,027.26/ 0.65%

Passes 7-0.

VI. Review/ Information Items:

- A. Mr. Schuler gave a verbal update on various projects in the district. The CLC is no longer at a standstill and work has started again at the CLC with the hopes of having everything wrapped up by November 1st. Mr. Schuler thanked the patience of the surrounding community neighbors and the CLC staff. He reported that the overflow lot of the HS will not be complete, but will be operational for the Homecoming game this coming Friday. The MS flooring on the lower level is holding up great and is a huge improvement. There is lighting that is still needing to be completed at the MS, HS, and CLC with the trail leading to HWY 25 off the MS/ HS campus also getting upgrades. The new MS drop off/ pick up areas will also get additional lining soon.
- B. Superintendent Schuler gave a Strategic Direction update in regards to data assessment. This year 9th and 10th grade students are to be assessed through FAST screeners and will be screened 2-3 times this year. Mr. Vieau will share out those results as those are completed.

VII. **Administrative Reports**

HS Principal Hennen gave a report on behalf of Activities Director Szymanski. He reported the various events happening as part of Homecoming week, the date of the fall musical 'Mean Girls' this fall, that winter activities registration will open on October 7th and that, overall, participation is +3 for the fall.

HS Principal Hennen reported that the high school has a great start of the school year. He reported that the installed HALO sensors have been really effective - he thanked Rande Peyton for her efforts in securing the funding needed to purchase and install these sensors. Students have reported an increased feeling of safety and climate when using restrooms this year. Mr. Hennen reported that they are looking at a different schedule for the start of the 25-26 school year - transitioning to a trimester or 5-6 period day. This will not only minimize the impact on course options for students, but will also rearrange instructional time for teachers to help with the upcoming budget constraints. Mr. Hennen will be hosting parent listening sessions during parent-teacher conferences on Monday. As far as the new guidelines re: cell phone usage, Mr. Hennen reported that because of the efforts from the MS last year, it is a non-issue with the new incoming students and that the older students have been responsive and respectful for any redirection they get. Mr. Hennen stated that the biggest struggles they have are with smart watches.

MS Principal Guertin reported that the start of the middle school has also been smooth and the new parking lot flow has gone well overall with notice of increased safety for bike-riding and walking students. Mr. Guertin reported that the STEM program added automation and robotics to their curriculum this year which has been popular with students and that the new WIN period added has been great to help give that extra time and support to students identified. Mr. Guertin has been working closely with Mr. Hennen regarding schedule structure and thanked the administrative assistants for their extra help in triaging students with the transition of nursing assistance at the high school office. Mr. Guertin thanked Emma Springer for jumping in and helping with group work while Jenna Olson is out on maternity leave and also the great work being done by WEB leaders, Student Council, YES (Youth Equals Solutions) and the internship program developed between 8th grade students and the HS DCD program.

CE Director Dimmler reported that fall programming included 30 classes with over 70 participants, 103 Young Royals preschoolers between 7 classes and 140 children in childcare. The CLC is excited about the upcoming fundraising opportunities for DQ Art Night and a fundraiser effort happening with Elephant Joe's in October. Aquatics continues to be community education's biggest program, and they are looking at expanding their childcare by 35 to bring in more kids off the waiting list (currently 65 ages 0-3 on the list).

Superintendent Schuler gave a report on behalf of ES Principal O'Connell. He reported that after initial assessment this fall, the gains made by students in the spring have not slipped much and that the Junior (4th grade) and HS Recess Coaching being done continues to be a huge hit with increased engagement and decreased conflict. Currently they are down to 1 recess staff member and are actively looking for candidates. This person would need to be available 10:50 AM-1:50 PM Monday-Friday and are reimbursed \$18.50 / hour.

Superintendent Schuler gave a shout out to the Watertown Chamber for hosting their recent annual Educators Appreciation Dinner. Over 100 staff members were in

attendance with great local contributions in food and door prizes. Supt. Schuler will be meeting with Koch bus company this week to check-in to see what is working and not working for the new pick-up and drop-off times. The middle and high schools have been very happy with the results in eliminating long wait times for students at the end of the day. Mr. Schuler also discussed the upcoming Watertown Hall of Fame happening on Friday along with Homecoming. He invited all to attend the public reception after the football game at B's on the River starting at 9 PM.

VIII. **Board Member Reports**

Chair Feldt reported re: the finance committee and his work with MSBA. Clerk Danielson reported re: the policy committee, the district advisory committee (meeting in Nov.), and the marketing and communication committee (meeting in Oct.). Vice Chair Burns reported on the 'Bust a Move' event recently thrown by WMEF, raising \$23,000. Treasurer Schulz reported re: the SW Metro Intermediate Board.

IX. **Adjournment**

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

Chair

Clerk

10.28.2024

Date