

I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, August 26, 2024 was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chair Hunter Feldt. Board members present: Feldt, Burns, Danielson, Neaton and Onell. Board members absent: Schulz and Guetzkow. Administrative team members present: Superintendent Schuler, HS Principal Hennen, MS Principal Guertin, ES Principal O’Connell, SPED Director Peyton, CE Director Dimmler, Director of Teaching & Learning Vieau, and Activities Director Szymanski. Absent: None.

Public Comments: No public comments at this time.

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 5-0.

III. **Consent Agenda**

MMS Burns and Onell to approve the following consent agenda items: Regular Board Meeting of July 22, 2024; Personnel Consent Agenda; and Business Consent Agenda. Passes 5-0

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

- A. Amy Mandt presented to the board this past year’s Girls & Boys State Participants: Emma Koerber, Lilia Larson, Ella Hunkins, and Lonne Gilbert. Board members were invited to ask questions. Noted were that Ella Hunkins was named 1st Alternate for Girls Nation and Lonne Gilbert was awarded participation in Boys Nation and represented WM in Washington, DC - both are firsts for WM!
- B. Jeff Liestman introduced himself to the school board as the new Director of Buildings & Grounds and presented to the board current happenings at the district as well as his vision for the district moving forward.
- C. Allison Streich, Deputy Director of the Carver County CDA gave a presentation regarding the recent housing survey of Mayer and Watertown. All information and findings can be found on their website: carvercda.org

V. **Action Items -**

- A. MMS Danielson and Burns to approve Resolution 25.02 Acknowledgement of Donations, Contributions, & Fundraising. Passes. 5-0.
- B. MMS Onell and Burns to approve the second read of district policies:

Policy 503	STUDENT ATTENDANCE	Policy 524	INTERNET, TECHNOLOGY, AND CELL PHONE ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY
Policy 503A	Policy 503 Addendum	Policy 606.5	LIBRARY MATERIALS
Policy 509	ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS	Policy 607.1	EARLY ENTRANCE INTO KINDERGARTEN

Policy 512	SCHOOL-SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES	Policy 608	INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES - SPECIAL EDUCATION
Policy 516	STUDENT MEDICATION AND MENTAL HEALTH TELEHEALTH		

Passes 5-0.

- C. MMS Danielson and Neaton to approve the 2024-2025 Superintendent Goals. Passes 5-0.
- D. MMS Feldt and Burns to Approve the Watertown-Mayer Employee Handbook. This handbook will be included in the annual review along with the other building handbooks. All employees will be asked to review and sign off on this handbook in the next coming weeks. Passes 5-0.
- E. MMS Neaton and Burns to approve Resolution 25.03 to move forward to the MSBA Assembly. This resolution addressed additional funding to districts with declining enrollment. Passes 5-0.

VI. Review/ Information Items:

- A. Mr. Schuler gave a verbal update on various projects in the district. The ES and HS punch lists are complete which include the new 1st floor of the MS. The CLC is still needing to be completed in addition to the extra parking lot south of the stadium field. The hope is that the parking lot will be ready for homecoming, however, back-up plans have been made to ensure that there is gravel there for parking if not completed by homecoming.
- B. Chair Feldt gave his statement regarding the Superintendent evaluation for 2023-2024 and thanked Superintendent Schuler for his ongoing support and dedication to the WM District.
- C. Superintendent Schuler presented the updated Strategic Direction Vision Card. Noted is that the 2024-2025 Vision Card reflects 23-24 data and discussions will continue regarding revisions to this card.

VII. Administrative Reports

HS Principal Hennen reported that it was a good first day back with staff and everyone enjoyed catching up and gearing up for the new school year. Wednesday (28th) will be 9th grade orientation which includes a tour as well as meetings just with parents. He noted 2 new staff for SY24-25 - Anna Paumen who is a new school counselor and Emily Victory who will be teaching art 1 block per day. Mr. Hennen thanked the custodial staff for their work around the school and getting all the classrooms and flex spaces ready for students.

MS Principal Guertin reported that the 5th grade orientation date on August 21st went smoothly and it was a great 1st day back for staff as well. He noted 2 new teachers this year: Lizzie Shaul (5th grade), and Emille Scholl (SPED). He thanked the administrative assistants for all the work they have put in over the summer, Ashley Wise for continuing to make the WEB mentorship program even better for supporting students, the SPED staff for creative problem-solving, custodial staff for

getting the building ready after summer-long construction, and the WM PTO for stocking the teacher's lounge for the year.

ES Principal O'Connell reviewed their workshop on staff's first day back and shared this year's theme "Goal-Getter". Principal O'Connell shared that they have had amazing results from hard-working staff to significantly reduce the percentage of students in the high risk category in both reading and math. Currently, the WMES is pursuing being a School of Excellence and she hopes to report more regarding this soon. She also reported that on Thursday (29th), PlayWorks will be coming to help train 4th grade Junior Coaches and HS Coaches for this year. WMES has been named a "Blue Shirt" school which is an honor!

CE Director Dimmler reported that this week there is no programming as they are gearing up for fall. She reported that there has been \$143,787.00 of revenue brought in as a result of the extensive CE programming. Currently there are 100 preschool students enrolled for the fall and that all early childhood grants were used to help families.

Teaching & Learning Director Vieau reported that MCA results will be publicly available on Thursday (29th) and that he will be excited to share more about these results in the near future. He reported that new teacher orientation went well and invited board members to attend the presentation by Cindra Kamphoff on Wednesday at the all-staff/ all-district meeting. He noted that she will also be speaking to student athletes later in the afternoon and will also be coming back 2 more times throughout the year for continued professional development.

SPED Director Peyton reported that the district passed with 100% for special education due process by the MN Department of Education. She reported that 21 students, 5 teachers and 6 paraprofessionals helped to make ESY a success over the summer. In August, SPED staff finished CPI training which has new procedure guidelines and that this year they are meeting more with the nonpublic schools in the district as they are finding that 43% of referrals are coming from nonpublic schools. They are finding that many of these referrals are not appropriate and can be addressed through additional training and implementation of support strategies. Her goal is to help nonpublic schools to develop 6 week interventions of support to students first before putting in a referral right away.

Activities Director Szymanski noted that they are down by 3 for fall sports participation and down 7 from 2 years ago, however, they have not yet started 7th and 8th grade volleyball or football, so these numbers may change. All fall sports have had competitions start this week and are off to a good start. Mr. Szymanski thanked the WM Royal Boosters for hosting a breakfast for coaches and advisors for the annual coaches meeting and he thanked the custodial staff for prepping the wall outside the HS office for installation of the WM Hall of Fame tentatively set to be installed by the end of this week.

Superintendent Schuler reported a good new teacher orientation and thanked sponsors Ameriprise Financial and Nikki McNeilly for lunch on both dates. He thanked Koch bus for donating a bus for community tours of both Watertown and Mayer and Nikki McNeilly for helping with the guided tour. Feedback from the new teachers was positive - and especially for the tours of the communities. Superintendent Schuler discussed the current situation re: the updated requirements of lead levels in water and that cooperative efforts by the City of

Watertown (Doug Kammerer), Jeff Liestmann, Resource Training & Solutions, and others. There will be a plumber this week to come and problem-solve specifically a water filtration system for the one faucet in the kitchen that tested high.

Discussions will continue regarding what is most cost-effective for other faucets currently shut off or for hand-washing only. Director Onell noted his frustration that such restrictive measures were imposed by the MN Department of Health with no grace or adjustment period as well as the imposed cost it has for many other older, less funded districts.

VIII. **Board Member Reports**

Clerk Danielson discussed the policy meetings still occurring as well as the upcoming District Advisory Committee meeting coming up in October and a probable Marketing & Communication meeting yet this fall. Chair Feldt discussed his leadership role as part of MSBA and his participation in the Leadership Conference and his take-aways from attending. Chair Feldt encouraged other board members to attend the next one happening in mid-January of 2025.

IX. **Adjournment**

MMS Danielson and Burns to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 and was duly passed.

Chair

Clerk

09.23.2024

Date