

- I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, August 25, 2025 was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Hunter Feldt. Board members present: Feldt, Burns, Danielson, Schulz, Guetzkow, and Neaton, and Onell. Board members absent: None. Administrative team members present: Superintendent Schuler, HS Principal Hennen, ES Principal O'Connell, SPED Director Peyton, CE Director Dalton, Director of Teaching & Learning Vieau, and Activities Director Szymanski. Absent: MS Principal Guertin.  
**Public Comments:** No public comments at this time.
- II. **Visitor requests and consideration of the agenda.** MMS (Motion made and Seconded by Danielson and Guetzkow to approve the agenda as presented. Passes 7-0.
- III. **Consent Agenda**  
MMS Burns and Neaton to approve the following consent agenda items: Regular Board Meeting minutes of August 25, 2025; Personnel Consent Agenda; and Business Consent Agenda. Passes 7-0.
- IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/ Showcase:**  
Rande Peyton gave a detailed overview of the Watertown-Mayer Special Education Program including going over disability categories, staffing, funding, grants, due process, and evaluations. Ms. Peyton highlighted challenges and strengths as well as the department goals for 20026-2027. Jennifer Slipka and Amy Mandt were there to give specific examples of their programs at the early learning/intervention and high school levels. A report from the middle school was read and a current high school student in the program was also there to give her personal story and experience.

Because of School Management Systems representative Todd Netzke's limited time, School Board Recognitions were moved to the Administrative Reports section of the agenda.

**V. Action Items -**

- A. Todd Netzke was virtually present via a google meet and went over with the board and those present the 2025 Payable 2026 Levy Certification. MMS Feldt and Schulz to approve the 2025 Payable 2026 Levy Certification. Passes 7-0.
- B. MMS Danielson and Onell to approve Resolution 26.03 to accept donations, contributions, & fundraising received so far in the month of September. Passes 7-0.
- C. MMS Burns and Neaton to approve the first and only read of district policies:

|                       |                                               |                       |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">203</a>   | OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD-GOVERNING RULES | <a href="#">203.1</a> | SCHOOL BOARD PROCEDURES; RULES OF ORDER                                                                  |
| <a href="#">203.2</a> | ORDER OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING     | <a href="#">203.5</a> | SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AGENDA                                                                              |
| <a href="#">203.6</a> | CONSENT AGENDAS                               | <a href="#">204</a>   | SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES                                                                             |
| <a href="#">205</a>   | OPEN MEETINGS AND CLOSED MEETINGS             | <a href="#">206</a>   | PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS/COMPLAINTS ABOUT PERSONS AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS AND DATA |

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|  |  |  | PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS |
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Passes 7-0.

- D. MMS Feldt and Danielson to approve the first read of the following policy because of significant changes.

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| <a href="#">607.1</a> | EARLY ENTRANCE INTO KINDERGARTEN |
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Passes 7-0.

- E. MMS Burns and Guetzkow to approve the second and final read of the following policy. Noted was that this policy was approved for a first read on 7.28.25.

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| <a href="#">503</a> | STUDENT ATTENDANCE |
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Passes 7-0.

## VI. Review/ Information Items:

- A. Director of Teaching and Learning, Joe Vieau gave an overview of the most recent MCA data results. Evaluations continue to trend in a very positive direction. Questions were asked and answered with a suggestion from Vice Chair Burns to give narrative through a news article regarding the increases and progress being made as the simple number percentages shown do not accurately reflect the growth progress.

Superintendent Schuler gave a strategic plan update focusing on Communication. He shared with the board that he is actively working with some administrative team members as well as Education Minnesota representative, Ed Rundell on the 26-27 as well as 27-28 school year calendars. These two years have been specifically addressed at the state level to allow schools to start BEFORE labor day, but NOT BEFORE September 1st for these two years only as Labor Day is later in the month than is typical.

## VII. Administrative Reports

HS Principal Hennen reported that the first few weeks have gone well transitioning to a 6 period day. The only challenge has been the pacing of classes a bit, but given the large changes, the change has been a pleasant surprise. This year he is tracking 2 things: 1. Professional growth plans for teachers by gathering survey data from students several times a year and 2. Starting to track college and career exposures. Mr. Hennen said the high school has taken great pride in getting kids ready for their next level after high school and he would like to have more evidence-based data to prove that the exposures they are getting at the high school level are evidencing themselves post graduation.

HS Principal Hennen gave a verbal report on MS Principal Guertin's behalf. He echoed the sentiments of a good start with the transition to the 6 period day and noted that the 7th and 8th grade students have adapted well to attending high school classes. It was noted that 30% of the middle school staff is shared staff. Mr. Guertin continues to have the goal of ensuring connections are being made at the middle school level and to continue to increase Tier I & II SEL support.

ES Principal O'Connell reported a successful Royal Connections this year with 465 (97.6%) families in attendance and only 11 families not attending- 13 teachers had 100% participation for Royal Connections. Ms. O'Connell reported that their annual Desserts & Data event will be coming up soon. Ms. O'Connell was proud to announce that on October 2nd they will officially be named a Minnesota School of Excellence by the Minnesota Elementary School Principal's Association for specifically being a leader in literacy, and using data to drive decisions. They will receive their official banner sometime in November and will have a celebration and receive their plaque in the spring.

CE Director Dalton reported that he is working with a transition team to ensure literacy from preschool to kindergarten. He notes that there are still waiting lists for childcare and they are still having challenges on getting more staff. He reiterated that the issue is not the space, but finding quality staff. He is continuing to work on getting more adult enrichment classes that are in person, and he continues to work on improving procedures and guidelines with facilities including looking into using the software system already in the existing Eleyo system. The catalog for January/ February will be out mid-November and that they have their next Advisory Council meeting on October 14th. Mr. Dalton's overarching goal is to continue to work on the culture at the CLC and have more collaboration rather than working in silos.

Activities Director Szymanski reported that homecoming is next week with military appreciation week all week this week. He reported that 48 students' fall activities fees were waived and that they look forward to the theater's performance of *Oklahoma* on November 20, 21, & 22nd. Winter activities registration is October 13th and the total student participants this fall was a total of 307, an increase of 28 from last fall and the highest amount of participation since the fall of 2013.

Superintendent Schuler gave a verbal report regarding enrollment so far this year. The ES is down 19, MS is up 30 and HS is down 23 which is a reflection of some shifting they knew was going to happen. Mr. Schuler is confident that the ADM should match the budget that was previously approved and that mid-October is the big number check in day to see where we think we will end up. Mr. Schuler reported that this was a year for renewal for insurance and was a bit disappointing with only 2 bids - the lowest being an increase of 30% and a change to a PEIP plan. HR Manager, Crystal Sundby will be facilitating 2 meetings along with Mark Belz, our district insurance broker. Mr. Schuler noted that this week, Region V will be coming to the district office to train more on the new processes of accounts payable and receivable. Supt. Schuler gave a big note of thanks to the local Watertown Chamber of Commerce who hosted their annual Educators Dinner at city hall. Over 100 WM staff were in attendance and received some great food and amazing prizes -- all sponsored by the local Chamber. He noted that Jim May from Marketplace Foods orchestrates this event every year and does an amazing job! Mr. Schuler ended his

report by recognizing and presenting each board member with a certificate of recognition in honor of school board recognition month.

**VIII. Board Member Reports**

Director Guetzkow gave verbal reports regarding the Personnel, Education Foundation, and Marketing & Communication Committee. Treasurer Schulz gave a verbal report regarding the SW Intermediate board, and Chair Feldt gave a verbal report regarding the Finance and Community Advisory Committees as well as MSBA.

**IX. Adjournment**

MMS Danielson and Neaton to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM and was duly passed.

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Chair

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Clerk

10.27.25  
Date