MERTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
Monday, June 26, 2023
Approximately 6:00 p.m., after the Community Forum
Merton Intermediate School Little Theater

President Dobbertin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Dobbertin announced the meeting was properly posted. Board members in attendance were Dobbertin, Lehman, Cotton, Imes, and Andersen. District Administrator Russ was in attendance. There were no reporters and approximately 7 citizens in person.

Andersen asked for a point of order stating the meeting started too early based on the agenda posting. His objection is noted on the record.

Approval of Agenda
Motion by Lehman, second by Cotton to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0, Andersen abstained.

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Cotton, second by Lehman to approve the board meeting minutes of Monday, May 22, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. Motion carried 4 - 0, Andersen abstained.

Motion by Lehman, second by Imes to approve the board meeting minutes of Monday, June 12, 2022. Motion carried 4 - 0, Andersen abstained.

Approval of Financial and Bill Listing
Motion by Imes, second by Lehmann to approve Payroll Checks #553851 in the amount of $91.42, Payroll Check #553852 in the amount of $243.80, Payroll Check #553853 in the amount of $142.68. Direct Deposit #900059673-900059781 in the amount of $170,396.12, #900059782-900059887 in the amount of $157,139.57, #900059888 -900060001 in the amount of $162,496.94. Payroll Wire Transfers #202200336 - 202200379 in the amount of $426,951.27, Accounts Payable Checks #55883-55947 in the amount of $358,653.21, AP Wire #202200347-202200369 in the amount of $5,569.40, Credit Card #52023 in the amount $41,411.73 and ACH/Direct Deposit #222300125-222300140 in the amount of $2,659.53. Motion carried 4 - 0, Andersen abstained.

Delegations to be Heard
None

Administrator's Report

A. Acceptance of Donations (Action)

Motion by Cotton, second by Imes to thank Mrs. Talbot for running the concession stand during the Spring Concerts and donating $200 to the Merton Intermediate Music Department and a big Thank You to the Blackbaud Giving Fund for their donation of $300 to the Merton Primary School. Motion carried 4-0, Andersen abstained.

B. Personal Actions (Action)

Motion by Lehman, second by Imes to approve the resignations of Jennifer Sevcik and Kelsey Cobler as presented. Motion carried 4-0, Andersen abstained.

Motion by Cotton, second by Lehman to approve the Teacher Contract of Jessica Schroeder, the Letter of Appointment of Michele Schaefgen and Tanya Koike. Motion carried 4-0, Andersen abstained.

New Business

A. Discussion and possible Action with Choice Coaching Consulting for Board Development (Action)

Dr. Russ presented the Board with a new option and engagement agreement with Choice Coaching Consulting after feedback from May's Board meeting. After much discussion amongst the Board, it was decided to hold off on the Consulting factor and try to engage each other as a Board but keep the Engagement Agreement should they need it in the future. No action taken.

B. Approve 66.03 with Arrowhead Union High School Math Teacher (Action)

Motion by Imes, second by Cotton to approve the 66.03 Agreement with Arrowhead High School to share Naomi Fulto, geometry teacher, as presented. Motion carried 4-0, Andersen abstained.

C. Possible reorganization for CESA #1 Rep (Action)

Clerk Cotton resigned from the CESA #1 position as representative due to the time commitment. Dr. Russ will reach out to CESA #1 regarding Merton's position and whether it is legally mandated or binding and what the ramifications may be. He will also reach out to CESA #1 to see if Mrs. Cotton can be removed from the Board of Directors.

D. Approve Technology Fee Policy for 2023-24 School Year (Action)

Motion by Cotton, second by Lehman to approve Policy 656.1 Device Fee Policy that has been recommended by the Policy Committee and presented to the Board for full approval. Motion carried 4-0, Andersen abstained.

E. Approve 2023-24 School Fees (Action)

Motion by Imes, second by Lehman to approve the fee increases recommended by the Finance Committee; increase athletic fee by $5, Lunch fee increase by $.15 cents,

Merton Primary and Intermediate fee increase of $5. Motion carried 4-0. Andersen abstained.

F. Final Review/Approval of the 2023-24 Employee Handbook(Action)

Motion by Lehman, second by Imes to approve the 2023-24 Employee Handbook as presented with expectations that more discussion is needed with certain sections of the handbook in the future. Motion carried 4-0. Andersen abstained.

G. Approve 2023-24 Teacher Contracts Action)

Motion by Lehman, second by Imes to approve the 2023-24 Teacher Contracts striking out one employee, Kelsey Cobler, otherwise, approving as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Andersen abstained.

H. Approve District Administrator Contract(Action)

Motion by Imes, Second by Lehman to approve District Administrator's contract as presented. Andersen calls for a Roll Call:

Andersen: Abstain, Cotton: Yes, Lehman: Yes, Imes: Yes, Dobbertin: Yes, Motion carries 4-0.

I. Approve Administrative and Specialists Salaries (Action)

Motion by Cotton, second by Imes to approve the salaries of Administrative employees and Specialists as presented. Andersen calls for a Roll Call:

Andersen: Abstain, Cotton: Yes, Lehman: Yes, Imes: Yes, Dobbertin: Yes, Motion carries 4-0.

J. Approve new 6-8 English Language Arts Curriculum (Action)

Motion by Lehman, second by Imes to approve the Districts new English Language Arts Curriculum for grades 6-8 beginning in the 2023-24 school Year as presented in the Board packet. Motion carried 4-0. Andersen abstained.

K. Approval Proposed Policy 187 Public Participation at Board Meetings (Action)

Motion by Lehman, second by Cotton to approve Policy 187 Public Participation at Board Meetings replacing Policy 1005 which has been recommended by the Policy Committee and presented to the Board for approval. Discussion was around the amount of time an individual can speak and if 15 minutes is too long. Motion carried 4-0. Andersen abstained.

L. Final Draft/Reading of 2023-24 Student Handbook (Discussion)

Dr. Russ presented the proposed Student Handbook and some of the changes that were highlighted including recommended changes to attendance communication. Final approval will be at the July Board Meeting.

M. Approve District 2023-24 Staff Professional Development Plan (Action)

Motion by Lehman, second by Imes to approve the 2023-2024 Staff Development Plan Framework for Teachers and Staff. These are days that have already been decided on in the 2023-24 Student/Staff Calendar. Motion carried 4-0. Andersen abstained.

N. Discussion and Possible Action to enter into an agreement with CESA #5 for Business Manager Services (Action)

Motion by Lehman, second by Imes to approve the contract with CESA #5 to help the District while we secure a new full-time Business Manager. Motion carried 4-0. Andersen abstained.

Future Meeting and Agenda Items

A. July 17, 2023 @ 4:45 p.m (Board Workshop-Open Session)
B. July 17, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. (Open Session)
    a. Monthly Meeting
C. August 28, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. (Open Session)
    a. Monthly Meeting
D. September 12, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. (Open Session)
    a. Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting

Motion by Lehman, second by Cotton to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Cotton
District Clerk