

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Mauston Board of Education

DATE: Monday, March 17, 2025

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: District Office Community Room
510 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Zilisch, Mike Coughlin, Joanne Schumer, Betty Kryka, Tom Morris and Char Gyllin

1. Board Vice President Mike Zilisch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Six members were present.
2. Vice President Zilisch led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. There was one public comment. William Poor inquired about when a staff member who is related to the Superintendent is being investigated or part of an investigation should a 3rd party be the ones conducting the investigation and issuing the finding to avoid conflict of interest. He also discussed his concern related to virtual learning during virtual snow days in West Side Elementary and the availability of staff members during those days and how it might affect a student's right to education.

Reports

1. **Student Reports** – The MHS Spanish Club gave an update on their activities from the school year and a handout was given to Board members by MHS Principal Jim Dillin.
2. **Board Committee Reports** – Finance (presented by Schumer) and Policy and Personnel (presented by Kryka).
3. **AGR Report**—West Side Elementary Principal Jolene Routson and Lyndon Station Elementary Principal Mary O'Brien asked if the Board had any questions regarding the AGR report found in the Board packet. The report tracks performance objectives at the elementary level and how the district is working to obtain them. No questions.
4. **Leadership Team Reports** – Members of the Leadership Team shared program updates and initiatives.
5. **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Joel Heesch discussed agenda items F and G, regarding staff pay increases for the 2024-2025 school year. With the passing of February's referendum, the administration met with the Mauston Education Association to discuss the CPI increase of 4.12% for the school year. Superintendent Heesch stated that this was to help retain staff and show appreciation of the staff's work. In his second item, Superintendent Heesch discussed recent public record requests from Mr. Ken Van Doren, and how such requests affect the District Office's

order of business because of the priority given to the requests. Superintendent Heesch stated that the District will be putting forth a protocol when processing future requests, and will need to discuss if legal action is needed, in which case the Board would need a closed session to discuss with legal action the next steps.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Coughlin/Morris to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6/0, whereby the following items were approved:

1. Minutes of the February 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting and the minutes of the March 3, 2025 Special School Board Workshop Meeting.
2. The retirements of Kelly Kustief, Lynda Oleinik, and Rhonda Elftmann and the resignation of Audrionna Biddick
3. Payment of the Monthly Vouchers with the total expenditures totaling \$668,714.46 and revenue totaling \$3,654,432.96.

Pending Action

1. Motion by Schumer/Zilisch to accept donations from Donorschoose.org and Crystal Chamberlain-Hauck in an amount totaling \$1,194.19. Motion carried 6/0.
2. Superintendent Heesch presented donations that were under \$300: an anonymous donation of school supplies was donated to West Side Elementary and Mike and Beverly Smith donated to Lyndon Station Elementary miscellaneous crafts and play bunnies.
3. The Board held the first reading on 44 policy revisions: Policies 1100, 1130, 1241, 2210, 2264, 2266, 2270, 2271.01, 2416, 2464, 3214, 3230, 3281, 3440, 4124, 4214, 4230, 4440, 5113, 5330, 5341, 5512, 5611, 5710, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6231, 6325, 6620, 7310, 7410, 7430, 7440, 7440.02, 7450, 7540.03, 7450.04, 7540.07, 8120, 8451, 8531, and 8600. No action was taken. The policies will return to the Board for a second reading in April.
4. Motion by Coughlin/Morris to approve the CESA 5 Contract for the 2025-2026 School Year with the projected cost of \$188,593.64. Motion carried 6/0.
5. Motion by Schumer/Coughlin to close Lyndon Station Elementary School. After a discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Six yeses, zero noes. Motion passed.
6. At 6:52 p.m., Board Member Mike Coughlin left the room to avoid an interest of conflict.
7. Motion by Schumer/Zilisch to approve the administration recommendation to give all professional staff a raise of 4.12%. After a discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Five yeses, zero noes. Motion passed.
8. At 6:54pm, Board Member Tom Morris left the room to avoid an interest of conflict, and Board Member Mike Coughlin came back into the room.

9. Motion by Gyllin/Zilisch to approve the administration recommendation to give all support staff a raise of 4.12%. After a discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Five yeses, zero noes. Motion passed.

10. At 6:56 p.m., Board Member Tom Morris entered the room again.

11. Motion by Morris/Schumer to adjourn. Motion carried 6/0. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Recording by:

Jennifer Hagemann, Board Secretary