

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law on February 10, 2020.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President Ralph DiCesare; Jennifer Parrott Held and together with Superintendent, Tom Wood and Business Manager, Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Dawn Reeves and Jeff Bowlin

I. Welcome – Board President

Mrs. Bunch called meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Consent Items

Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve the consent items, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood wanted to thank the Special Ed Department again for their continued hard work and excellent service to kids. It is sometimes a thankless and exhausting job but they do wonderful work with our students.

Mr. Moser congratulated the winter sports for the successful season so far. The coaches are doing a good job and the students' performance is reflective of this. He also congratulated Mr. Seeman as he continues to exceed expectations within the world of activities with his day to day communications and management of all of our programs. He is truly an exceptional asset to our team.

Mr. Moser congratulated Aria and Suvan Volz for taking 1st Place in a Lego League competition. They will now be attending the Worlds Lego League event in Detroit this April. The district is also considering having a Robotics League available to students in the fall.

Ms. Happe informed the board that the ESSA accountability results came out and the elementary earned a rating of High Performing. They scored higher this year than they did last year in several areas. Areas of growth have consistently been strong in math and reading. This is also difficult to maintain year after year. There are around 60 schools that require school support and the elementary and secondary staff is thrilled that they achieved at levels high enough to not require that support.

Friday, February 7th the elementary celebrated their final day of Pennies for Patients. They raised over \$4,000. The big push at the end of the fundraiser was that kids could purchase a foot of duct tape for \$1 to duct tape Ms. Happe to the wall. It was great fun and the kids loved it!

IV. Public Comments

V. Old Business

A. Reports

- 1) MStM Music Booster Minutes
- 2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes
- 3) MStM PTO Minutes – January 14, 2020 minutes
- 4) MStM FFA Booster Minutes

B. Presentations

- 1) Facilities' Report

Mr. Christensen

Mr. Christensen informed the Board about the plan to purchase additional buses for the district due to the new law that is requiring seat belts on all buses. We have two buses that should be arriving soon, we will be retrofitting two of our existing buses, and we are recommending for the Board to approve the purchase two more buses with seat belts so we will have a total of six buses to use for our routes in the fall of 2020-2021. He recommended tabling the recommendation on the purchase of a new mower until we have received a few more quotes. Mr. Wood stated that we are in need of new teacher laptops. Mr. Moser will send out a survey to teachers requesting their needs for new devices. Mr. Wood stated that putting a new TV in the Commons is easier to do now that we have the Pixlette program we are installing in both gymnasiums. This will allow concessions workers to watch the games while working.

2) Principal's Report

Ms. Happe

Ms. Happe, Mr. Moser and Mrs. Grafft attended the Future Education Technology Conference in Miami, FL, in January 14-17, 2020. She listed several sessions that she was excited about and looks forward to using what she learned with her staff. Ms. Happe handed out her Stoplight Report.

3) Principal's Report

Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser introduced Mr. Steve Fisher, Business Teacher. He presented to the Board what the Robotics League is all about. The league allows students to build, design, and code their creations. They will learn a little about engineering, coding, public speaking and business management. They will be responsible for fundraising and asking for sponsors. This will start in September and there are currently nine students interested in the league. They would like to get more girls interested as well. The Board thanked Mr. Fisher and wished him the best of luck!

Mr. Moser discussed the CTE Advisory Committee that includes Mr. Fisher, Mrs. Sherwood, Mrs. Gladson, Mr. Lee and Mr. Davis. They have all reached out to members of the community and companies that will support students and the school through a CTE program.

Mr. Moser provided a summary of his experience at the FETC Conference in the February Newsletter and provided his Stoplight Report.

Mr. Moser discussed with the Board the Spectator Expectations and Activities Culture/Climate that have been created, supported and enforced by the IHSAA, IHSSA, IHSMA and IHSGAU. The following behaviors are NOT acceptable:

- Disrespectful conduct, including profanity, obscene gestures or comments, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, or other actions that demean individuals or the event – Ejection
- Throwing articles onto the contest area – Ejection
- Entering the contest area in protest of celebration – Ejection
- Physical confrontation involving contest officials, coaches/directors, contestants or spectators – Ejection
- Spectator interference with the event – Ejection
- Jumping up and down on the bleachers – Warning; Ejection
- Use of artificial noisemakers, signs or banners – Warning; Ejection
- Chants or cheers directed at opponents – Warning; Ejection

Since Mr. Seeman has come on board we have focused to improve the climate of our home activities. It is a blessing and a curse to have talented students and successful programs that fans are so enthused about. We will continue to hold high expectations of respect from our students, players, coaches and parents and will hold them accountable. Negative game experiences are making it harder to find officials and umpires to come to our district to officiate. There is a difference between cheering for your team and chants directed to the opposing teams. Yelling at officials will not force them to change the call that they just made. In fact, it will only make it worse for your team.

4) Superintendent Report

Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood provided a summary of the remainder of the 2019-2020 School Calendar and Snow Days. So far we have had one early out, one late start, and two days cancelled. We have scheduled 1,106.6 hours; we have lost 14.9 total hours with 1,091.1 remaining hours for 2019-2020. Required hours are 1,080. Mr. Wood recommended following past practice and keep the scheduled last student day the same. Teacher contract days (2) would be made up on their own.

Mr. Wood proposed the 2020-2021 School Calendar. The first legal start date is August 24, 2020. The proposed calendar has scheduled 1,121.6 hours, 178 days and the last day of school is May 26, 2021. Everything is very similar to the 2019-2020 calendar which we received quite a bit of positive feedback on. The hours beyond 1,080 allow us to handle inclement weather and poor road condition days. The Board agreed that the Wednesday off before Thanksgiving was very well liked and the requested to have a full two week winter break. Mr. Wood will make that change and send the proposed calendar out to staff and parents. Feedback will be gathered and approval will be requested at the March board meeting.

Mr. Wood introduced the "What You Don't See Trailer". This will be in the parking lot on February 19, 2020 from 1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. This is an interactive training room/resource center for parents to recognize the warning signs of potentially dangerous behaviors and lifestyle choices as well as how to intervene for a more positive outcome on behalf of their children. This is being sponsored by Warren County Sheriff Department. It is free to parents and to the public.

Mr. Wood provided a staffing update. He met with Norwalk's Superintendent and technology director regarding the social worker position and the tech position. They are still working through some things on their end and will get back to us. He also mentioned that DMACC Career Academy will be raising their prices for concurrent enrollment after July 1, 2020.

VI. New Business

- A. Receive Negotiation Proposal from MStM Education Association Supt. Wood

Mrs. Noga, President of the MSTMEA provided the 1st proposal for the 2020-2021 school year with a total package of 4.5% increase in base salaries. The MSTMEA would also like to amend contract language changes for Article 18 Employee Hours and Load.

- B. 2nd Reading/Approve 104, 104.R1, 105, 302.7, 303.8, 401.13, 401.13R1, 402.2, 403.6, 403.6E1, 403.6E3 Supt. Wood

Mrs. Held motioned to approve policies 104, 104.R1, 105, 302.7, 303.8, 401.13, 401.13R1, 402.2, 403.6, 403.6E1, 403.6E3, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 3 ayes.

- C. Discuss/Approve Retrofitting Buses Supt. Wood

Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve retrofitting Bus 26 and 19 with seatbelts that will cost about \$60,000 out of Capital Projects, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 3 ayes.

- D. Discuss/Approve Purchase of New Buses Supt. Wood

Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve the purchase of two new buses with seatbelts for FY21, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 3 ayes.

- E. Discuss/Approve Purchase of New Mower Supt. Wood

Tabled

- F. Discuss/Approve 8 Man Football Field Prep Supt. Wood

Mr. Seeman researched and reached out to other 8-man school districts and recommended the following items to be purchased for the 2020-2021 8-man football season. Portable Goal Posts, paint, self-propelled striper machine and new yard markers to be purchased out of either PPEL or Capital Projects. New goal post pads will be purchased out of the Safety Fund.

Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve the recommended purchases to prep our existing football field for the 2020-2021 8-man football season, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 3 ayes.

- G. Discuss/Approve ComPro Contract Supt. Wood

Mrs. Held motioned to approve the ComPro Contract which is a cloud-based software to be used for negotiations, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 3 ayes.

- H. Discuss/Approve Personnel Resignations Supt. Wood

Mrs. Held motioned to approve the resignation of Brenda DePauw, Elementary Secretary, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 3 ayes.

- I. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations - none Supt. Wood

- J. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates Supt. Wood

The next board meeting will be held on March 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. DiCesare motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 5:03 p.m.