

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING MARCH 9, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law on March 9, 2020.

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

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 Mr. Bowlin. Roll call: 5 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Moser recognized the football team for receiving a 3.32 GPA and football cheer squad for receiving a 3.78 GPA.

Our winter activities have enjoyed tremendous success as we had five wrestlers, the girls' and boys' basketball teams, and our speech team all make it to the State Tournament. Congratulations to them all!

Our Lego League team will be advancing to the Worlds Lego League end of April. They have been working on a Q4 coding system for maintenance system alerts. The code will send an alert to our maintenance staff when a garbage can is full and needs to be emptied. They have already tested it with our maintenance crew and have partnered with Drake University to develop the program with them.

Congratulations to Hailey Frost for placing 1st for her art submission for the Root Beer Label competition, sponsored by Clive through DMACC! She was honored on Saturday at an awards banquet at Jordan Creek Mall Center, receiving a root beer bottle with her design on it. Please take a moment to congratulate her on this amazing achievement!

Ms. Happe congratulated the 5th and 6th grade for their performances at the recent music concert. It was awesome and love seeing the progress of our music program. Mrs. Twaddell will be displaying all kinds of art during parent teacher conferences. The students have been awarded a movie day for PBIS.

Mr. Wood gave kudos to the Mr. Olson and Mr. Warden on the Variety Show the students presented. The students did a great job and we have heard a lot of compliments from the community. The kids worked hard and it was fun to watch. The sound system worked well, but when they connected to the speakers then the singers on the stage could not hear the sound. Mr. Olson and Mr. Warden will be working with the maintenance department on what they can do with the wiring.

IV. Public Comments - none

V. Old Business

A. Reports

- 1) MStM Music Booster Minutes – February 29, 2020
- 2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes
- 3) MStM PTO Minutes – February 11, 2020
- 4) MStM FFA Booster Minutes

B. Presentations

- 1) Facilities' Report

Mr. Christensen

Mr. Wood discussed the recommendation of the new lawnmower.

- 2) Principal's Report

Ms. Happe

Ms. Happe discussed the new social studies curriculum resources acquired this year. They have gone through a lot of the revisions and teachers will be coming in over the summer to cover the Iowa Core Social Studies standards. The TLC Instructional coaches will also attend. The Iowa Instructional Framework will be the same for next year.

Ms. Happe introduced Mr. Olson and Mr. Warden to present to the board about the new music curriculum recommendation.

Mr. Warden discovered an outdated general music curriculum for K-6. There is also no curriculum for Pre-K. While attending the Iowa Music Educators Association Conference in November, Mr. Warden attended the McGraw Hill demonstration of the new format of Spotlight on Music. Not only does the curriculum contain quality content, but the software will elevate the general music program to the next level while integrating technology in the classroom. This will also integrate the national music standards into the curriculum as well. It is user friendly when teaching songs, and it integrates technology in the classroom. It will make it more accessible to students. It can provide music concepts; history lessons and music appreciation and Mr. Olson will be able to utilize it more in the Junior High groups and the 9th and 10th grades. The new curriculum can also be linked with social studies and language arts. The board thanked Mr. Olson and Mr. Warden for their presentation.

3) Principal's Report

Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser provided updates on the planning of the 2020-2021 schedules. They have a better handle of courses that are needed and what students want to take. New courses that will be offered are based on information teacher surveys, student interest, and keep up with where a student wants to be post-secondary.

New courses for 2020-2021 include Astronomy, Computer Science Principals, Geology, Humanities in Film, Literature of a People, Meteorology (DMAC Credit), Music Independent Study, and JH Digital Medial Design (Grades 7/8 only). High art classes and students can take advanced format courses as independent study. DMACC West Career Academy will be providing Agribusiness, Cybersecurity, Health Occupations and IT. DMACC Southridge Career Academy will be providing Automotive Technology, Auto Collision, Business and Marketing, Computer Programming, Criminal Justice, Health Occupation/CAN, Teacher Academy, and Welding. Mr. Faraci will be offering Meteorology which will allow students to earn dual credit through DMACC. Mrs. Bunch asked what the pre requisites were and there are none. Mr. Bowlin asked if these courses are only allowed for juniors and seniors. Yes, this is only allowed for juniors and seniors because freshmen and sophomore are required to work on their general credits first.

Beginning with the class of 2023, all students will be working through a Zenith Learning Experience as part of their graduation requirements. This was approved in May by the Board as such, and our freshman class had their introduction to it at the end of February. This year's 8th grade class will get their introductions throughout the year while taking their Career Exploration course with Mr. Folkerts. Mr. Moser's column this month provides a snapshot of the Zenith Learning Experience, and what students, teachers, and parents can expect with it.

The Zenith Learning Experience at Martensdale-St. Marys is not unique - there are similar programs all over the state of Iowa. What separates Zenith from the others is its personalized design that enables every student to explore fields of interest in depth and with support from knowledgeable and experienced people. Over the course of four years, students engage in job shadows, guided planning, college visits, guest speakers, and a minimum semester-long project or workplace experience in their field of professional interest. The overall experience will give MStM students a feel for what's ahead of them after high school; a clear direction and pathway for how to continue their learning and growth; and the confidence to be successful in whatever they do. It will ensure MStM graduates leave our halls as their most powerful selves, ready for what lies ahead. More information about the Zenith Learning Experience can be found in the March Newsletter.

Mr. Moser shared with the Board a thank you from Mrs. Grafft for allowing her to go to the Future Education Technology Conference. She expressed how grateful she was to allow her to attend. She truly feels valued and support here.

4) Superintendent Report

Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood reviewed the COVID-19 Guidance and preparation. He reviewed the Emergency Operations Plan and the communications with IDPH and CDC. The Maintenance crew has updated cleaning procedures and disinfecting schedule. He reviewed the board policies applicable: 507.3 and 403.3 (these cover communicable diseases and universal precautions) and has been updating information to the public.

Mr. Wood will be attending the District Administration Leadership Institute March 23-25. Topics include: school improvement strategies, mobile learning, social media, online and virtual schooling, curriculum and assessment, special education, interactive classroom technology, health and wellness, and business and finance. Sessions will be led by recognized experts, with ample opportunity for interactive plenary sessions and attendee networking.

VI. New Business

A. Approve Publication of Proposed 2019-2020 Budget Amendment

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the publication of the proposed 2019-2020 Budget Amendment, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

B. Approve Budget Guarantee Resolution for 2020-2021

Supt. Wood

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District, will levy property tax for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa. Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve the Budget Guarantee Resolution for 2020-2021, seconded by Mrs. Reeves. Roll call: 5 ayes.

C. Approve Publication of Proposed 2020-2021 Budget

Supt. Wood

The Board agreed to publish the tax rate of 15.64 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is the amount that will be published in the Indianola Record Herald on April 1, 2020. Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the publication of the proposed 2020-2021 budget, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

D. Discuss/Approve Purchase of Lawnmower

Supt. Wood

Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve the purchase of a 2020 Grasshopper 729T with Peeks Sales and Service, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

E. Discuss/Approve Music Curriculum Purchase

Supt. Wood

Mr. Bowlin motioned to approve the Music Curriculum with McGraw Hill to be paid by the Successful Learning Funding, seconded by Mrs. Reeves. Roll call: 5 ayes.

F. Discuss/Approve 2020-2021 School Calendar

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 5 ayes.

G. Discuss/Approve Personnel Resignations

Supt. Wood

Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve resignations of the following: Christian Bengston, Social Studies/Coach; Hailey Sweet, Softball Coach; Ashley Sorter, Spanish; Brooke Safley, Drama; seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

H. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve Jeff Bowlin, Volunteer Track and Field Coach, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 4 ayes. Mr. Bowlin abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve Nathan Carlin, Volunteer Baseball Coach, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 5 ayes.

I. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates

Supt. Wood

The next board meeting will be held on April 13, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. DiCesare motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 5:15 p.m.