

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING MAY 11, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session by ZOOM meeting, pursuant to law on May 11, 2020.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President Ralph DiCesare; Dawn Reeves, Jennifer Held 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

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

II. Public Comments – none

Mr. Wood discussed Educator Appreciation Week and extended a huge thank you to all of the staff. They have an important role in educating our students and they have done a wonderful job during this pandemic. This has been hard on the teachers but they have definitely stepped up and have gone above and beyond to connect with students and parents. The maintenance guys have stepped up with helping out teachers when they need to get into their rooms and then disinfecting afterwards. The food service workers are still coming in to do the grab and go lunches for families and running the food pantry.

Ms. Happe is fortunate to be working with both Mr. Wood and Mr. Moser. She has had great collaboration with conference principals and current networks that she has been involved with. They are working on the guidance for Return to Learn. They are working on alignment for how essential learning that was missed can be woven in when we get started again in the fall. The teachers have been wonderful and have had great discussions on how they plan to bridge the gap with kids. It was reported that we are seeing a 90% participation with families and students. Plans will be made soon for teachers to clean out their classrooms and the maintenance guys have been fantastic in having this done in a safe manner.

Mr. Moser's priorities have been keeping the traditions we have here at MStM. Graduation has been set for July 19th and Prom and Post Prom have been set for July 25th. It is important that we take the time and opportunity to honor our graduates in a familiar environment and make them our center piece. Mr. Moser has seen some increase in participation in secondary voluntary education opportunities. Students have been raising their grades by submitting late or missing assignments. A reminder was sent out last week and there is a definite uptick in getting things done. Thank you to Mr. Folkerts for putting together the College Day Decision video. The teaching staff have been beyond amazing during this hopefully once in a lifetime situation.

Mr. Wood discussed new guidance for the DE Return to Learn plans and the specifics of it. There are more questions than answers about moving forward. He is required to submit three parts of the plan which include: on-site plan, distance learning plan (required model) and a hybrid model that would combine the two. We will be prepared for all situations during an intermittent shutdown or a complete shutdown and a normal school day situation. A lot of things still need to be resolved like connectivity and equity. The administration is already working with teachers for any and all learning in the fall.

Governor Reynolds is allowing districts to start prior to August 23rd but will not count those days toward the 180 days 1080 hours. There are contract issues that would also need to be considered. MStM plans on starting school on August 24th and will use two weeks of summer school as a voluntary jumpstart with students. The district will be receiving \$19,000 through the CARES Act to use to fund summer school, extra cleaning supplies, and remedial learning resources. The vehicle the federal government chose to use for this funding is through Title I.

The decision for summer sports will happen on June 1st. All facilities at school and daycare still remain closed. Restrictions may have lessen but we will determine what we can open for school activities.

V. New Business

A. School Board Recognition Week

Mr. Wood announced that it was School Board Recognition Week. On behalf of the staff and administration, thank you for your support, understanding and caring leadership you have provided to our students. You were one of the first boards in the state to act on the COVID regulations and approve to continue to pay our classified staff until the end of the school year; which was a huge relief to our employees and their families. Thank you for guiding us and serving your community.

B. Discuss/Approve Norwalk Sharing Agreement – Technology

Supt. Wood

Mr. Wood discussed the Norwalk Sharing Agreement. This has been six months in the making. As we discussed, Don Millage notified the district that he would like to retire in June 30, 2020. He has served our district for over 20 years and has been our primary IT person. We have reached out to several IT companies, obtained assessments and estimates and tried to find a way to replicate the services we were receiving from Don. A dedicated onsite every day IT person is not necessary in our district. We have tried to combine IT with an administrative person and we would still need to rely on outsourcing resources. We have had a prior relationship with Norwalk school district and their services would definitely replicate what Don has done for the district. We would have access to the entire Norwalk team. They understand the E-Rate system and understand school business. We would also be able to leverage their purchasing power when buying devices at a discounted rate. They will have access to our comprehensive service network, personal devices and be able troubleshoot problems. Mrs. Bunch motioned to approve the Norwalk Sharing Agreement for Technology, seconded by Mrs. Reeves. Roll call: 5 ayes.

C. Approve Class of 2020 Graduates

Supt. Wood

The Class of 2020 has 45 students. Mr. Bowlin motioned to approve the Class of 2020 Graduates, seconded by Mrs. Reeves. Roll call: 5 ayes.

D. Discuss/Approve 2020-2021 Registration, Lunch and Athletic Pass Fees

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the \$0.05 increase to elementary and secondary lunches, seconded by Mrs. Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

E. Discuss/Approve Bus Drivers 2020-2021 Contracts

Supt. Wood

The district currently has two private contractors left that own their own buses. The district will encourage these two drivers to drive a district bus with seatbelts but will allow them to decide to continue driving their own buses this year only and then they will be required to drive a bus with seatbelts for the next school year. We have purchased buses with seatbelts to be used for the bus routes this fall. Mrs. Held motioned to approve the bus driver contracts for 2020-2021 seconded by Mr. Bowlin. Roll call: 5 ayes.

F. Discuss/Approve Personnel Resignations

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the resignation of David Simpson, Librarian Associate, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

G. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve Adam Chelleen, 7-12 Spanish and Caylin Brommel, 1st grade, seconded by Mrs. Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

H. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates

Supt. Wood

The next board meeting will be held on June 8, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Mrs. Reeves motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 4:40 p.m.