

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING JULY 6, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law on July 6, 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

Mr. DiCesare 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. Public Comments

Supt. Wood

IV. Superintendent Report

Supt. Wood

Mr. Wood provided an update on the Return to Learn Plan for MStM for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. In regards to Cleaning/Disinfections: extra staff has been hired so that one person will be dedicated to continual disinfecting high touch areas during the school day. The playground will be disinfected during the day and some areas will remain closed. Electrostatic disinfecting machines will be used throughout the building each day. Two portable electrostatic disinfecting machines have been purchased for buses and smaller areas each day. Hand sanitizing stations will be installed in key area. Cloth masks have been purchased and we will continue to stockpile as available. Face shield (60) for staff have been ordered and will be made available. Desk shields have been installed in the Central Office and will be installed for all office staff.

An additional room near the front door of the elementary office will be used for students exhibiting symptoms, keeping them isolated from the main office and nurse's office. Parents will be able to pick students up here. Once school begins, access will be strictly limited. Visitors will not be allowed during school hours. Staff lounge and cafeteria will not be used, or will be limited in use, to prevent close-contact during lunch. After school activities will require thorough disinfecting each time; outside groups using our facilities will also be limited.

The following decisions need to be made at the August meeting. Mask requirements/recommendations: in school, on buses, and does it apply to staff, students, or both. Social distancing and room set-ups: desks separated as much as possible, students all facing one direction. Recess modifications. PE and Vocal Music activities adjusted. Staggered passing times to limit the number of students in hallways at one time. Provide continuous learning (online) to any students who cannot attend in person or parents are not comfortable sending. Does the Board wish to start in a model other than On-site?

Mr. Wood, along with the Administration staff, has attended weekly meetings since March with the Department of Ed, area Superintendents, Principals, the Public Health Department, and the Warren County Health Department. Mr. Wood has also created Work Groups of teachers and staff that have met twice a week through the summer putting action plans together that address the seven domains identified by the Department of Education. The broad return to learn plan was due to the Department of Education by July 1. That plan was also required to be posted on the district's website. The Return to Learn plan was approved by the Department of Education. The district team then took the actions plans to create the three plans we have in place currently: Continuous Learning Plan, Online or Distance Learning Plan and Hybrid Plan.

The preferred method is the On-site Learning Plan. Our intention is to begin classes on August 24, 2020. The district is still waiting on further information from public health on guidance regarding masks, face covering, and taking temperatures. For those families that choose to not send their kids to school due to health reasons or they do not feel that it is safe enough the district will provide the Continuous Learning Plan for those families.

Planning will continue to be difficult when the district receives conflicting information from public health, the Department of Education and from the American Pediatrics. The June 25th guidance from the Department of Education with the Iowa Department of Public Health stated that they do not recommend requiring face coverings, not recommending temperature screening, and social distancing should be done as best as possible while recognizing that it is not always possible in a school setting.

*MStM Mission Statement
Inspire. Challenge. Grow.*

The cafeteria will likely be closed, or significantly limited in use, and lunches will be provided in the classrooms. Daycare has to follow DHS guidelines which are different than the Department of Ed guidelines. DHS is requiring daycare to screen their kids where the DE is not requiring to screen kids.

Mr. Wood reviewed the results from the Family Survey that was sent out. Over 250 families completed the survey. Nearly 60% of families would like their students back in school full-time in some manner. 20% are unsure at this time.

Mr. Wood answered questions from the Board and parents that were in attendance. Teachers are currently going through intense learning of Google tools and will have plans in place if we have to go to an Online Learning environment. Online Learning could be announced like a snow day is announced. They are working on ways to be able to broadcast or livestream some classes. It was stressed that students would not be on their laptops for 8 hours a day during Online Learning. Appropriate screen time and recommendations based on ages have been used to develop schedules for that type of learning. There will be activities they will do on their own, like games, reading, and writing activities. Teachers will need to keep attendance and track participation during the Online Learning Plan. The district has offered a free jumpstart summer school for elementary students. Currently 152-200 students expressed interest. It is possibly that teachers could set office hours with parents and kids that need additional one-on-one learning. Teachers will have to rethink how they will grade. We will still be held to the 1080 hours of school. They will not be online for 1080 hours but they will have to be engaged each day. We will need to be flexible and grant the kids some grace. There is still a lot of discussion and decisions that need to be made regarding all of this.

Equity is also a big consideration. Special Education teachers could be required to meet their students at home to provide instruction. It is also possibly for those kids to come into the building one at a time if we have to move into the Continuous Learning Model (online).

We will communicate to parents about expectations while riding the bus to and from school. We will look at the possibility of adding additional staff to the bus routes. We will be recommending families to sit together and likely require masks while on the bus. Parents are more than welcome to bring their kids to school and pick them up.

Mr. Wood will be submitting the three plans to families this week and positing them on the website. The next board meeting will be held on August 3rd to approve details within the plans including many of the health and safety considerations.

V. New Business

- A. Appoint Jill Gavin as Board Secretary/Business Manager Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to appoint Jill Gavin as Board Secretary/Business Manager for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- B. Administer Oath of Office to Jill Gavin Board President

- C. Designate Official Depositories and Signature of Checks Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve City State Bank in Martensdale and Norwalk as our official depository for up to \$1,000,000 for the 2020-2021 school year and authorized delegates to sign checks, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- D. Discuss/Approve Transfer of LOSST Funds Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the money be transferred each month in the amount of the requested debt sinking payment schedule, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- E. Discuss/Approve Resolution Authorizing Inter Funds Loans Supt. Wood

Mr. Bowlin motioned to approve the Resolution authorizing and directing the Board Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer to process inter fund loans between the General Fund, Activity Fund, Management Fund, PPEL Fund, Capital Projects Funds, Nutrition Fund, Trust Fund, and/or Agency Fund, not to exceed 35 days in duration, with all loans to bear interest at the rate established by Iowa Code section 74A.6(2) per annum, for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- F. Discuss/Approve MStM Return to Learn Plan Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the MStM Return to Learn Plan for 2020-2021, seconded by Mr. Bowlin. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- G. Discuss/Approve Photographer Contract for 2020-2021 Supt. Wood

Mr. Bowlin motioned to approve the photographer contract for 2020-2021, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- H. Discuss/Approve 2nd Reading Policy 210.2 Supt. Wood

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Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve Policy 210.2 for the regular meetings of the board will be held on the second Monday of each month. Meetings will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. The board will adhere to this meeting date and time unless the board requires additional meetings or, due to circumstances beyond the board's control, the meeting cannot be held on the regular meeting date, and the meeting will be re-scheduled in accordance with law and policy. Public notice of the meetings will be given. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

I. 1st Reading 409.1, 409.2, 409.2E1, 409.2E2, 409.3, 409.3E1, 409.3E2, 409.3R1, 409.3R2

J. 1st Reading 414, 501.9, 501.9E1, 601.2, 604.11, 907, 907.R1

K. Discuss/Approve Personnel Resignations

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the resignation of Shandara Beener, seconded by Mr. Bowlin. Roll call: 5 ayes.

L. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the personnel recommendations, seconded by Mr. Bowlin for the following:

Ross Turner, Mechanic/Custodian

Kyle Flynn, JH Head Football Coach

Hailey Strable, Volunteer Softball Coach

Martin Gonzales, SPED Teacher

M. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates

Supt. Wood

The next board meeting will be held on August 3 at 4:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Mrs. Reeves motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 6:50 p.m.