

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 9, 2019

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law on December 9, 2019.

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

Members Absent: Jeff Bowlin

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: 4 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Congratulations to Ethan Christensen, Anna Ohman and Grace Hart to be selected to the Drake Honor Band. They performed on December 7th at Drake University with 160 other students. This is Ethan's and Anna's second time of being selected and Grace's third time of being selected. It was a great performance.

Winter sports are off to a good start. Varsity Girls Basketball is 5-0 and Varsity Boys Basketball is 2-1 and Wrestling was very successful in their first tournament.

Mr. Moser commended Grace Wood for a successful Twirl Camp week. FCCLA has been busy with their Socktober project and Tie Drive for Night to Shine which is a formal event for disadvantage kids. The secondary TAG program will be doing a blanket drive and the secondary staff has raised \$540 for gift cards to give to families in our community.

Ms. Happe commended the elementary staff for stepping up when there is help needed. Everyone has been filling in for others and being very helpful. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders had their first elementary concert on November 18 under the direction of Mr. Warden. They did a great job performing Disney toons and the staff is looking forward to the Christmas sing along. Ms. Happe updated the board on the SWAG Store where students have been earning golden tickets to be use to buy items in the store or earn an extra recess for their whole class. They even had a Black Friday sale in the SWAG store.

Mr. Wood informed the board that the district has been dealing with a lot of behavior issues and have kudos to our entire special education staff for being so flexible and for seeing all students as their students. They have been doing a great job working together and collaborating to help problem solve. Mr. Wood would like to give the board a tour some day of Mrs. Iverson's classroom that has been a great resource for the older kids and younger kids.

IV. Public Comments - none

V. Old Business

A. Reports

- 1) MStM Music Booster Minutes - none
- 2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – none
- 3) MStM PTO Minutes – none
- 4) MStM FFA Boosters – none

B. Presentations

- 1) Facilities Report

Mr. Christensen

Mr. Moser provided an update on the Halo devices that have been installed and we are receiving test emails and texts.

- 2) Elementary Report

Ms. Happe

Ms. Happe provided an update on the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress Results of 2019. The results went home to families before Thanksgiving. The staff will continue to review the results. The elementary was 80% proficient in reading, math and writing. The science results were not very good but with the Next Generation Science standards it might be awhile

before that percentage gets better state wide. The writing portion will not be considered when they do the state report card for proficiency rankings.

Ms. Happe attended the Special Education Law Conference in November. The Elementary staff has also raised money as much as the secondary for gift cards to give to families in our community. Rose Dickinson, our elementary social worker, has been working with many different organizations to be able to help 23-26 kids for Christmas this year.

3) Secondary Report

Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser discussed the summary of the SIAC meeting that was held on November 12th.

They had a Mission/Vision Statement Workshop. Possible mission and vision statements were shared with the group. Original statements were pieced together by a parent volunteer based on key word exercises done with elementary and secondary staff during staff meetings the previous spring.

Participants' workshopped options and sought different combinations in small groups, and then shared their suggestions. The final version was approved by the Committee and will be presented to the Board for adoption at the December 2019 meeting.

Mr. Moser shared disaggregated course enrollment data for the 2019-2020 school year, with data from the previous year for comparison. Information about course offering changes (those added for the current school year and those that were eliminated from the previous school year) was also provided, along with schedule development processes and how student input is involved. Group discussion focused on reasons for course changes and enrollment trends.

Future SIAC meetings will include follow-up of these data with complete numbers for the current school year as well as anticipated enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. Group members were encouraged to take data with them and pose additional questions as they arose.

Ms. Happe shared FAST testing performance results from 2018-2019 school year as well as data from the 2019 Fall Testing Window (78% proficiency rate). Based on last year's performance, the goal was set at 85% proficiency rate for students in grades K-2. Group members posed clarifying questions about FAST scores and the testing process.

The Principal's Ear was removed from the website recently. It was opened for 47 months. Mr. Moser provided a breakdown of the data. There were 197 total numbers of entries. Anonymity allowed people to say what they were thinking or feeling, but made acting on information difficult. The decline in submissions (during the last six months especially) was offset by an increase in emails, phone calls, and drop-ins to my office. Those who remained anonymous often referenced that "many others" felt the same way or experienced similar things; where as those who "signed" their name to an entry did not reference others. Many concerns were based on either false information or a misunderstanding/misperception of the facts. The actionable information did lead to some positive impacts and improvements. Sometimes people needed to vent or just needed someone to listen to them. The information shared indicates our community's priorities: a safe and positive learning environment; caring teachers and staff; successful co- and extra-curricular programs; and accountability for everyone. Spikes in submissions occurred during periods of time when students were experiencing a real or perceived loss of some kind (i.e. Internet freedom, Blue Devil Games). Nearly all of these entries were well-reasoned and respectful.

4) Superintendent Report

Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood discussed the MStM Vision and Mission statements recommended by the SIAC Committee. He went over the process and input provided. The statements will be on our tag line and letterhead. Leah Stott was a big part in helping putting all the information together along with staff and parents of the SIAC Committee.

Mr. Wood discussed a current open enrollment request and provided a quick reference chart of open enrollment scenarios. Mr. Wood also informed the board that it is possible our sharing agreement with I-35 for a social worker will be discontinued. Mr. Wood will pursue another agreement with our neighbors. Mr. DiCesare asked if we could hire a full time social worker if we can't find another sharing agreement. If we hire someone full time we will not receive funding from the state. Mr. Wood also informed the board that we will be reaching out to a couple of companies to outsource our network solutions. Mr. Don Millage has worked for the district for over 20 years and is looking to retire in the near future.

VI. New Business

A. Review Canvas of Election

Mrs. Gavin

B. Discuss/Approve Mission and Vision Statement

Supt. Wood

Recommended Mission and Vision Statement are as follows:

Vision ~ A school community that fosters personal excellence and responsible citizenship.

Mission ~ Inspire. Challenge. Grow.

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the recommendation of the new Vision and Mission Statements, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 4 ayes.

C. Approve SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment and OE Out Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the maximum modified supplemental amount for open enrollment out of \$144,150.40, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 4 ayes.

D. Discuss Open Enrollment Request Supt. Wood

E. 1st Reading School Bus Seat Belt Policy Supt. Wood

F. Discuss/Approve Personnel Resignations - none Supt. Wood

G. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve Dinah White, 1:1 Special Ed Associate; Josh Breitbarth, Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach; and Ethan Westphal, Volunteer Baseball Coach, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 4 ayes.

H. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates Supt. Wood

The next school board meeting will be held on January 13, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. DiCesare motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Reeves. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 4:50 p.m.

APPROVED

Board President

Business Manager