

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2020

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

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President Ralph DiCesare; Dawn Reeves, Jennifer Held and Jeff Bowlin and together with Superintendent, Tom Wood; Elementary Principal, Ms. Happe; 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

- A. Approval of Minutes – Board President
- B. Approval of Agenda – Board President
- C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report – Board President
- D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports – Board President

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

### III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood celebrated the fact that we are still in school! The positive cases that we have had were not transmitted within school. The quarantined numbers have been relatively low. The most recent positive case did not force us to quarantine any others because everyone was properly masked and followed mitigation procedures.

Mr. Wood recognized Mrs. Alene Kirvin. This has been a very difficult time for her as a school nurse. She is on the phone with the Public Health Department, parents, and staff on a daily basis including weekends and nights. Every situation has been different and having to interpret new guidance has also been challenging. Mrs. Kirvin has been so good and we appreciate all her hard work.

Mr. Moser congratulated our football team for a tremendous and historic season. For a season that we thought might not happen, it is a tribute to the players, coaches, cheerleaders, staff and parents for making it happen safely.

Mr. Moser recognized Mrs. Christy Henderson. Over the course of the year, finding subs and staff to cover classes continue to be a challenge but she has taken it all in stride and she keeps everything running smoothly.

Mr. Moser stated that the teachers are continuing to do amazing things. He had a teacher who had to learn to teach remotely and she picked it up right away and it was just like she was in the classroom.

Ms. Happe recognized Mrs. Jessica Hart. She took on a new position this year as Elementary Secretary and because of COVID it has been twice as challenging. She has been doing a great job of keeping it all together with finding subs and rotating teachers and associates to cover where needed. She also recognized Mrs. Kirvin as she is constantly taking phone calls all day and dealing with parents. She takes everything to hear and keeps a great sense of humor.

Ms. Happe stated that they had 85% participation for last week's Parent/Teacher Conferences. Normally it is closer to 100%. There were incidents that parents didn't feel the need to have a conference with the teacher, conflicts came up or they were not able to connect. It was a great effort from the teachers and parents!

### IV. Public Comments – none

### V. Old Business

#### A. Reports

- 1) MStM PTO Minutes – minutes from October 11, 2020

#### B. Presentations

- 1) Facilities Report

Mr. Christensen

Mr. Wood requested setting up a Facilities Meeting for later this month to discuss technology rotation, purchasing more school buses and updates to the athletic facilities.

## 2) Elementary Report

Ms. Happe

Ms. Happe provided an elementary update. We are continuing the D.A.R.E. program for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. Helping Hand provided 75 boxes of food that were handing out to families on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Happe thanked Mrs. Hart and Mrs. Ackerson for helping out with this project. PTO would like to continue with their annual traditions by holding a Virtual Holiday Shoppe. SWAG is back and they will also be having a virtual shop for the kids.

Ms. Happe revisited the Fall FastBridge Screening follow up. The numbers should not be alarming but we do have work to do. She was comforted when talking to colleagues as they are going through the same situations. Heartland is providing support and she is digging into this information.

Remote learners are coming back to the classroom. Only a dozen are doing remote learning as of now. Mrs. Bunch suggested planning for more opportunities with summer school. Ms. Happe agreed and stated that they were already looking into that. The teachers were supportive of last year's summer school as well.

## 3) Secondary Report

Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser provided the Post-Secondary Readiness Plan. The plan outlines the district's overall plan starting in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It helps to inform us on hiring decisions, how to reconfigure staff, and deciding on course offerings. The Advisory Program will develop positive working relationships between students and teachers, assist in course planning with reliance on MAP, incorporate guest speakers in related fields and participate in the Work-Based Learning Clearinghouse. The Zenith Learning Experience was enacted as a graduation requirement starting with the class of 2023, tailored to individual students' need and interests, and gives hands-on, field exposure for students' post-secondary plans. The district also participates periodically through the year or virtually in Career Exploration events through DMACC. Students also participate in the Entrepreneurship Competition through Simpson College on November 20<sup>th</sup> virtually.

Mr. Moser also provided data on the four strands of CTE and the enrollment in class for the past three years. The four strands include Agriculture, Business, Human Services and Manufacturing. Mrs. Bunch asked if we are trending more going to college or getting into the trades, and where do we need to be investing and spending our time. Mr. Moser referred to the post-secondary readiness plan and how they have built in the flexibility for the kids' needs. As we learn what the kids need and the opportunities that are available then we can pursue it.

Mr. Moser updated the board on the yearbook situation. Our staff was put in a tough spot with the school closure and we had to put a product together with limited time and staff. Ms. Stubbs is now working with Wallsworth to redo the year with the proper layouts and updated information. There have been 38 requests for reprints.

Mr. Moser informed the board that there are three students requesting early graduation. They had about 6% participation for Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Mr. Moser sent out a Veteran's Letter to parent and staff.

*For the past several years, Martensdale-St. Marys has dedicated time and talent to honoring the many veterans in our community. A typical year would see us hosting a community event on November 11th with musical performances, guest speakers, and an opportunity to recognize the veterans on our staff and in our families. As you might have expected, the current conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic limit the kinds of gatherings that we should have. Additionally, because many of the veterans in our community would fall into the "high-risk" category, we felt it would be prudent to be extra cautious about our interactions with our vulnerable populations.*

*In spite of our inability to safely gather to honor veterans, we are still committed to paying tribute to those in our community who have served our country. One would be hard pressed to find someone in the MStM community who does not have someone in their lives who have served in the Armed Forces. For instance, there are four teachers on staff at MStM who have served at some point in their lives: Mr. Kyle Flynn, 7-12 social studies teacher; Mr. John Gerlitz, 7-12 social studies teacher (who was a speaker for last year's Veterans Day assembly); Mr. Martin Gonzales, elementary special education teacher; and Mr. Danny Webster, 9-12 physical education teacher. With the*

*exception of Mr. Gerlitz, these teachers are all new to the District within the last year. We are grateful to not only have them on staff in selfless service to our students, but also to their fellow Americans in service to their country.*

4) Superintendent Report

Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood updated the board goals from the workshop. There are four areas that the administration has worked on, shaped actions to support the goal and what the evidence of progress will be. The four areas include by Spring of 2023: 1) improve student achievement and engagement across all academic areas, 2) increase enrollment through general school improvement plans, additional course/program offerings, and communicating the District's achievements, 3) fully implement a comprehensive technology plan that addresses the purchasing cycle student learning needs, staff needs, and infrastructure, 4) implement a high quality post-secondary readiness program that prepares students for life, work, and education/training after high school.

Mr. Wood provided the Return to Learn Plan from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Department of Education that provided suggested strategies and models of Return to Learn for the different community transmissions. Discussion was made on what our plan is if we are forced to move to remote learning due to staff shortages. Mr. Wood shared possible scenarios and how students would be served if that did happen.

VI. New Business

A. Election/Approval of the President and Vice President

Mrs. Gavin

The board approved Mrs. Bunch as President and Mr. DiCesare as Vice President for 2020-2021.

B. Administer Oath of Office to newly Elected President and Vice President

Mrs. Gavin

C. Discuss and Set Standing Committees

Supt. Wood

D. Appoint Member to IASB Delegate Assembly

Supt. Wood

E. Approve IDATP Annual Dues

Supt. Wood

Mr. Bowling motioned to approve the 2020-2021 IDATP Annual Dues, seconded by Mr. DiCesare. Roll call: 5 ayes.

F. Approve SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment and OE Out

Supt. Wood

Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve the SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment and OE Out maximum modified supplemental amount of \$111,456, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

G. Discuss/Approve Board Goals

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve the School Board Goals seconded by Mr. Bowlin. Roll call: 5 ayes.

H. Discuss/Approve Early Graduation Requests

Supt. Wood

Mrs. Held motioned to approve the early graduation requests, seconded by Mrs. Reeves. Roll call: 5 ayes.

I. Discuss/Approve Personnel Resignations

Supt. Wood

Mr. DiCesare motioned to approve the resignations of Dylan Gibson, Assistant Softball and Josh Breitbarth, Assistant Baseball, seconded by Mr. Bowlin. Roll call: 5 ayes.

J. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations

Supt. Wood

Mr. Moser informed the board that 4 candidates were interviewed for the Head Baseball Coach position. Mr. Moser and Mr. Seeman are very confident in this candidate who comes from winning program, is student athletic centered, and not interested in riding the coat tails but growing the baseball program. He will be a great fit and is excited about working with all the other coaches. He comes from North Polk and he has gained invaluable experience under Hall of Fame Coach Dave Middleton. The success and experience h has gained in his roles up to the point make him a great addition to the Blue Devil Family. Mrs. Reeves motioned to approve Mr. Chris

Kollbaum as the next head coach of the Martensdale-St. Marys Baseball Team, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Mr. Bowlin motioned to approve Dylan Gibson, Jake Marlin and Alex Schmitz as wrestling volunteers, seconded by Mrs. Reeves. Roll call: 5 ayes.

K. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates

Supt. Wood

The board set November 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the Facilities Meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on December 15, 2020 at 4:00 in the cafeteria instead of November 14, 2020 due to scheduling conflicts.

VII. Adjournment

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