

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING APRIL 12, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law on April 12, 2021.

Members Present: President Nicole Bunch (via Zoom); Vice President Ralph DiCesare; Jeff Bowlin; Jennifer Held; and Dawn Reeves and together with Superintendent Tom Wood; Secondary Principal Josh Moser; Elementary Principal Beth Happe; and Business Manager Alison Cornwell.

I. Welcome – Board Vice President

Mr. DiCesare called the meeting to order at 4:03pm and welcomed all guests.

II. Consent Items

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

III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood discussed enrollment for next year with the Board; MStM's enrollment has remained steady through COVID unlike many districts. Mr. Wood also celebrated having retained in-person learning for entire year and the vaccination efforts in Warren County. Currently, vaccinations have been made available to all staff who choose to receive it, and many older students have had the opportunity as well. Mr. Moser celebrated the completion of day one of ISASP testing. It was our first time administering the test online, and Mr. Moser thanked the staff who took great effort to learn new system. We are anticipating great results from students. Mr. Moser celebrated spring sports starting and the great Senior class we have this year. We are all very proud of this group.

IV. Public Comments

Jerry Archibald, 720 Iowa Ave, Martensdale

Jerry expressed concerned about how prom is being handled. He and other students would like to bring underclassmen or outside dates to prom. He asked the District to reconsider the decision to only allow upperclassmen and outside guests.

Joshua Murry, 2361 Vintage Lane, St. Charles

Joshua also expressed concern regarding prom guests and protocols. He cited a decline in positive cases, and would like a prom for seniors without guest restrictions. He is requesting that the District reconsider the amount of guests allowed at prom.

Jen Troll, 10426 70th Ave, Indianola

Jen would like the Board to consider removing the mask mandate. She came to the meeting in support of our students who have followed all protocols all year. She believes that it would be a high point to be able to remove mask mandate at the end of the year. Teachers have been vaccinated, and there is varying data on mask effectiveness. Jen asks that the Board puts kids into perspective when making decisions.

V. Old Business

A. Presentations

1. Facilities Report

Supt. Wood

Mr Wood shared that we will have our next facilities meeting on May 11. Mr. Wood and Ms. Cornwell will attend an ESSER III webinar tomorrow that will provide more information regarding facilities projects and additional funding for COVID mitigation.

2. Elementary Report

Ms. Happe

Ms. Happe reviewed the overall benchmark data for winter FAST testing. Overall scores have improved as a district, data in every grade K-8 is higher than Heartland and the State of Iowa. ISASP testing is going on now and it has been a huge undertaking to switch to online. Thanks to many staff members for their help in making sure everyone is trained and set up for success with the test.

3. Secondary Report

Mr. Moser

Sydney Fisher provided an update on the St. Marys mural project. Her goal is 10 volunteers (currently at 6), and she will continue to spread the word about the project. Many grant opportunities exist, and two applications have been submitted with more forthcoming. Sydney presented three separate design options that are being considered, and any input on the designs is encouraged.

Mr. Moser shared that the SIAC spring meeting will be held on May 3 at 5pm in the library. It will be a general meeting for feedback and discussion, specifically around CTE, elementary benchmark data, and secondary scheduling formats. Mr. Moser has been meeting with a small group of parents and conducting surveys regarding the scheduling format. Mr. Moser provided the Board with a packet of information on what has been discussed so far. The current plan is to bring a proposal to the Board in Nov. 2021, to be implemented in Spring 2022. Next week we will have approximately 35 students out of the building for the Build My Future event which explores post-secondary options in building trades, and many female students will attend the Iowa Women in Leadership conference virtually through UNI as well.

4. Superintendent's Report

Supt. Wood

Mr. Wood share the new Iowa Standards for School Leaders that we will use for principal and superintendent evaluations beginning next year. Mr. Wood would be happy to provide more information to board members who would like to discuss the standards further.

VI. New Business

A. Discuss/Approve AEA Purchasing Agreement 2021-2022

Supt. Wood

Mr. Bowlin motioned to approve the AEA Purchasing Agreement for 2021-2022, Ms. Held seconded. Roll call: 5 ayes

B. Discuss/Approve 2021 Prom Rental Agreement – Diocese of Des Moines

Supt. Wood

Ms. Held motioned to approve the 2021 Prom Rental Agreement, Ms. Reeves seconded. Roll call: 5 ayes

C. Discuss/Approve Classified Compensation Packages for 2021-2022

Supt. Wood

Mr. Wood requested the Board approve a 2.61% total package increase for all Classified staff for 2021-2022. Mr. Bowlin motioned to approve the compensation package increase as presented, seconded by Ms. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes

D. Discuss/Approve Administrative Compensation Packages for 2021-2022

Supt. Wood

Mr. Wood requested the Board approve a 2.61% total package increase for all Administrators for 2021-2022. The Board will approve individual admin contract amounts at the May Board meeting. Ms. Reeves motioned to approve the compensation package increase as presented, seconded by Ms. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes

E. Approve School Improvement Advisory Committee Members for 2020-2021

Supt. Wood

Mr. Moser presented the list of SIAC members for 2020-2021. Ms. Bunch motioned to approve the members, Ms. Reeves seconded. Roll call: 5 ayes

F. Discuss the Current Mask Requirement & Ongoing Mitigation Protocols for the 2020-2021 School Year – Supt. Wood

Mr. Wood shared that we have followed public health guidelines this entire school year, Warren County Health Services has provided guidance that has been shared with the Board. Mr. Wood asked the Board to consider our most at-risk students when considering removing the mask mandate. Mr. Wood also shared advice from our legal representation sharing their recommendation that we keep the mask mandate through the end of this school year. Ms. Happe shared concerns from other districts in the state of Iowa. She shared that she has informally surveyed her teaching staff and many have said they prefer to keep the mandate in place as is. She also shared a concern that many students will have to return to virtual learning if we remove the mask mandate. The Board asked how social distancing was going, Mr. Wood shared that many classrooms can, but not all. Masks alone haven't saved us, but we have many layers of mitigation in place that are helping us succeed. The board discussed a timeline for making a decision for next year, and the desire to give families as much lead time as possible to make their own decisions.

G. Discuss/Approve Personnel Resignations

Supt. Wood

Ms. Reeves motioned to approve the resignations of Jill Gavin (HS Asst. Girls Basketball), Kyle Flynn (HS Soc. Studies Teacher, Head JH Football), and Madison Parrott (Head JH Softball). Mr. Bowlin seconded the motion. Roll call: 5 ayes

H. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations

Supt. Wood

Ms. Reeves motioned to approve Ross Turner (Transportation Supervisor/Bus Mechanic), Lynn Wente (PK-12 School Nurse), and Abbie Donehoo (Elem/JH Special Education Teacher). Ms. Held seconded the motion. Roll call: 5 ayes

I. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates

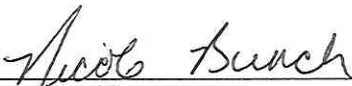
Supt. Wood

The Board will hold a public hearing for the Certified Budget and Budget Amendment on April 26, 2021 at 4:00pm. The next Board meeting will be held on May 11, 2021 at 4:00pm.


VII. Adjournment

Ms. Held motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Reeves. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 4:55pm

APPROVED



Board President



Business Manager