

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
April 17, 2024 – Minutes**

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The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:30 PM in the Central Office Board Room.

Board members present: Jacqueline Gremler, Chad Krueger, Ron Liberty, Nubs Ashbeck, Kendra Osness, Paul Proulx, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: None. Others Present: Shannon M. Murray, Superintendent; Dr. Kelley Strike, Director of Business Services; Amber Haluska, Director of Pupil Services & Special Education; Amanda Patterson, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Nick Wszalek, Director of Buildings & Grounds/Transportation; Ryan Martinovici, Director of Head Start/Early Education/4K; Trisha Detert, High School Principal; Allie Libby, High School Associate Principal; Heather Soberg, Elementary Principal; Megan Kautzer, Elementary Principal; Chris Hahn, Director of Activities; Max Black and Brooke Rudie, Student Board Representatives; approximately 11 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comment, Linda Yingling spoke and resigned from the school board effective immediately.

Yingling left the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

For recognition, the following were recognized: Sophie Koehler for being voted to be Treasurer for the SkillsUSA State Executive Board; and, Emily Bonack for receiving the Kohl Fellowship Award.

Chad Krueger and Kendra Osness were recognized for their years of service to our district.

Incoming board member Amber De Rizzo was introduced to the Board; her and Mike Hornischer will take office on April 22, 2024.

Student BOE Representatives Max Black and Brooke Rudie, updated the Board on high school activities including: Spring sports; the Golf Team did very well, with Jake Schmeltzer taking 2nd place at Marshfield; Track had their first outdoor Meet; baseball; softball; the musical, *Matilda*, will be held April 25-27; Great Speaker Cam Awesome presentation; in two weeks, seniors can pick up their caps and gowns; RYV Mental Health Awareness Walk; MHS Career Fair; and, DECA participating in Mini Business World at Church Mutual.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: School Forest Overnights; Northern Achievement Center; Pine River School for Young Learners; Food Service; Business Services; and, the Superintendent's Report.

Committee reports were shared with the Board from the Finance/HR, and Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committees.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the schedules, course offerings and registration materials for MAPS Summer School Enrichment 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to approve the 2024-2025 Elementary Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Osness to approve the 2024-2025 course descriptions for Prairie River Middle School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Woller to approve the 2024-2025 high school student handbook/agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the Head Start 2024-2025 T/TA plan. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Gremler to approve the new SEL coach positions [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Proulx to approve the 2024-25 fiscal year addendum of the Taher Food Service contract [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Osness to approve the purchase order for Laprea Education, Inc. for \$10,889.10 for decodable classroom library books. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the proposal from Lee Recreation for playgrounds at Kate Goodrich & Washington Elementary with Principals making final equipment and proposal selection. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Krueger to approve the amended CESA 9 contract to include an additional 1.5 day of CSI time. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the facilities projects [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the renewal of health insurance with Aspirus Health Plan with a 9.5% increase [as presented](#) for FY25. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Proulx to approve the renewal of the dental insurance for FY25 with reduced monthly rate deduction rate [as presented](#) with employee deduction portion absorbing the decrease. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the renewals for voluntary benefits [as presented](#). Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the additional step to the teacher compensation plan. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Proulx to approve a stipend for CTE Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the administrator and professional staff compensation plan and issue contracts for 24-25 and provide a 3% increase to staff not on a plan. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to eliminate the After School Program Coordinator support staff position held by Payton Lewandowski at the conclusion of 2023-2024 school year grant. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a referendum information recap and discussion about next steps.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler to approve the attached [personnel report](#), contingent upon release of contract for hirings and upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable. Motion carried unanimously.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the March 27, 2024, and April 10, 2024 meetings; the second reading and approval of Policy 6611 District-Supported/Sponsored Student Activity Accounts; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,307,183.99; and, donations totaling \$2,615.00. Motion carried with Woller abstaining from the approval of the April 10, 2024 minutes; and, Krueger abstaining from a portion of the March 27, 2024 minutes.

For Items for Future Meetings, a preliminary discussion at the next Facilities Committee on May 1, 2024 regarding referendum next steps. Mr. Murray updated the Board on where they are at with other sports using HUDL.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

#### Future Meetings

- Special Board Meeting - Organizational Meeting: Monday, April 22, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, April 25, 2024 @ 12:45 p.m. virtually
- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, April 29, 2024 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 @ 12:45 p.m. virtually
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

MOTION by Krueger, second by Ashbeck to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Kendra Osness  
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder