

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
May 15, 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: Amber De Rizzo, Mike Hornischer, Jacqueline Gremler, Ron Liberty, Nubs Ashbeck, Paul Proulx, and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Brett Woller. 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; Allie Libby, High School Associate Principal; Megan Kautzer, Elementary Principal; Andrew Caylor, Systems Technology Director; 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.

There was no public comment.

For recognition, the following were recognized: Staff members for their participation in a new Merrill High School course "Exploring Education as a Career": Jennifer Peterson, Merrill High School Coordinator; Tiffany Bucheger at Washington; Pam Suchocki at Kate Goodrich; Heather Rick at Kate Goodrich; Madison Boettcher at Kate Goodrich; Katilyn Lau at Washington; Stephanie Wilding/Heather Klimek at Kate Goodrich; Joeline Hanig at PRMS; Talena Bliven at Washington; Lisa Hass at Washington; Mary Small at MHS; and, Molly Schultz at Kate Goodrich. This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive exploration of the field of education as a potential career path. Participants will gain insights into the various aspects of the classroom setting. The course aims to help individuals make informed decisions about pursuing a career in education by fostering a deep understanding of the profession, its challenges, and its rewards. This was a brand new class and initiative Merrill High School piloted this year. We had 13 MAPS staff who dove into it and were willing to take on a student and show them the ropes of education. We also had Jennifer Peterson step up and oversee the matches, grading and evaluations to make this program successful. Also recognized were our departing student board representative, Brooke Rudie; and returning board representative, Max Black, for their year of service.

Parker Wagenaar, the new student school board representative for 2024-2025 was introduced to the Board.

Student BOE Representatives Max Black and Brooke Rudie, updated the Board on high school activities including: Track is wrapping up their season; next week, Tuesday through Thursday are finals, with a formalized schedule; Seniors played their last band concert on Monday; Advanced Placement test took place; Prom was last weekend, with Katie Heckendorf being crowned Queen and EJ Weix crowned King; Awards Ceremony coming up; Graduation; and after-graduation party. Rudie further thanked the following: Mr. Murray for the opportunity to sit on the Board; the Board for accepting her and making her feel a part of the team; and, Trisha Kubichek for allowing her to help with the Nest at the high school.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board from the following departments: Curriculum and Instruction; Pupil Services; Pine River School for Young Learners; Technology; Food Service; Business Services; and, the Superintendent's Report.

Board committee appointments for 2024-2025 were presented to the Board by President Blake.

MOTION by Proulx, second by De Rizzo to approve the appointments made by the Superintendent for committee membership of the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION by Liberty, second by Gremler to approve the 2024-2025 application for State Head Start Supplemental Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler to approve the 2024-2025 Head Start Federal COLA Supplement. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Proulx to approve the 8th grade Washington DC, New York City Trip for June of 2025. Motion carried with De Rizzo abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the MHS Band and Choir trip to Nashville during the Spring of 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Proulx to approve the 2024-2029 MADA contract. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the 260 new students open enrolling to MAPS, and also approve the 556 open enrolled students continuing at MAPS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the 47 new students indicating open enrollment out of MAPS, and also approve the 192 open enrolled students continuing to be open enrolled out of MAPS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler to approve the purchase of McGraw Hill Reveal Math for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II as the universal math resource for the next 6 school years, in the amount of \$86,011.45 to be paid from ESSER funds. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Ashbeck to approve the purchase order for Safe and Civil Schools training for \$28,000 and the purchase of training materials of approximately \$10,750 and travel expenses to be determined for the training facilitators for the 24-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve option 2 from Otis Service and Repair for elevator repair at Merrill High School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the school parking lot repairs, not to exceed \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by De Rizzo to approve the quote from Quality Roofing Inc in the amount of \$114,524 to replace the roof at Merrill High School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the quote from Central Carpet & Flooring, Inc. for carpeting at Prairie River Middle School for \$53,538. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the quote as [presented](#) by Krall's Masonry Contractors, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Proulx to approve adding a full-time Human Resources Director. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the donation of funds from Friends of the Evjue School Forest valued at \$3,300 for the Merrill School Forest landscaping by the pond shelter building. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the donation of a professional series brush mower from Friends of the Merrill School Forest valued at \$6,850 for the Merrill School Forest. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by De Rizzo to approve the donation of funds from Aspirus Merrill Hospital valued at \$6,000 for the Merrill High School Attendance Matters Program. Motion carried unanimously.

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 Liberty, second by Proulx to approve consent agenda items a through c, which includes minutes of the April 17, 2024, and April 22, 2024, meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,884,942.53; and, donations totaling \$3,983.72. Motion carried with De Rizzo abstaining from the April 17, 2024 minute approval; and, Hornischer abstaining from the April 17, 2024 and April 22, 2024 minute approval.

For Items for Future Meetings, President Blake said that we can check off the "Informing the community how the Board operates" unless the Board would like to add to that. Liberty said that he would like to see Coffee with the Superintendent once a month starting in the Fall. De Rizzo would like to expand on that and have the Chamber, Social Services and other agencies in town relay information out for us and engage the community.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

#### Future Meetings

- School Forest Advisory Meeting: Monday, May 20, 2024 @ 4 p.m. at Nels P. Evjue Merrill School Forest
- Special Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, June 6, 2024 @ 12:45 p.m. virtually
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2024

@ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room

- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Hornischer to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Ron Liberty  
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder