

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MENOMONIE AREA
MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN
AUGUST 23, 2021**

The budget hearing and annual meeting of the School District of the Menomonie Area were held in the auditorium at Menomonie High School, 1715 Fifth Street West, in Menomonie, Wisconsin, on Monday, August 23, 2021.

Board members in attendance were Chris Freeman, Mark Hillman, Angie Skillings, Charlie Schneider, Clinton Moses, Tanya Husby, Karl Palmer, Amy Riddle-Swanson, and Dave Styer. Directors and administrators in attendance were Dr. Joe Zydowsky, Shannon Branch, Keila Drout, Kristin Humphrey, Lori Smith, Sam Hoyt, Tonia Kowieski, Katie Krueger, Brian Seguin, and Leah Theder. Also in attendance were Recording Secretary Janet Quinn and videographer Steve Hanson. Electors and/or others registering attendance included Josie Pillman, Alexandra Hall, Bruce Trimbball, Chelsea Lovejoy, Abraham Smith, Thomas Pearson, Ryan Martin, Laurel Madsen, Sheila Thompson, Casey Martin, Eric Gates, Al Leipnitz, Carol Leipnitz, Yvonne Yaughn, Billie Walleen, Arhet Jongson, Justin Fults, Erin Alexander, John Alexander, Margaret Breisch, Joanne Keays, Brenda Vasey, Madison Olson, Sara Ohman, Rachel Henderson, Karen Styer, Jeanne Rothaupt, Mandy Little, Innisfree McKinnon, Sherpa Jacobs, Julie McRea, Mary Burketi, Julie Beston, Brent Creaser, Nancy Creaser, Warren Lang, Kelley Gowling, Mitch Ogden, Natalie Topper, Erika Svanve, Arthur Kneeland, Erik Evensen, Laurel Fraher, Leni Marshall, Ryan Jones, Melissa Jones, Amy Zuber-Seguín, Tiffany Ehlert, Stephanie May, Tina Lee, Emily Beck, John Michael Starling, Gretchen Yonka, Ellen Ochs, Michael Cooper, Jun Colline, Leslie Norris, Wayne Quilling, Katrina Anderson, Dana Leipnitz, Judy Kahl, Elizabeth Wolbert, Jim Uhlir, Aaron Vasey, James Stewart, Jamie Pond, Jeff Witt, Jan Witt, Joyce Uhlir, Amanda Prochnow, Tony Flom, Kathy Jacobson, Nick Arvold, Alisha Arvold, Zach Arvold, Mike Kennedy, Dan Paulson, Tom Bablick, Mark Jacobson, Gianna Bessert, Kathy McNally, Penny Burstad, Frederick Ochs, Andrew Williams, Chelsea Andrew, Rochelle Holmes, Charles Jones, Candy Anderson, Thomas Pearson, Jenny Dickman, Laurie Christianson, Ariel Cafarelli, Avigdor Edminster, Jodie Olson, Kurt Wang, Nathan Gaide Alexia Babrie, Michael Husby, Chad Barfknecht, Kjerstin Lee, Alison Feller, Josie Pillman, Bonnie Trimble, Karlee Witzel, Alexandra Hall, Brian Teague, Todd Zimmerman, Patrick Pesek-Herriger, Amy Zwolanek-Laird, Bruce Trimble, Ruth Reneson, Abraham Smith, Lisa Quinn-Lee, Dana Wanzer, Tonya Wiedenman, Richard Rothaupt, Jean Enyeart, Chad Bartlett, Jennifer Benrud, Cassandra Kopp, Emily Kopp, Marc & Ginger Hoppa, Christine Woodward, Jeff Sweat, June Woodward, Marion Lang, Mary Oehler, Dominique Stewart, Angela Ruchti, Nita Fitzgerald, Emi Stuemke, and Brandon Schenk

School board president David Styer convened the annual meeting and budget hearing at 6:01 p.m. Penny Burstad nominated David Styer to chair the annual meeting. Motion made to nominate Chris Freeman to chair the annual meeting. Styer was named chair of the meeting by a 78-56 show of hands vote.

Chairman Styer appointed Charlie Schneider as parliamentarian with Sam Hoyt and Tonia Kowieski as tellers. Mr. Styer recognized current and former board members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

The minutes of the annual meeting of August 24, 2020 were presented.

Amy Zuber-Seguín made a motion, seconded by Alexandra Hall, to adopt the Treasurer's Report and Audit Summary, as presented. The motion was approved by majority show of hands vote.

Chairman Styer welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced District Administrator Joe Zydowsky. Dr. Zydowsky recognized the administrative team, Board members, and district staff on the work done in the past year. Highlights for the

2020-21 school year included; Reopened all SDMA schools during COVID-19 pandemic; kept all schools open for in-person learning except for a brief closure at MHS; provided a virtual opportunity for families; expanded staffing levels to provide support during the pandemic; expanded use of technology in the district – especially key for supporting learning during quarantine; offered students as many opportunities in athletics and activities as possible; provided free meals throughout the district and offered a robust summer school program in 2021; adopted a new energy management policy; secure entrance at MMS & renovated weight room at MHS.

A review of district facilities included Menomonie High School, Menomonie Middle School, Downsville Elementary School, Knapp Elementary School, Oaklawn Elementary School, River Heights Elementary School, Wakanda Elementary School, the Administrative Service Center, and the Bjornson Education-Recreation site. The district's current demographics are as follows: a student population of 3,182 students, 255 teachers (4K-12), 67 paraeducators, 105 support staff personnel, 1 district administrator, 1 assistant superintendent, 8 directors, 7 principals, 1 associate principal/activities director, and 2 assistant principals.

Major initiatives for 2021-2022 include; COVID-19: keep schools open as much as possible; continue working on strategic plan, which includes career, college and life ready graduates, student social and emotional wellness, our talented workforce, parent and community partnerships, facilities and operations.

Leah Theder, Director of Business Services, reported that the total budget, which is expected to be \$56.8 million, includes several major funding categories and hundreds of "line items." Property values for the district over past recent years have increased. The estimated district valuation for 2021-2022 is projected to remain unchanged in the preliminary budget. The levy analysis shows a 0.30% decrease of \$230,535 in the tax levy for 2021-2022. The estimated mill rate is \$8.37, which is a decrease of \$0.11 from last year. This district will know the actual amount this fall, after the new property valuation has been received and the revenue cap has been recalculated.

Budget adjustments for 2021-2022 include the following additions: salary increases of 1.89%, health insurance increase of 3%, approved staffing plan, revenue cap at \$0, ESSER II & III Grant (COVID Aid), Participation in Model Schools Conference 2022.

Mrs. Theder reported a projected 2.81% increase in revenues and a 6.57% increase in expenses from 2020-2021. Operating expenses for 2021-2022 break down as follows: 74%-salaries and benefits (includes transfers for special education); 13%-purchased services/communication; 5%-transportation; 1%-equipment; 4%-supplies, books, software; and 3%-miscellaneous expenses. A look at operating revenues for 2021-2022 shows that 57% is from state equalization aid, 32% from local property taxes, 7% from federal grants, 2% from other state aids and grants, and 2% from miscellaneous revenues (rounded up to the nearest percent).

Liability for other post-employment benefits (OPEB) was at \$28.9 million on July 1, 2009, with a trust fund of \$351,507. The OPEB liability was at \$20.3 million on July 1, 2013, a reduction of 30% due to a phase-out of benefits effective July 1, 2012, and capped participation. The OPEB liability was at \$14.6 million on July 1, 2015 with a trust fund balance of \$2,275,843. An additional \$1.75 million was contributed to Fund 73 in 2017-2018. The OPEB liability was at \$7.2 million on July 1, 2020 with a trust fund balance of \$6,123,645. The OPEB liability was at \$6.8 million on July 1, 2021 with a trust fund balance of \$6,429,592.

Penny Burstad made a motion, seconded by Dan Paulson, that there shall be levied upon the taxable property of the School District of the Menomonie Area the sum of \$17,491,612 for the operation of district schools and for discharge of long-term debt obligations for the 2021-2022 school year. Abraham Smith made a motion to amend Resolution A, seconded by Rachel Henderson, whereas operation of the School District requires healthy students and staff as well as rapid notification of potential exposure to continuous diseases, the elector's direct SDMA to increase the goal index by \$200,000, to \$17,691,612, for the specific operational goal of hiring two additional nurses to perform contact tracing and

regular testing for COVID-19 in this school district. If this amount is in excess of the revenue limit, then this increase shall be obtained in the most expedient combination of non-recurrent payments as well as other grant funding. Amendment failed with 64-77 show of hands votes. Abraham Smith made a motion to amend Resolution A, seconded Laurel Madsen, whereas operation of the school district requires healthy students and staff with minimal exposure to contagious diseases, the electors estimate that there be an increase in funding for the specific operational goal of purchasing and distributing masks to any student, staff, or teachers who arrives during all school hours and to honor their own mask requests for the 2021-22 calendar year. Amendment failed with 54-65 show of hands votes. The motion for Resolution A: That there be levied upon the taxable property of the School District of the Menomonie Area the sum of \$17,491,612 for the operation of district schools and for discharge of long-term debt obligations for the 2021-2022 school year passed, as presented by majority show of hands.

Jim Swanson made a motion, seconded by Alex Hall, that members of the Board of Education be compensated with annual salaries as follows: Board President-\$1,000, and all other members \$800 each. The motion passed by a majority show of hands.

Penny Burstad made a motion, seconded by Tonia Kowieski, that members of the Board of Education be compensated for actual and necessary travel expenses incurred in performance of duties. The motion passed by a majority show of hands.

Several electors used their allotted time limit to discuss their concerns. Elector, Abraham Smith made a motion, seconded by Jim Swanson that the SDMA District not be allowed to use Public funds to defend themselves in a lawsuit in regards to COVID-19. Motion failed with a majority show of hands.

Penny Burstad made a motion, seconded by Ryan Martin to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. The motion carried with a majority show of hands vote.

 /s/ Clinton Moses

Clinton Moses, Clerk

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Minutes Approved: September 13, 2021