

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MENOMONIE AREA
MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN
AUGUST 22, 2022**

The budget hearing and annual meeting of the School District of the Menomonie Area were held in the Tiered Lecture Hall at Menomonie High School, 1715 Fifth Street West, in Menomonie, Wisconsin, on Monday, August 22, 2022.

Board members in attendance were Rachel Henderson, Mark Hillman, Karl Palmer, Amy Riddle-Swanson, Angie Skillings, Charlie Schneider, Abe Smith, Dominique Stewart, and Dale Dahlke. Directors and administrators in attendance were Dr. Joe Zydowsky, Shannon Branch, Keila Drout, Michael Kennedy, Sam Hoyt, Tonia Kowieski, Brian Seguin, and Leah Theder. Electors and/or others registering attendance included Ingmar Amberson, Tony Flom, Linda Uetz, Karen Styer, David Styer, Margaret Breisch, Alexandra Hall, Kaye Wurm, Joe Wurm, Erin Alexander, John Alexander, Allen Crowe, Gerald Wallen, Joyce Uhlir, Steven Endrad, Lois Shackleton, Julie Beston, Suzette Nieman, Kim Leach, Jim Uhlir, Dana Leipnitz, James Stewart, Jodie Olson, Gretchen Yonko, Josie Pillman, Amy Zuber-Seguin, Betty Verdon, and Clint Moses. Recording Secretary Jenny Mikesell and videographer Steve Hanson were also present.

School board president Charlie Schneider convened the annual meeting and budget hearing at 6:00 p.m. Charlie Schneider and Angela Skillings were nominated to chair the meeting. Schneider was named chair of the meeting by majority show of hands.

Chairman Schneider appointed Rachel Henderson as parliamentarian with Samantha Hoyt and Tonia Kowieski as tellers. Former board members Dave Styer and Clint Moses were recognized for their years of service as school board members and presented with gifts and certificates of commendation from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards. Schneider also recognized current board members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

The minutes of the annual meeting of August 23, 2021 were presented.

Leah Theder, Director of Business Services, presented the Treasurer's Report and Audit Summary printed on page six of the annual meeting booklet.

District Administrator Joe Zydowsky welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced and recognized the administrative team, board members, and district staff. Highlights for the 2021-22 school year included; all SDMA schools met or exceeded expectations on the 2021 state accountability report cards; all SDMA schools were open for in-person learning during delta and omicron waves of the COVID-19 pandemic; in-person and virtual learning options were available for all families; expanded staffing levels were continued to provide support during the pandemic; expanded use of technology in the district – especially key for supporting learning during quarantine; offered students a full slate of activities, clubs, and athletics; provided free meals throughout the district and offered a robust summer school program in 2022; reduced energy use in the district by 17%.

A review of district facilities included Menomonie High School, Menomonie Middle School, Downsview Elementary School, Knapp Elementary School, Oaklawn Elementary School, River Heights Elementary School, Wakanda Elementary School, the Administrative Service Center, and the Bjornson Environmental Center. The district's current demographics are as follows: a student population of 3,289 students, 255 teachers (4K-12), 69 paraeducators, 103 support staff personnel, 1 district administrator, 1 assistant superintendent, 8 directors, 7 principals, and 2 assistant principals.

Major initiatives for 2022-2023 include; continued work on the SDMA 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; continued recovery from the pandemic-

building trusting relationships with students; staffing shortages across the country; installation of MMS solar array; and construction of phase 3 of the MHS sports complex.

Leah Theder, Director of Business Services, reported that the total budget, which is expected to be \$63.18 million, includes several major funding categories and hundreds of “line items.” Property values for the district over recent years have increased. The estimated district valuation for 2022-2023 is projected to remain unchanged in the preliminary budget. The levy analysis shows a 1.60% decrease of \$271,464 in the tax levy for 2022-2023. The estimated mill rate is \$7.58, which is a projected decrease of \$0.13 from last year. The 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 2022-2023 include the following additions: salary increases of approximately 6.98% (4.7% + Steps), health insurance increase of 3%, revenue cap at \$0, ESSER III Grant (COVID Aid), phase III sports complex, replace Oaklawn fire system, and solar array project. Reductions include ESSER I Grant, and approved staffing plan.

Mrs. Theder reported a projected .08% decrease in revenues and a 6.55% increase in expenses from 2021-2022. Operating expenses for 2022-2023 break down as follows: 74%-salaries and benefits (includes transfers for special education); 12%-purchased services/communication; 5%-transportation; 2%-equipment; 4%-supplies, books, software; and 3%-miscellaneous expenses. A look at operating revenues for 2022-2023 shows that 59% is from state equalization and pupil aid, 30% from local property taxes, 7% from federal grants, 2% from other state aids and grants, and 2% from miscellaneous revenues.

Theder reported that the Fund 10 balance is sufficient for operational and cash flow needs which eliminates the need to short-term borrow. The general fund balance is currently projected to decrease in 2022-2023. The 2021-2022 Fund 46 balance is \$7,810,784.07 estimated to contribute \$810,000 in 2022-2023. The OPEB liability was at \$6.8 million on July 1, 2021 with a trust fund balance of \$6,429,592. No additional contribution to Fund 73 is planned in 2022-2023. The Fund 80 tax levy is projected to remain the same for 2022-2023.

Following the presentation of the budget, Zydowsky and Theder answered questions and reminded the audience that the figures presented was preliminary and that the school board would finalize the budget and set the tax levy in October after enrollment, property valuation, and state aid was certified by the state.

Brian Seguin made a motion, seconded by Angela Skillings, that there be levied upon the taxable property of the School District of the Menomonie Area the sum of \$16,697,399 for the operation of district schools and for discharge of long-term debt obligations for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion passed by majority show of hands.

Tonia Kowieski made a motion, seconded by Samantha Hoyt, 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.

Margaret Breisch, made a motion, seconded by Alexandra Hall, that the 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.

Margaret Breisch made a motion, seconded by Ingmar Amberson to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried with a majority show of hands vote.

/s/ Abe Smith

Abe Smith, Clerk

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Approved: September 12, 2022