

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MENOMONIE AREA  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER  
215 PINE AVENUE E, MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020, 5:30 P.M.**

**I. OPENING ITEMS**

- A. Call to Order** – President David Styer called the meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of the Menomonie Area to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020, in the boardroom of the Administrative Service Center at 215 Pine Avenue E in Menomonie, Wisconsin.
- B. Roll Call and Quorum** – Roll call showed eight board members present: Penny Burstad, Chris Freeman (via telephone), Tanya Husby, Amy Riddle-Swanson, Charlie Schneider, David Styer, James Swanson, and Tricia Thompson. Board member Clinton Moses arrived at 5:32 p.m. President Styer declared a quorum and noted that the meeting had been duly noticed. Administrators in attendance were Joe Zydowsky, Samantha Hoyt, Tonia Kowieski, Katie Krueger, Leah Theder, and Brian Seguin. Also in attendance was Recording Secretary Jamie Krista. Electors and/or others registering attendance included Abbie Aasen and Mary Oehler.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance and Reading of Mission Statement** – Styer led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the district’s mission statement.
- D. Agenda Order and Approval/Revision** – The agenda was approved as presented.
- E. Recommendations and Commendations** - Board commendation was presented to Grace Tiffany.
- F. Student Representative Communications** - Maisah Wilson and Kira Nevin reported on different events and activities at MHS, as well as the student council survey about reopening MHS.
- G. Community Communications** - Electronic communications were received from the following: Kendrick Vanderhoff and the Menomonie Student Union. Community communications were read by recording secretary Jamie Krista.
- H. Board Member/Superintendent Communications** – Board members reported on their participation in recent board- and community-related activities, and communications they had received. District Administrator Zydowsky noted that the survey results from the Menomonie Education Association were shared with the Board.
- I. Revenue and Expenditure Reports for the Month Ended October 2020** - Business Manager Leah Theder presented the expenses by function, expenses by object, and revenue reports for November 2020.
- J. Monthly Employment Report** – The board reviewed the monthly non-certified staff employment report for November 2020, which included 4 resignations, 7 new hires, and 1 transfer.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Action to Approve Consent Agenda** – Moses made a motion, seconded by Schneider, that the board approve the following consent agenda items, as presented: 1) Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2020, Special Board Meeting of November 19, 2020, and Special Board Meeting of November 23, 2020; 2) Financial Reports for November 2020; and, 3) Donations Exceeding \$1,000 for November 2020, as presented. The motion passed by unanimous electronic vote.

**III. ACTION AGENDA**

- A. Action to Approve 2021-2022 District Calendar** - Swanson made a motion, seconded by Moses, that the board approve the 2021-2022 district calendar, as presented. The motion passed by unanimous electronic vote.

**IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS/POLICY REVIEW**

- A. COVID-19 Report** – Dr. Zydowsky shared a report with the board that included information on the current COVID-19 pandemic. Dunn County currently has 3,165 confirmed cases, 2,833 of those cases have been released from isolation. There are currently 332 active cases in Dunn County and there have

been 20 deaths. According to tracking by DHS, the current COVID-19 activity level for Dunn County is very high, the burden level is 910 and a trajectory that is stable. District administrators have developed a dashboard for tracking district data related to COVID-19, with the priority focus on student and staff cases and school exclusions. Dr. Zydowsky continues to share this information with staff and families in his weekly updates. The CDC released new guidance to allow for abbreviated quarantine options for some situations. New guidelines have been developed for operationalizing these options in the SDMA. MHS returned to in-person learning today after being moved to remote instruction on November 11, 2020. The Free Meals for Kids program was extended for all children through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Zydowsky shared staff concerns with the Board and discussed how the district prioritized planning time during PD days and added planning time in November.

- B. October Network Outage Report** - Director of Technology Katie Krueger provided board members with an incident report regarding the district wide network outage that occurred from 3:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2020 to 4:03 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 2020.
  - C. Review Number of Regular and Special Education Spaces Available for Open Enrollment** - Director of Pupil Services Tonia Kowieski reported on projected open enrollment space for the 2021-2022 school year. Regular education seats are available as there is not a class size limit, however elementary seats into a certain elementary site may not be guaranteed based on Board Policy 343.1, Class Size and Combined and Split Grades. Special Education seats are determined by need and availability.
  - D. Review Audit Report** - Board members reviewed the audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the SDMA for the year ended June 30, 2020, as performed by Wipfli LLP of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
  - E. Review 2020-2021 Budget Revisions** - Director of Business Services Leah Theder presented an overview of the budget revisions for 2020-2021.
  - F. Discuss Censure of Board Member Jim Swanson** - Board member Burstad requested the censure of board member Jim Swanson regarding multiple messages sent via text and email to District Administrator Joe Zydowsky that are not in accordance with board policy 165, 165-exhibit, 161, 11, 252.1 and 224. Board members discussed Swanson's behavior at length. Action to censure board member Swanson will be placed on the January 11, 2021, agenda.
  - G. Discuss Policy 252.1-Development of Administrative Rules** - Board member Freeman discussed proposed changes to Policy 252.1, to clarify the power that has been entrusted to the superintendent. Dr. Zydowsky reminded board members of their option to call a special board meeting. Board members Swanson and Riddle-Swanson would like board member Freeman to present a draft of possible updates to Policy 252.1-Development of Administrative Rules for discussion at the January 11, 2020, board meeting.
  - H. Discuss Proposal for Third-Party Mediation** - Board member Freeman suggested the potential for hiring a 3rd party mediator to work with board members in regards to recent disagreements on the implementation of the reopening plan. Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) will be asked to present options of mediation available at the next meeting.
  - I. Items Related to Next Meeting Dates, Board Committees, and Reports** - Mid-Year Budget Hearing, on January 11, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., at the ASC, Regular School Board Meeting, on January 11, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., at the ASC, and Special School Board Meeting, on January 25, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the ASC.
- V. ADJOURNMENT** - Burstad made a motion, seconded by Swanson to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

/s/ Clinton Moses

Clinton Moses, Clerk

jlk

Minutes Approved: January 11, 2021

\*More information related to the Board meeting can be found through the [school district website](#).