

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MENOMONIE AREA
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER
215 PINE AVENUE E, WISCONSIN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024, 5:45 P.M.**

I. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Call to Order**– President Rachel Henderson called the meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of the Menomonie Area to order at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, November 11, 2024, in the Board Room of the Administrative Service Center at 215 Pine Avenue E, Menomonie, Wisconsin.
- B. Roll Call and Quorum**– Roll call showed nine board members present: Abe Smith, Angela Wolf, Rachel Henderson, Michelle Dupree, Dominique Stewart, Emily Hines, Amy Riddle-Swanson, Dale Dahlke, and Amber Kersting. President Henderson declared a quorum and noted that the meeting had been duly noticed. The administrators in attendance were Joe Zydowsky, Brian Seguin, Tonia Kowieski, Eric Nelson, Katherine Krueger, Samantha Hoyt, Casey Drake, Bart Boettcher, and Mike Kennedy. Also, in attendance were recording secretary Jenny Mikesell and videographer Steve Hanson. Electors and others registering in attendance included Josie Pillman, and James Stewart.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance Reading of Mission Statement**- Henderson 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**- There were no recommendations or commendations.
- F. Highlight on Youth**- The board reviewed the November Highlight on Youth presentation.
- G. Student Representative Communications**- The board heard from Teyha Johnson and Max Buhr, Student Council representatives, about current activities at Menomonie High School.
- H. Community Communications**- Community communications in attendance included Josie Pillman. She had three minutes to address the Board of Education regarding her topic or concern.
- I. Revenue and Expenditure Reports for the Months Ended October 2024**- The board reviewed the monthly expenses by function, expenses by object, and revenue reports for October 2024.
- J. Monthly Employment Report (October 2024)**- The board reviewed the monthly non-certified staff employment report for October 2024.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Action to Approve Consent Agenda**- Kersting made a motion, seconded by Dupree, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: 1) Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 14, 2024; and Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of October 28, 2024; 2) Financial Reports for October 2024; 3) Donations Exceeding \$1,000 for October 2024; and 4) MHS Choir department out-of-state travel request to the Dorian Vocal Festival at Luther College in Decorah, IA, as presented. The motion passed 9-0 by electronic vote.

III. PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Action to Approve Personnel Consent Agenda**– Stewart made a motion, seconded by Hines, to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda, which includes the retirement of Elizabeth Schuster, 3rd-grade teacher at Oaklawn Elementary School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year. The motion passed unanimously by electronic vote.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS/POLICY REVIEW

- A. **Discuss 2025-26 Calendar**- The board reviewed the latest draft of the 2025-2026 school year calendar, which will be shared with staff on November 12. The QIC group is scheduled to discuss the calendar during their meeting on December 2. It is anticipated that the Board will consider the calendar for approval at their meeting on December 9.
- B. **Discuss New Course Proposals for 2025-26**- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Seguin presented a recommendation from the ELA department at the high school, which includes a new semester-long course titled "Mustang Messenger" for MHS students in grades 11 and 12. This recommendation will be submitted to the board for approval at the next meeting. Additionally, Seguin shared several changes that do not require board approval. English III will be renamed American Literature I and II, and English IV will be renamed British Literature I and II. Existing ELA electives—Communication for Life and Work, Creative Writing II, Literature and Film, Sci-Fi, and Fantasy, and Voices of the Holocaust—will count toward fulfilling graduation requirements starting in the 2025-2026 school year for juniors and seniors.
- C. **Revisions to Policy 343.46, Early College Credit Program (First Reading)**- Board members reviewed and provided feedback on the proposed updates to Policy 343.46, Early College Credit Program. The modifications will be made and presented to the board for consideration in December.
- D. **Review Revisions to Rule 343.45, Procedures for Handling Course Applications Through the Technical College Course Program (Start College Now Program)**- The administrative team has reviewed the expectations for programming that allows students to take time off for instructional activities outside of MHS. The board reviewed the suggested updates and provided feedback on Rule 343.45. Modifications will be made and presented for consideration in December.
- E. **Annual Free & Reduced Meals Eligibility Report**- SDMA Director of Business Services Eric Nelson shared the Annual Free and Reduced Meals Eligibility Report update. 41.54% of SDMA students qualify for free or reduced meals, a slight decrease of 1.42% from last year's figure of 42.96%.
- F. **Set Date for Mid-Year Budget Hearing**- The board set the Mid-Year Budget Hearing for Monday, January 13, 2025, at 5:00 pm, at the High School. The regular board meeting will follow at 5:45 p.m.
- G. **Discuss 2025-26 Budget Plan and Timeline**- The Board reviewed the plan and estimated timeline for processing next year's budget.
- H. **Discuss Policies and Rules for Public Participation at Board Meetings**- Riddle-Swanson requested that this be added as an agenda item to discuss Policy and Rule 187, which relates to public participation at board meetings. Her request included considering modifying the policy language to ensure that community communications are relevant to the meeting agenda. Although they discussed this issue in depth, no decision was made regarding any changes to the policy.
- I. **Discuss Policies and Rules for the Selection, Evaluation, and Reconsideration of Educational Materials**- Riddle-Swanson asked the board to review the guidelines of Policy and Rule 361. The board members discussed the one-year timeframe for reconsideration requests and agreed to gather more information from the State Education Convention before altering the timeline for requests.

