

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MENOMONIE AREA
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
615 24TH AVENUE WEST, MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025, 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 pm on Monday, February 24, 2025, in the Cafeteria at River Heights Elementary School, 615 24th Street West, Menomonie, Wisconsin.
- B. Roll Call and Quorum**– A roll call indicated that nine board members were present: Rachel Henderson, Amy Riddle-Swanson, Abe Smith, Michelle Dupree, Emily Hines, Amber Kersting, Dale Dahlke, Dominique Stewart, and Angela Wolf. President Henderson declared that a quorum was established and noted that the meeting had been properly announced. The administrators in attendance included Joe Zydowsky, Samantha Hoyt, Brian Seguin, Tonia Kowieski, Katie Krueger, Bart Boettcher, Mike Kennedy, and Casey Drake. Community members present were Josie Pillman, Allen Crowe, and Chad Bartlett. Also, in attendance were recording secretary Jenny Mikesell and videographer Steve Hanson.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance and Reading of Mission Statement**- Rachel 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**- Kristi Johnson received a commendation for her role as a paraeducator at Menomonie High School. Teachers Amy Zuber, Rachel Scott, and William Graf were recognized for their work as Science Olympiad coaches at Menomonie Middle School.
- F. Community Communications**- There were no community communications.

II. PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Action to Approve Personnel Consent Agenda**– Stewart made a motion, seconded by Kersting, to approve the following Personnel Consent Agenda items, as presented: 1) The resignation of Allison Horne, Speech and Language Pathologist at River Heights Elementary School, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year. 2) The resignation of Lisa Mueller, 4th-grade teacher at River Heights Elementary School, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year. 3) The employment of Erin Sullivan, School Psychologist at Wakanda Elementary School, effective August 13, 2025. 4) The employment of Hannah Schulte, 8th-grade ELA teacher at Menomonie Middle School, effective August 13, 2025. 5) The employment of Seth Kreibich, World Languages teacher at Menomonie Middle School, effective August 13, 2025. 6) The employment of Vanessa Kern, Kindergarten teacher at River Heights Elementary School, effective August 13, 2025; and 7) The employment of Angela Barrios, Kindergarten teacher River Heights Elementary School, effective August 13, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

III. ACTION AGENDA

- A. Action to Approve 2025-26 MHS Course Recommendations**- Dupree made a motion, seconded by Wolf, to Approve the 2025-26 MHS Requests to Run Courses Under 15 Students, as presented. The motion passed with a vote of 9-0.
- B. Action to Approve 2025-26 Salary Scales and Contracts**- Smith made a motion, seconded by Hines, to Approve the 2025-26 Salary Scales and Contracts, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS/POLICY REVIEW

- A. Discussion of Donation Pledge from National Grid Renewables-** Dr. Zydowsky presented the donation pledge agreement from National Grid Renewables for the Muddy Creek Solar project in Dunn County. The project is in the permitting phase, with operations anticipated to begin in late 2027 or 2028. Annual donations to the SDMA will be based on expected power production. The agreement will be brought back for board consideration at the next meeting.
- B. Review Proposals for ParentSquare Communications Tool-** The Board reviewed a proposal to adopt the ParentSquare communications tool. This all-in-one platform aims to streamline and enhance communication among schools, parents, students, and community members. If adopted, ParentSquare will replace several existing systems, including the Skylert Mass Messaging System and various free communication tools teachers and coaches use to connect with families. Overall, implementing ParentSquare will help simplify and improve communication. The recommendation will be brought back for board consideration at the next meeting.
- C. Review Initial Elementary Class Size Projections for 2025-26-** The board reviewed projections for elementary class sizes for the upcoming school year and discussed Downsville's low-class size in its kindergarten section along with strategies to increase student numbers in that section.
- D. Review CESA 10 Shared Service Contracts for 2025-26-** The Board reviewed the Shared Services Contract and the Environmental Health and Safety Program Agreement with CESA 10. These contracts will be brought back for board approval at the next meeting.
- E. Review CESA 11 Shared Service Contracts for 2025-26-** The Board also reviewed the CESA 11 Shared Services Contract and will approve it at the next meeting in March.
- F. Strategic Planning Update-** Kersting provided an update on the district's strategic planning process, highlighting significant progress that has been made. The next steps involve finalizing key themes and creating a draft survey, which is set to be distributed in March. Additionally, student focus groups will be scheduled, and the steering committee will review the key themes during their meeting in March.
- G. Review Extracurricular Staff Contract Requests-** The board reviewed requests for extra and co-curricular staff contracts from January 24, 2025, to February 20, 2025.
- H. Review Items Related to Next Meeting Dates, Board Committees, and Reports-** Health/Medical Committee Meeting on February 27, 2025, at 3:50 pm, ASC. Regular School Board Meeting on March 10, 2025, 5:45 pm, at Wakanda Elementary School. Strategic Planning Steering Committee Meeting on March 11, 2025, 6:00 pm, at ASC. WASB Day at the Capitol on March 12, 2025. Spring Break- No school March 17-21, 2025. Special School Board Meeting on March 24, 2025, 5:45 pm, Knapp Elementary School. Joint/PAC Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, CESA 11 in Turtle Lake. Regular School Board Meeting on April 14, 2025, 5:45 pm, Downsville Elementary School. No school April 18 & 21, 2025. Strategic Planning Steering Committee Meeting on April 23, 2025, 6:00 pm, ASC. Special School Board Meeting, April 28, 2025, 5:45 pm, ASC.

V. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Action to move to closed session for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c), Wisconsin Statutes-** At 6:57 pm the board took a short recess before moving into closed session.

VI. ADJOURNMENT-

A. Action to Adjourn- Following the closed session, Kersting made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

/s/Dominique Stewart

Dominique Stewart, Clerk

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Minutes Approved: March 10, 2025