

WILLIAMS BAY SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Saturday, July 18, 2020

Board Members Present: Jack Lothian, Dianna Woss (virtually), Dave Ripple, Karolyn Nelson and Dr. Patrick Peyer

Administration Present: District Administrator Dr. William White, Middle/High School Principal Brent Mansky, Elementary Principal Ali Bond, Business Manager Ben Prather, Special Education Director, Kassie McOmer, Maintenance Director Ryan Quinn.

Guests: Darla Thiel, Mary Kavanagh, Kara Rowbotham, Matt Dunlap, and Lisa Schmelz

Jack Lothian called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.

A. Discuss Board Operations

Jack Lothian began the discussion by stating he would like the board to set ground rules for how they will interact during meeting with one another and administration as well as how they will interact outside board meetings. He indicated that he felt there were no current issues but felt it would be good to establish ground rules for the future. He also indicated he would like the board to determine their focus for the upcoming school year. The board members brainstormed potential ground rules that they would like to operate by. Those rules included:

Respect the person that has the floor.

Always utilize civil language.

Silent cell phones prior to the meeting. If a member must take a call, please step out of the meeting space. Every member of the board should have their say.

Stay on topic or agenda item.

Dave Ripple brought up public comments and pointed out the board had been gracious with allowing the public to speak. Members talked about how much time the public should be allocated for speaking. Dianna Woss stated that policy provides for speakers during public comments have no more than five minutes. The discussion on public comments finished with a consensus that the board president had discretion to allow more than five minutes in accordance with board policy. Additionally, the Board agreed that public comments are for the school board to hear but the board will not make motions or act on the issues raised during the current meeting.

Patrick Peyer questioned if the Board utilized Robert's Rules of Order. Jack Lothian indicated that the board used a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order. Board policy indicates Robert's Rules of Order is implemented when there is a disagreement that necessitates it's use.

The Board discussed Policy 224 – Board – District Administrator Relations. Jack Lothian indicated that Dr. Anderson and the board had worked well together, and he wanted that to continue with the new district administrator, Dr. White. The board discussed maintaining open communication and sharing comments/concerns expressed directly to them with the district administrator.

The board concluded discussion on this item and asked that it be put on the next Board agenda so they could continue the discussion. The board also directed Dr. White to begin working with the Board Policy Committee to begin reviewing policies and revising as needed.

B. Discuss 2020-2021 Budget

Ben Prather, Business Manager provided a presentation to the Board on the historical budget information for the district, general budget information and the status of the 2020 – 2021 budget. His presentation included information about revenue limits, levy/mill rate, enrollment, equalization aid, comparisons to other districts, long term debt schedule, and seven year look back at revenue and expenses over time. The Board discussed the various funds. They looked at how expenditures and revenues have changed in the current, previous, and next year's budget. Dave Ripple inquired about the percentage of the economically disadvantage population and how the district is addressing this increase. Dr. White indicated that during the discussion item regarding the District Strategic Plan the board would be looking at the goal related to finance and discussing possible action steps.

C. Discuss Reopening School Plan

Dr. White presented the draft of the Williams Bay School District Reopening Plan that was developed by a committee of staff and administration. He shared that twenty-one staff members and the administrative team had met on two dates to work on the plan. The committee reviewed the results from the surveys given to students, parents, and staff on remote learning and the survey administered to families for the return to school. Dr. White highlighted specific aspects of the plan and then asked Mrs. Bond and Mr. Mansky to share the parts of the plan that were specific to their buildings. Ms. McOmber shared information from the plan as it pertained to Special Education and the social-emotional needs of all students. Mr. Quinn shared steps that are being taken to sanitize the facility, improve air quality, and steps to help maintain social distancing. The five teachers present were asked to share their feelings about the plan and their thoughts on returning to school. Board discussion included questions about social distancing in the classrooms, cleaning playground equipment, social distancing during lunches and cleaning areas before and after students eat, distancing on buses, and the return to athletics. The Board thanked the teachers for sharing their viewpoints and for their work helping to develop the plan.

The Board discussed the listening sessions and how parent feedback will be gathered. Dr. White indicated that the draft plan would be shared with all families and placed on the district website for public to review. He shared that he would select a date for the listening session, and it would be held in the elementary gym. The board also discussed how the district will know if parents would send their child(ren) to school for face-to-face instruction or participate in distance learning. Dr. White indicated a survey would be sent to families asking them to share their plans for the fall. He also stated that a letter would be sent to staff asking them to let the district of their intent to return to employment in the district.

D. Discuss District Strategic Plan

Dr. White reviewed the strategic plan and indicated he would like to make this a focus point for the 2020-2021 school year. He stated this should be a living document that drives discussion and decisions. He shared that he would put discussion of one of the four goals on each of the four Saturday work sessions. Dr. White spoke about goal three: Manage facilities and resources in a responsible, efficient, and effective manner. He referred to Mr. Prather's presentation and shared potential action steps for the board to consider. The board discussed the action steps including how much of a fund balance to maintain, paying off long-term debt, managing specific funds, and development of the annual budget.

The board requested this item be placed on the next board agenda for continued discussion.

Dave Ripple made a motion, seconded by Patrick Peyer to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes taken by Dr. William White