

WILLIAMS BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
August 23, 2021

Board Members Present: J. Lothian, K. Nelson, E. Nichols, P. Peyer, D. Woss

Absent: None

Administration Present: Elementary Principal Dr. A. Bond  
Middle/High School Principal B. Mansky  
Directory of Special Education K. McOmber  
Business Manager B. Prather

Guests: 44

I. Call to Order

President J. Lothian called the meeting to order at 7:03. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. Communication and Public Comments

Craig Pape addressed the board regarding his opposition to the requirement of wearing masks while in the hallways. He feels this is inconsistent with the rest of the plan.

Jamie Morava stated freedom of choice.

Tara Wegner addressed the board regarding questions that she had regarding the SEL curriculum including how the need for such was determined, what previous attempts there were, how this program was selected and how it is going to be implemented in each classroom.

Deb Pape spoke to the board about her concerns related to the SEL curriculum and how it is being implemented.

Heather Perkins spoke to the board to the red flags the SEL curriculum set off for her and questions that she has.

Heidi Stocking voiced her concerns regarding the SEL curriculum. She believes that SEL is important but parents should be aware of what is being taught.

Melody Bartel spoke to the board about character development being a parental duty not what parents want school to teach their children. She also requested full disclosure of the SEL plan.

Lelan Merunde addressed the board with her concerns regarding the SEL curriculum. She would like a lot more transparency and feels the concerns being presented are valid. The concerns need to be taken seriously.

A citizen spoke to the board regarding her experiences living in the State of California and how she is starting to see the same things here in Wisconsin. She feels the district has no business teaching anything not math, science or history.

Robert Kantor let the board know that he was shocked to hear what is going on in the schools.

Jen Galvin addressed the board with support for the SEL curriculum. She also said that she is grateful for the school, the small class sizes and the focus on community

### III. Reports

A. Athletic Boosters – None

B. Athletic Director - None

C. District Administrator - None

D. Middle/High School Principal – Mr. Manksy reported that his notes were as presented. He also spoke to the board about how the first day of inservice went and the focus for the rest of the week. He also spoke about a new Wisconsin Redefining Ready pilot program that the school is participating in. The program is another way to measure and share with the community the progress that kids are making above and beyond ACT type assessments.

E. Elementary Principal - Dr. Bond's notes were as presented. She also reported that staff is excited for the new school year. The elementary will continue to focus on climate, culture and community. Dr. Bond also noted that the walking path has been extended further.

F. Student Services – K. McOmber reported that her notes were as presented.

G. School Board – None

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. School Board Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on July 26, 2021 and the Special Board of Education Meeting held on July 24, 2021.

2. Bills Payable

Approve bills payable for July 23, 2021 to August 18, 2021, for Funds 10, 21, 27, and 50 check numbers 81316 to 81411, and wire transfer numbers 107-111.

D. Woss / E. Nichols motion and second to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Transactions

P. Peyer / E. Nichols motion and second to approve the personnel transactions listed on the August 23, 2021, Personnel Transaction sheet. Carried 5-0.

C. Approve Fall 2021 Start College Now Request

P. Peyer / E. Nichols motion and second to approve the Gateway Technical College request for the Fall of 2021 for Ian Pierce. Carried 5-0.

D. Approve Deletion of Policy 542 - Support Staff Positions

E. Nichols / D. Woss motion and second to approve to delete Policy 542 - Support Staff Positions. Carried 5-0.

E. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Elkhorn Area School District for Options Virtual Charter School Access for the 2021-2022 School Year

P. Peyer / E. Nichols motion and second to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement Under Wisconsin Statutes § 66.0301 by and between the School District of Williams Bay and Elkhorn Area School District for participation in the Options Virtual Charter School for the 2021-2022 School Year Carried 5-0.

F. Approve Resolution Authorizing Temporary Borrowing in An Amount Not to Exceed \$2,500,000; Issuance of Tax and Revenue Anticipation Promissory Notes; and Participation in the PMA Levy and Aid Anticipation Notes Program

K. Nelson / E. Nichols motion and second to approve the resolution authorizing temporary borrowing in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000; issuance of tax and revenue anticipation promissory notes; and participation in the PMA Levy and Aid Anticipation Notes Program. The parameters of resolution allow the District Administrator, Business Manager or Board President to execute the tran pool transaction. Carried 5-0.

G. Discuss and Possibly Change the December Regular Meeting Date

E. Nichols / D. Woss motion and second to approve changing the December Regular Monthly Board Date to December 20, 2021, Carried 5-0.

## V. Discussion Items

A. Maintenance Project Update

Mr. Quinn gave a summary of the summer maintenance projects that were completed and where a few unfinished projects stand. He also reported on how the district is utilizing bi-polar ionization and other HVAC improvements. He also highlighted what cleaning steps will be taken when students return.

B. COVID-19 Update

J. Lothian started the discussion regarding the SEL curriculum. He noted that this is not a new program, but rather a new label and it is the same thing as what we had as children in guidance. He said that we are not teaching kids that people are white supremacists, indoctrinating children or bending their minds. Williams Bay as a community has taken part in SEL activities such as The Bay Reads and Choose Kind. He asked for patience and to know that the board is listening and will make changes as needed. Administration is working on getting all the information together and distributed out.

Ms. McOmber, the district's School Psychologist and Special Education Director gave a presentation on the SEL Curriculum. The presentation included information regarding what is currently being taught at all three schools, what precipitated the change, and what other district's in the area are doing. She

apologized for the lack of communication and assured the board and attendees that she is not pushing any agendas, but that she is a true advocate and champion for students.

Dr. Bond spoke about the SEL curriculum that is currently being offered at the Elementary School called Second Step. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade spend 30 minutes each week with Mrs. Pye, the Elementary Guidance Counselor. This program has been in place before Dr. Bond joined the district and teaches kids the soft skills that they need to be successful. She encourages parents to talk to their kids about what happens in guidance, review the weekly Essentials newsletter which is included in the Nibbles newsletter and posted online.

Mr. Mansky gave a detailed overview of the previous SEL curriculum that was in place, how well it was working and why a change was needed. He also explained how the new curriculum was chosen and why. He reiterated that there is no one that cares more about what goes on in the school than the staff of the district. He also noted again that there will be detailed information emailed out tomorrow including links to items. He encouraged parents to talk to administrators at any time regarding questions or concerns.

P. Peyer inquired as to how parents will be able to see what their children are doing regarding SEL. Mr. Mansky said that parents will be able to see sample lesson plans and that the administration will be happy to meet and show what is being taught.

E. Nichols stated that the school board needs to and will listen. As a board, we need to address these fears with the parents and need to find a way to share with the parents what the curriculum looks like. Everyone involved should have a clear understanding.

Discussion was then held regarding the reopening plan's requirement of students and staff wearing masks in the hallways during passing time. J. Lothian stated that this requirement was added as a concession, as passing time is a more high-risk time, with a large number of kids being together in a small space. Concerns about how this requirement would be implemented and policed as well as issues with consistency in the plan - for example, masks being worn at lunch or before school when students gathered were brought to Dr. White and the principals met with J. Lothian to discuss the issue.

J. Lothian stated that it was something that was added that was not thought through all the way and believes that it is something that the board should look at changing.

Discussion followed regarding changing the reopening plan to highly recommend masks in the hallways from requiring them. Overall, the board was in favor.

J Lothian also mentioned that a staff member questioned if there would be COVID leave this year. B. Prather stated that the extra leave was - funded by the federal government that has expired. He also stated that he would work on a cost to the district analysis to offer covid days this year. It was also asked if there was a way to share sick days if someone becomes sick. The board requested this be an agenda item next month to discuss further.

## VI. Public Comments

J. Lothian stated that board policy states that public comment is limited to a total of 30 minutes unless voted on by the board.

K. Nelson / E. Nichols motion and second to extra public comments an additional 30 minutes, limiting each speaker to five minutes. Carried, 5-0.

Robert Kantor addressed the board regarding the proper type of mask to wear and how he believes the district's intentions are good, but are failing our students.

Katie Lensmith thanked Mr. Mansky for his sincere apology. She then addressed the board regarding the concerns she has regarding the SEL curriculum.

Megan Scott addressed the board regarding her concern that parents were not polled regarding masks.

Deb Pape expressed her concerns about the SEL Curriculum. She asked that there be a parent meeting at night where parents can view the curriculum. She also asked the board to have a choice in masking or not masking.

Lilan Merunde spoke to the board regarding her concerns with the SEL Curriculum, privacy concerns around her daughter's vaccine status and how COVID/vaccinations are spoken about in the school setting by staff.

Ann Fulmer spoke to the board regarding her thoughts about the SEL Curriculum.

Sara Reynolds addressed the board with her concerns regarding COVID and the SEL topic.

Robert Kantor spoke to the board again regarding his experience with COVID and masking.

A citizen addressed the board regarding her beliefs on the science behind masks not working. She also spoke about the SEL program being social/emotional abuse.

## VII. Adjourn

At 9:06, P. Peyer / E. Nichols motion and second to adjourn. Carried, 5-0.

Ed Nichols, Clerk  
Ds 08/24/2021