

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
January 27, 2015

With Board members already logged in to BoardBook, this January 27, 2015, meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Linda Gratz at 12:04 p.m. Members present were Ms. Barbara Herrmann, Mr. Dave Longmeyer, Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Karen Rohrer, Ms. Catherine Shallue, Mr. Keith Shaw (arrived 12:06 p.m.), and Ms. Linda Gratz. Also present were Superintendent Marcia Flaherty and Board secretary Rebecca McLafferty.

Dave Nickels voiced a concern regarding referendum wording that listed specific amounts by which each referendum would exceed the revenue limit. He cautioned that using the word “by” before the specific amounts would lead taxpayers to believe the district would use the entire amount specified, even if a portion of the money might not be used. The concern was brought to his attention by correspondence received. Other Board members concurred to receiving the same correspondence, and also being concerned about the wording. Nickels asked if alternative wording could be used, such as “up to \$1,000,000”. Considerable discussion ensued regarding DPI requirements and possible stipulations. In light of the pending deadline for referendum approval, Director of Business Services Ken Mischler left the meeting to phone Quarles & Brady for legal clarification.

Linda Gratz initiated discussion regarding getting referendum information to the general public. Superintendent Flaherty said that Monroe Elementary School Principal Bill Bertsche will spearhead the informational part of the April 2015 referendum. It was suggested that Director Mischler meet with local financial institutions to explain the district’s financial situation in relation to the upcoming referendum, to enable community corroboration. Dave Longmeyer summarized Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin’s referendum history and suggested that Board members view the Fort Atkinson School District’s website.

Director Mischler returned to the meeting. After speaking with Brian Lanser from Quarles & Brady, Mischler confirmed that the wording on the referendums does need to set forth a specific dollar amount. It was recommended that other wording (such as “up to a specific amount”) not be added.

The following Resolutions were addressed:

1. Motion was made by Karen Rohrer and seconded by Keith Shaw to approve the following Resolution:

Shall the Manitowoc Public School District, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, for the 2015-2016 school year through the 2017-2018 school year by \$1,000,000 a year, to maintain current programs and services?

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Motion was made by Barbara Herrmann and seconded by Dave Longmeyer to approve the following Resolution:

Shall the Manitowoc Public School District, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, for the 2015-2016 school year through the 2017-2018 school year by \$600,000 a year, to address major maintenance and security needs (including updating security cameras, lighting, windows, asbestos abatement, and roofs)?

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Motion was made by Barbara Herrmann and seconded by Dave Longmeyer to approve the following Resolution:

Shall the Manitowoc Public School District, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, for the 2015-2016 school year through the 2017-2018 school year by \$400,000 a year, to update classroom technology and replace existing computers?

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Motion was made by Keith Shaw and seconded by Catherine Shallue to approve the Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Questions of the Approval of Resolutions Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Non-Recurring Purposes.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Board members who attended the Wisconsin State Education Convention in Milwaukee gave updates on sessions attended and the WASB delegate assembly.

Motion was made by Karen Rohrer, seconded by Barbara Herrmann, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca McLafferty, Secretary

Linda Gratz
Board President