

**M I N U T E S**  
**Mason Consolidated Schools**  
**Virtual Meeting of the Board of Education**

**Approved 2-16-21**  
**February 3, 2021**

**Regular Meeting**

On February 3, 2021, the Mason Consolidated Schools Board of Education held a virtual public meeting in the IVN room at Mason High School. President Stieben called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present Virtually: Larrow, Stieben, Otting, Skaggs, & Fowler  
Board Members Absent: Smith

Also Present Virtually: Supt. Tuller, Burt, Blair, Bates, McCain, Trainor, Shaw,  
& Russow

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Review/Approval of Agenda**

President Stieben presented:

Superintendent Tuller requested the revision of New Business M to allow for information received late regarding the general education bus leases that will reflect significant savings. Revision to read: Recommendation to approve three (3) 15,000-mile general education buses at \$13,248 each per year and four (4) 12,000-mile general education buses at \$13,092 each per year.

Request by Superintendent Tuller to revise Action Item G to reflect above New Business M revision to read: Approve recommendation of three (3) 15,000-mile general education buses at \$13,248 each per year and four (4) 12,000-mile general education buses at \$13,092 each per year. Superintendent Tuller asked for the addition of Monthly Items G: Athletic Update to allow for the board to hear current status of winter contact sports and a recent change in coaching personnel.

Mrs. Larrow mentioned the board's email from a community member requesting a closed session. President Stieben mentioned the request did not fall under the permissible reasons for a closed session and a consult with legal counsel occurred. President Stieben mentioned that he is drafting a response to the individual and will note that the individual may request to speak during the public participation portion of a meeting. Mrs. Larrow stated that she disagreed.

-It was moved by Skaggs, supported by Fowler to approve the agenda with requested revisions and additions. Motion carried by a roll call vote 4-1; (Nay-Larrow; Smith-Absent)

**Special Presentations**

**MASB Data-Based Strategic Planning Service**

- Debbie Stair, Assistant Director of Leadership Development, and Brad Hamilton, Consultant, presented MASB's strategic planning services and timelines including Board roles, stakeholder involvement, goal setting, action planning and monitoring for developing the next Mason Consolidated Schools next strategic plan.

**Report of Goal Progress- Student Achievement Outcomes Fall-Winter**

- Principals Bates, McCain, and Russow presented recent student achievement data highlighting strengths, weaknesses, and plans for intervention for the remainder of the year.

**Old Business**

Presentation of minutes from the January 25, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

-Mr. Stieben presented, there were no changes or questions

### **Monthly Items**

Check Register

- Mr. Stieben presented; no changes or questions

Sinking Fund Financial Report

- Mr. Stieben presented; no changes or questions

Special Projects Finance Report

- No report this month

Board Financial Report

- Mr. Stieben presented; no changes or questions

Tax Report

- Mr. Stieben presented; no changes or questions

Athletic Update

- Kelly Trainor shared information regarding the new MDHHS Epidemic Order regarding contact sports, indicating that the MHSAA is not part of the LetThemPlay movement and lawsuit because then all communication with the Governor's office would cease. The MHS wrestling and basketball coaches have been involved in their respective state associations in supporting the commitment to allowing all sports the ability to fully practice and compete. Additionally, Ms. Trainor mentioned that head football coach, Rob Beaudrie submitted his resignation to the district January 26, 2021. Mr. Beaudrie's resignation will be sent to EduStaff to complete the process. Ms. Trainor indicated it is her goal to send a press release to the Monroe News regarding the resignation and post the position by Friday.

### **New Business**

The next regular scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Recommendation to approve MASB for Data-Based Strategic Planning Services

- Superintendent Tuller indicated that the cost for services is \$7,300 plus expense. These services will be coded to Title II and not come from the General Fund.

Discussion of 2021 MASB Board of Directors Election Candidates

- Superintendent Tuller mentioned of the five candidates that incumbent Dave Wingerd, Clinton Schools has been a good representative for small schools for the past 3 years. He has served on the Clinton Community Schools Board of Education for 15 years.

Recommendation to extend FFCRA through March 31, 2021

- Superintendent Tuller recommended that District provided an extension of FFCRA benefits as these ended for employees on December 31, 2020. Benefits are not added, and employees will only be afforded this if they meet qualifications as outlined from April 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. The district received a one-time credit from Blue Cross/Blue Shield for the new renewal year of \$35,000, therefore recommended these monies come from this.

Reconfirmation of COVID-19 Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

- Recommendation to extend the current plan as outlined to continue the 5-day a week, reduced day in-person delivery model.

Report of two-way communication

- Superintendent Tuller mentioned the need to focus on the high school remote students' attendance.

Recommendation to approve Policy 2501A- Electronic Board Meetings

- Thrun policy recommendation to address current legislation permitting electronic board meetings.

Recommendation to approve Policy Form 2501A-F-1 Electronic Board meeting Checklist

- Thrun policy form recommendation to align with Policy 2501A.
- Recommendation to approve Policy Form 2501-F-2 Advance Notice of Remote Participation
- Thrun policy form recommendation to align with Policy 2501A.

Recommendation to approve Policy Form 2501A-F-3 Electronic Board of Education Meeting Notice

- Thrun policy form recommendation to align with Policy 2501A.

Recommendation to hire Michael Valentine, Operations Director

- Superintendent Tuller recommended Michael Valentine for the position of Operations Director after a 7-team interview committee interviewed 2 candidates. Recommendation to offer a 2 ½ year contract to align with the responsibilities, skill level, certifications currently held and additional certifications and training required.

Recommendation to approve 3-year Lift Bus Lease at a total cost \$19,200 per year.

- Transportation Director, Andrew Shaw, presented specs and bids from 2 approved vendors. A recommendation to honor the bid to Holland Bus company was given.

Recommendation to approve three (3) 15,000-mile general education buses at \$13,248 each per year and four (4) 12,000-mile general education buses at \$13,092 each per year.

- Transportation Director, Andrew Shaw, presented specs and bids from 2 approved vendors. A recommendation to extend the leasing of the general education buses to 5 years and varied mileage restrictions is anticipated to provide savings to the district by allowing costs to be locked in. A recommendation to honor the bid to Holland Bus company was given based on specs, service history and availability of parts.

**Public Comment**

-No public comment

**Consent Agenda**

Approve the minutes from the January 25, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

Approve the January 2021 check register.

- It was moved by Otting, supported by Skaggs; Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; one absent (Smith)

**Action**

Approve MASB for Data-Based Strategic Planning Services

- It was moved by Larrow, supported by Fowler. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve the reconfirmation of the COVID-19 Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

- It was moved by Otting, supported by Stieben. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve selection of the 2021 MASB Board of Directors Election Candidate Dave Wingerd

- It was moved by Larrow, supported by Skaggs. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve recommendation to extend FFCRA through March 31, 2021

- It was moved by Fowler, supported by Larrow. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve Policy 2501A- Electronic Board Meetings

- It was moved by Otting, supported by Larrow. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve Policy Form 2501A-F-1 Electronic Board meeting Checklist.

- It was moved by Larrow, supported by Stieben. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve Policy Form 2501-F-2 Advance Notice of Remote Participation

- It was moved by Otting, supported by Fowler. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve Policy Form 2501A-F-3 Electronic Board of Education Meeting Notice

- It was moved by Skaggs, supported by Stieben. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve the recommendation to hire Michael Valentine, Operations Director

- It was moved by Otting, supported by Larrow. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve the recommendation of 3-year Lift Bus Lease at a total cost \$19,200 per year.

- It was moved by Larrow, supported by Otting. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve the recommendation of three (3) 15,000-mile general education buses at \$13,248 each per year.

- It was moved by Larrow, supported by Skaggs. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve the recommendation of four (4) 12,000-mile general education buses at \$13,092 each per year.

- It was moved by Otting, supported by Larrow. Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

### **Board Reports/Comments**

Fowler: Happy about the strategic planning. It will be something good for our district. Thanks for doing the research on this and adding it to the agenda. Appreciate the stats on the building academics. Want to tell the administrators thank you for paying attention to that and seeing where we slipped. I have every confidence we will bring the numbers back with our kids and I don't think we are the only district that is running into that. Thank you for the commitment to bringing our numbers back up to where they need to be.

Otting: Agree with Chandra. I am excited about the strategic planning situation. Nothing more to say beyond that.

Larrow: Nothing to say tonight.

Smith: Absent

Skaggs: From the last meeting to thank Andrea for her service. She was instrumental on getting me the seed on many things and was a class act and rock-star type. I am going to miss her tremendously. Ditto everyone else with the strategic plan. That is super exciting and have been a part of it at my job and a lot of good stuff comes from it. Shout out to the administrators for the enthusiasm that's there, the confidence that's there, the concern that's there. It is

outstanding and we have all the confidence in you as well. Big shout out to Rob for his leadership for the last several years, it has been valued, appreciated and a lot of fun.

Stieben: I'll echo everyone else's excitement about the strategic planning. We have talked about it for 4 or 5 years, so it is exciting to see it move forward now. I want to thank Andy for the help on the bus stuff. Saving the district money for the long term is something we have talked about for a long time. This is wonderful that he caught that and that's being taken care of.

Congratulations to Rob, his effort and enthusiasm to continue to learn is refreshing and bodes well to future of Mason Schools. To the teachers and administrators who are dealing with the effects of kids not being in school that we have your back. If you need our help, please let us know. I am excited and encouraged by the numbers that have jumped and looking forward to seeing some of the high school kids get better engaged moving forward. I hope Andrea is enjoying her time up north.

### **Adjournment**

At 8:49 p.m., it was moved by Skaggs, supported by Stieben to adjourn the February 3, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education. Motion carried by a roll call vote 5-0; 1 absent (Smith)

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Janice Skaggs, Board Secretary