

1 **MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

2 **July 7, 2021 6:00 PM Central Office, 28 Catherine St., St. Albans and ZOOM MEETING -**

3 **MINUTES**

4 Present for a Quorum In-person: Alisha Sawyer, Peter Deslauriers, Nilda Gonnella-French, Katie Messier,
5 Susan Magnan

6 Present for a Quorum Remote: Al Corey, Nina Hunsicker

7 Unable to attend: Grant Henderson, Joanna Jerosse, Jack McCarthy

8 Administrators: Bill Kimball, Superintendent; John Muldoon, Assistant Superintendent; Casey Provost,
9 Human Resources Coordinator; Martha Gagner, Business Manager

10 Others: Bennett Dawson, Barbara Finch, John Nichols, Nancy Keller, Bob Gissel, Sarah Auer, Martin
11 Kattam, Jaime Thorpe Bourgeois, James, Elian Castro, Jeffrey Nelson, Deborah Thayer, Jen Williamson,
12 Linda Pacheco, Shaun Robinson, Zach Schuffler, Reier Erickson

13 **1. Call to Order** - Nilda Gonnella-French called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

14 **2. Agenda Review** – Nilda stated agenda review adopted with no objection.

15 **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

16 **4. Visitors** - Jen Williamson spoke to not having SROs in schools. Reier Erickson cited the MRUSD
17 mission quote and spoke against SROs in schools. Jeffrey Nelson spoke against the SRO program.
18 Bennett Dawson spoke against mask wearing and explained studies. John Nichols said he
19 submitted a letter to the board and asked the board to review it. Sara Auer stated her support of
20 the SRO removal from schools. Bob Gissell spoke of studies regarding SROs not being on a local
21 level. Steve LaRosa spoke to not having the SRO Program.

22 **5. Consent Agenda**

23 **A.** Approval of Minutes of June 16

24 **B.** Staff Changes

25 **The consent agenda was adopted.**

26

27 **6. Old Business**

28 **A.** SRO Committee Recommendation Discussion - Nilda recommended taking each of the 10
29 items individually for discussion. Nilda read item 1 of the recommendation and asked if
30 the district was already doing these items. Bill stated we are expanding mental health
31 supports in the school system and SEL, increasing the speed in which the district trains
32 personnel and provides professional development. Alisha asked if the justification around
33 this is that these activities have been tied to the SRO program and is this adjusting FTEs in
34 exchange for the SROs. Peter and Nilda discussed the discussion process. Susan asked if
35 the district has a job description for SROs. Bill stated the MOU states the responsibilities
36 of the SROs. Susan asked if there is an annual review of goals that were established.
37 Alisha stated it is not consistent building to building. Nilda read item 2 of the SRO
38 Recommendation. Alisha asked if there are other systems of equity that should be looked
39 at, not just SROs. Nilda read item 3 of the SRO Recommendation. Nilda and Bill discussed
40 truancy and Bill recommended the board seeking legal services for further information.
41 Susan asked to know more from the administrators on what SATEC and City School do,
42 compared to Fairfield that does not have an SRO. Nilda read item 4 of the SRO
43 Recommendation. Alisha asked if we could change the MOU to dictate that. Nilda read
44 item 5 of the SRO Recommendation. Nilda asked if we currently have a mandatory one.

45 Alisha stated her concerns of false choice. Peter asked if there would be another way of
46 opting in or out. Susan stated she can see the pressure of the option. Alisha asked how
47 the students would be selected. Susan and Peter stated it would need to be offered to
48 everyone. Susan and Nilda want to know what is being done now in the mentorship
49 program with SROs. Nilda said we need clarity on how this is being done. Alisha asked
50 what the expectations are with one-on-one contact (supervision, uniform, armed)
51 happening now and any future plans with SROs and students. Nilda read item 6 of the
52 SRO Recommendation. Susan shared her experience at BFA. Nilda read item 7 of the SRO
53 Recommendation. Susan spoke of a report from 1-2 years ago explaining incidents of
54 student to SRO interaction. Nilda stated we need to understand the reports and the
55 reporting process for the SROs and other items. Peter and Nilda discussed reporting
56 timelines. Nilda read item 8 of the SRO Recommendation. Peter said he knows not all kids
57 are comfortable with speaking with an SRO, maybe another kind of professional can
58 explain the policy. Bill explained mandated reporting. Susan stated some of the items
59 could be the responsibility of an educator or someone else already in the school system.
60 Nina stated this is in the policy already in place. Alisha stated that she is not comfortable
61 with an SRO in an educator role. Nilda asked if the SROs are already teaching about
62 bullying and hazing. Nilda read item 9 of the SRO Recommendation. Katie asked who
63 oversees truancy. Bill explained the differences depending on the building. Nilda would
64 like more clarification on current practices of wellness visits. Susan asked if there is a
65 truancy procedure. Bill explained the in-state statute. Nilda read item 10 of the SRO
66 Recommendation. Nilda said she thinks we all agree we want more than an annual report.
67 Nilda wants to understand the staffing levels at each school. Nilda explained public
68 involvement in hiring police officers. Peter suggests a more in-depth interview process for
69 the SROs. Alisha asked to discuss item 2 more, she asked what would change if someone
70 were not in uniform or armed, what duties would that look like. Nilda discussed parts of
71 the uniforms that are mandatory for police officers and asked for further research. Alisha
72 wants the question posed, what duties and what role a liaison would have. Nilda stated
73 we need to do further research and have these questions answered by administrators.
74 Nina said she needs to have more in depth conversations and ask more questions. Al said
75 he is still listening and wavering which way is the best way. Katie is interested in hearing
76 the answers to some of the questions. Peter stated this was a helpful discussion, it does
77 not matter what we are doing now, it's not working, the board is elected to make the
78 decisions. Alisha said City School was late to adopt the SRO program and asked what tasks
79 the SRO does now for them? She asked if Joan and Stacie could explain. Alisha said she
80 understands governing by majority, but it is about access for all. Alisha stated a report has
81 shown that kids in our district feel they cannot get an equitable education. Susan asked
82 what was the rationale of creating SROs in schools and what are the outcomes. Nilda
83 would like questions emailed to Bill and will review on the August 4th Board Meeting.
84 Alisha asked for a follow up from the Burlington School District.

- 85 **B.** Retreat Update (Bill Kimball) - Working with Mike Deweese on July 8 to set the agenda.
86 Theme is responsibility for reporting and monitoring of the board.

87 88 **7. New Business**

- 89 **A.** Lease renewal for NMC (**Action**) (Martha Gagner) - Martha said we rent a space from
90 NMC, we've had a lease there for half dozen years. Received confirmation from Stephanie
91 Brough that the agreement can be renewed at the current annual rate.

92 **Al Corey made a motion to accept the agreement, second by Katie Messier.** Al yay, Nina yay, Katie yay,
93 Peter yay, Nilda abstained, Alisha abstained and Susan abstained. Motion passed per 11A V.S.A. § 8.24.

- 94 **B.** Breakfast and lunch prices **(Info)** (Martha Gagner) - Martha explained that the free meal
95 program is continuing for all public schools in the nation. Katie asked if they must get a
96 meal to get milk. Martha said she would need to get that information.
97 **C.** Update on Daily School Schedule **(Info)** (Bill Kimball) - Bill said we are assuming we are
98 going back 5 days a week. He said we are in a positive place right now and hopes it
99 continues. 2019-2020 elementary schools had early release day on Fridays. The data says
100 teachers have had great leaps and we need more of it but not to take away from the
101 school day. Bill stated that the early release will switch to Wednesdays for 2021-2022
102 school year. Susan asked if parents have been notified. Bill stated he needed to bring the
103 item to the board first. Katie said we have afterschool programs and asked if we can offer
104 that on early release days. Bill said it depends on staffing. Katie asked for more
105 information on this.

106 **D.** Replace Minute Taker **(Action)** (Bill Kimball)
107 **Alisha made a motion to replace the minute taker with Aron Smith, Al Corey second. Motion passed**
108 **unanimously.**

109
110 **8. Other Business**

111 **A.** Warrants **(Action)**

112 **Al Corey made a motion to approve the warrants, second by Alisha. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 113 **B.** Board Announcements - Peter commented on the visitors being confident and would like
114 to compliment them. Alisha would like to give a shout out to the tech and career school.
115 She said her son has found his passion for medicine through the school.
116 **C.** Superintendent's Report (Bill Kimball) - Bill introduced Aron and explained the interview
117 process for Executive Assistant. He introduced Casey Provost, Bill explained Casey's
118 background. Casey explained his background and is looking forward to learning more
119 about the district. Bill explained John Muldoon's background. John explained what he is
120 currently doing for the district with the envisioning work. Bill stated schools have been
121 pretty quiet except for Custodial Staff. Bill is asking staff to get rest this summer. He
122 thanked Martha and the fiscal team for their hard work. Teachers are engaging in
123 professional development. We've had about 70 people respond to the thought exchange
124 sent out with the letter last week, it will be open for about 3 weeks. Bill stated his job is to
125 listen and learn for this year. This week about 450 kids will be part of the summer
126 engagement opportunities in the district. Bill explained some of the activities going on in
127 the schools. He plans to go over the recovery plan in August.

128 **9. Agenda Items for Future Meeting** - Implicit Bias training, anti-racism training, Recovery update,
129 Five-year plan, IT Study, in-person meetings. - Alisha asked for more SRO discussion.

130 **10. Potential Executive Session**

131 **11. Adjourn 8:11 p.m.**
132
133