

1 **MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
2 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
3 **November 16, 2016**

4 **5:00 NWTC Hideaway**

5 **Present for a Quorum:** James Farr, Nilda Gonnella-French, Denise Smith, Steven LaRosa, Nina Hunsicker,  
6 Michael Malone, Al Corey, Jack McCarthy, Mike L'Esperance, Martha Casavant-Ries

7 **Unable to Attend:**

8 **Administrators:** Jill Ballou, FFCS Principal; Sean O'Dell, Curriculum Director; Julie Regimbal, Special  
9 Education Director; Joanne Wells, Assistant Special Education Director; Martha Gagner, Business  
10 Manager; Kathy Finck, Human Resources Director; Lisa Durocher, Assistant NWTC Director; Jason  
11 Therrien, Assistant Principal SATEC; Chris Mosca, Principal BFA; Angela Stebbins, SATEC Principal; Michelle  
12 Spence and Andrea Racek, Early Childhood Ed

13  
14 5:00 – 6:00 MRUSD Board dined with NWTC Advisory Council in the Hideaway

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- 16 1. **Call to Order** – James Farr called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
- 17 2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 18 3. **Approval of Agenda – James Farr requested to add 8H1 - VSA/VSBA Consulting opportunity.**
- 19 **Michael Malone made a motion to approve the modified agenda; second by Nilda Gonnella-French.**
- 20 **The motion passed unanimously.**

21 4. **Visitors** see attached list.

- 22 5. **Consent Agenda**
- 23 A. Approval of Minutes of November 2, 2016

24 The consent agenda was approved.

- 25 6. **Host Site**
- 26 B. Introductions of NWTC Staff – Leeann Wright thanked the Board for allowing these
- 27 two events combined. She then had staff present introduce themselves. Lisa
- 28 Durocher provided information about the program. She also reported that they
- 29 have been certified to teach phlebotomy training with UVM, and they are working
- 30 on another partnership with UVM. Leeann Wright then had the tech center
- 31 students present.

- 32 C. NWTC Advisory Presentation - Northwest Technical Center is required by VT state
- 33 regulation to hold bi annual advisory meetings to receive industry feedback on the
- 34 relevance of program content, levels of student performance, work based learning
- 35 opportunities and strategies for program improvements. Advisory Board members
- 36 introduced themselves. Lisa Durocher answered a question about who can attend
- 37 the Career Development Center, and stated that it is not just for students, the
- 38 whole community is welcome to enroll.

- 39 7. **Old Business**
- 40 D. Negotiations Update
- 41 D1. Professional Staff - James Farr reported the last meeting was canceled by
- 42 the other side, so he had nothing new to report.

- 43 D2. Support Staff - Michael Malone reported that they met tonight and
- 44 completed everything on the agenda. They should be able to sign ground
- 45 rules at the next meeting. Meetings are scheduled through March.
- 46 D3. Unit Clarification - Kathy Finck reported that they are working on
- 47 reducing the list. She explained that unit clarification was to determine
- 48 which positions are in the bargaining unit and which are not.

8. **New Business**

- 50 E. Mission/Core Values – Kevin Dirth reported that they have been working on a
- 51 mission statement and core values. The administrators worked with Board
- 52 members to come up with this. Nilda Gonnella-French said that Joan Cavallo, who
- 53 chaired the committee, did a great job keeping everything flowing. Joan Cavallo
- 54 explained the process, and said it was a lot of fun to facilitate a session with
- 55 everyone so vested. This ended up better because they came together as a group.
- 56 She explained that the individual school missions all fit well within the umbrella of
- 57 this mission. She read the Mission and Core Values. MISSION - The Maple Run
- 58 Unified School District is where inquiring minds, compassionate hearts, creative
- 59 expression, healthy lives and service to the community develop so all can learn,
- 60 achieve and succeed. CORE VALUES:
- 61 In partnership with our families and community we value: Children, first and
- 62 foremost; Safety and security; Collaboration and relationships, Joy and curiosity;
- 63 Relevance and rigor; Independence and perseverance; Flexibility and adaptability;
- 64 Respect and diversity; Accountability and integrity;
- 65 And commit to provide equity in access to a quality education.

**Michael Malone made a motion to approve the mission and core values; second by Denise Smith. The motion passed unanimously.**

It was asked who approved new core values in the individual schools. Kevin Dirth felt that it would be this Board who would approve what was presented by administration. So long as they align with these core values it would not likely be an action item. Kevin Dirth said that this should be used on an ongoing basis when making decisions. How will this be shared and displayed will be discussed at a leadership meeting.

- 74 F. Budget Roles and Responsibilities - Kevin Dirth explained that the Leadership team
- 75 has started discussions on how this is going to look as we merge the budgets for the
- 76 first time. Basically, he doesn't see a difference in the process this year. Martha
- 77 Gagner added that all staffing changes go through the Superintendent before it
- 78 goes into the budget. She handed out a sample of what it will look like for the
- 79 Board. The numbers are not finalized, she used it as an example of what they are
- 80 hoping to provide the Board. The process used in the past may be similar. The
- 81 thought is that possibly taking all the schools last year and adding it, and using that
- 82 as a target as to where the Board wants to things. That may also be the most
- 83 accurate way to explain the budget to the community. Nina Hunsicker asked that
- 84 the ten-cent tax break for unifying be transparent once it is available. There was
- 85 discussion about how to show the percent increase on the ballot with the new

merged district. There was conversation about how the tuition rate works with the new district. James Farr recapped that the Board’s involvement in the budget process will be limited in the beginning. Administrators are putting their budgets together and funneling them to Martha to put into the merged budget.

- G. FLSA Compliance - Kathy Finck explained that due to changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act, we must verify whether all employees are correctly categorized as hourly or salaried. Some employees currently categorized as salaried must become hourly employees. She reported that they are in the process of reviewing all the employees in our districts and we will be compliant by December first as required. Martha Gagner reported that we are looking at an electronic payroll system to help with this and the Affordable Care Act as well.

Martha Casavant-Ries left at 7:28 p.m.

- H. 5-Year Plan - Kevin Dirth reported that this plan was started in August with the Leadership Team, and that it is a living document. He distributed a copy of the first draft of the five-year plan. He then explained and reviewed the plan, and answered questions. Negotiations should be added. Dr. Dirth ended with the next step it to break each of the items down to action steps.

- H1. VSA/VSBA Consulting opportunity – Mr. Dirth stated that the VSA/VSBA want the newly merged districts to be successful, and are offering a consulting process with many different types of consulting. These include merged districts meeting, financial support, among others. The charge is \$10,000 annually for up to two years. Dr. Dirth asked for input from the Board on whether we should look further into this. This could be covered under the grant money. The Board supports authorizing.

**Michael Malone made a motion to authorize Kevin Dirth to do further research on this and make the call as he sees fit; seconded by Jack McCarthy. The motion passed unanimously.**

**9. Other Business**

- I. Administrator’s Report - Leeann Wright said that her last three reports were attached, and tonight the Board had a glimpse of what the advisors work was. She also reported that Secretary Holcombe visited to see what the Tech Center does. She distributed a sheet on facts and accomplishments. Chris Mosca reported a successful Wizard of Oz performance, and asked folks to mark their calendars for Messiah. The elementary schools are having their Thanksgiving dinners.

- 10. **Agenda Items for Future Meeting:** Policies, Consideration of Special Meeting to ask the public for notice of availability; all votes by Australian ballot and comingling of votes, technology, grant writer for Maple Run.

- 11. **Potential Executive Session**

- 12. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Brenda Comstock