

Cassopolis Public Schools  
725 Center Street  
Cassopolis, MI 49031  
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Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
January 13, 2014

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, January 13, 2014 in the Board meeting room at Squires Educational Center and called to order at 7:00 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call: Members Present: Sue Horstmann, Jeremy Carlisle, John Bright, Jason Pompey, Scott Ward  
Members Absent: Lori Whitmyer, George Calvert  
Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Bob Sieko, Dee Voss, Robyn Bright, Sara Park, Cindy Martynowicz, and members of the staff and community

Sue Horstmann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda - Moved by Jason Pompey, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** John Bright to approve the minutes from the special and regular meetings of December 9, 2013, as written. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Carlisle, yes; Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

**Ross Beatty JSHS / Sieko:** Mr. Sieko said that things went very well at the high school today for their first day back after the disaster. They began the day with a staff meeting at 7:15 which Mr. Hertsel attended, along with two managers from ServPro. The students were great at respecting the areas that are off limits during restoration following the water main breakage.

**Food Service / Bright:** Mrs. Bright said that Tyson had 33,000 pounds of chicken recalled late last week due to a salmonella outbreak. She received confirmation from Gordon Food Services that none of the Tyson chicken we purchased was affected. Mrs. Bright said the department submitted the 6-cent certification in December and are waiting for final approval. They are also preparing for next month's audit.

**Robotics / Chapman:** Mr. Chapman stated that they received information about the game for the new contest on January 4<sup>th</sup> during the kick-off ceremony. For the past week they have been working on the new model. He noted that our team is mentoring the Dowagiac team. There are new teams in the area this year, including Buchanan, Dowagiac and Edwardsburg. He offered to mentor Edwardsburg but has not received a return call.

Mr. Chapman said they have raised quite a bit of money so far this year. They received a grant from Midwest Energy for \$650 that is ear-marked for tools. They will be receiving a \$1,500 donation from a former graduate.

Austyn Withers from the Robotics team said that this years' game is called Aerial Assist and explained what they will be preparing for in competition.

Tom Bosler from the Robotics team then demonstrated the robot they built during the off season. They will be taking this robot to sponsors to show what they are doing rather than just to explain the process.

Mr. Chapman said they work every school day from 3:15-6 or later and Saturdays from 9-2 at the earliest. The deadline to complete and bag the robot is February 18<sup>th</sup>. Their first competition is March 7-8 in Gull Lake and the second competition will be in St. Joseph the last weekend in March.

#### Public Comment –

Kevin Evans said his son Tyler is in Robotics. Mr. Evans asked what is being done with the school after last weeks' disaster. He has heard a lot of rumors about the damage and would like to know the plans for restoration. As a taxpayer he thinks we need to invest in our schools.

Financials - Moved by Jason Pompey, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle that the Board of Education approve payment of bills for the month of November, as follows: \$251,399.23 for the General Fund and \$34,850.58 for the Food Service Fund. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Bright, yes; Carlisle, yes; Horstmann, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

#### New Business – Discussion Item

Sign for Sam Adams Elementary School – Mr. Hertsel distributed three handouts of examples and quotes on proposed signs for the elementary school. He asked for input from the full Board. There are many cost variables, noting that a 4 X 8 foot sign would be much cheaper than extending from the pillars on our current sign, which is 10 feet 9 inches.

This will come before the full Board for a vote and we will then go out for RFP's. First the Board needs to decide what sign format to use. It was the consensus of the Board to go with the standard 4 X 8 foot size and to use fillers. Mr. Hertsel will work on getting more finalized quotes based on these guidelines.

There was discussion on when the sign could be installed, what lead time might be required and the life expectancy of the bulbs, as well as the price to replace them as needed.

#### New Business – Action item

Hiring – Moved by Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** Jason Pompey that the position of Instructional Paraprofessional for Spanish, 4 hours per week is awarded to Beth Westrick, as recommended by the administration. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

#### Superintendent's Report – Mr. Hertsel reported as follows:

- To date, calendar changes have been agreed upon by the union and administration up through Friday January 24<sup>th</sup>. Students and staff will attend this Friday, we will honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, have exam days Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; and, Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> will be no school for students but Records Day for staff. This moves the semester back one week.

- Basketball homecoming has been cancelled for next week and if possible will be rescheduled later in the season, depending on available facilities.
- Had conversation with our lobbyist today about the possibility of receiving leniency on days of instruction but nothing has been decided. A bill was introduced but has not yet passed. It appears there will be no waiver for time. If we add 10 minutes to the daily schedule now, it would give us over two extra days by the end of the year.
- Even with the cold, snow and damage to the high school last week, Cass County as a whole has not been declared a disaster area. He has to complete forms about our damage once that is established and submit that to the emergency coordinator who is putting together a report for the state. The weather last week affected several districts.
- Has a call into MDE's department of state aid and student hours to ask for forgiveness from last week's disaster at the high school but has not yet received a return call.
- As an update on the high school, ServPro has been nothing but stellar. They initially brought in one truck and three employees and over the course of the first night we had 33 people at the school working to extract the water. He has met daily with the ServPro managers and our insurance adjuster. The kitchen was the hardest hit because of where the pipe burst. They are working closely with the Health Department to make sure we get their approval to open the area. Both the cooler and freezer were affected and we are obtaining quotes for replacement units. There were smaller items also damaged that will be replaced as well. All of the terrazzo floors will be addressed over spring break. The auditorium took a lot of water and the carpet is separating. We have not yet received approval to replace that carpeting. We had three classrooms that were hit the hardest, although seven were affected. In the gymnasium at this point 80% of the floor has been stripped, they have a tent over the floor and are keeping it at 110 degrees under the tent in an attempt to totally dry the floor. They will sand the other 20% around the outside perimeter of the floor tomorrow. Best case is the gym will be down for one month but could be longer if the entire floor needs to be replaced.

There was discussion about having an alarm to monitor any problem with the pipes.

Mr. Hertsel thanked Cripps Excavating from Marcellus for helping to move the large amounts of snow at the buildings last week.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education it was **moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** Jason Pompey to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. All in favor.

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary