

Cassopolis Public Schools
725 Center Street
Cassopolis, MI 49031
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Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 12, 2014

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, May 12, 2014 in the Board meeting room at Squires Educational Center and called to order at 7:03 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call: Members Present: Jeremy Carlisle (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), John Bright, Jason Pompey, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Scott Ward

Member Absent: None

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Dee Voss, Robyn Bright, Cindy Martynowicz, members of the student body, community, staff and media

Jason Pompey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda - Moved by Jason Pompey, **supported by** John Bright to amend the agenda by adding VIII F / interview for Board vacancy; adding IX F / action item, vote on Board candidate; and, to eliminate X. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Bright, yes; Horstmann, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

Moved by George Calvert, **supported by** Jason Pompey to approve the amended agenda. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Bright, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Sue Horstmann to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of April 28, 2014, as written. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Bright, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff – Mr. Hertsel said that the Board would like to recognize the student groups present at tonight's meeting. The first group called was FFA. Due to many other events there were no FFA team members present but Mrs. George and Mrs. Rogers stated the teams and members names, then reviewed the teams' participation and many successes from state convention.

Mr. Carlisle arrived at this point in the meeting.

Paul Chapman was then introduced and recognized members of the Robotics team that were present. He updated the Board on their season, noting the team had 10 adult mentors this year.

Tom Bosler, a senior member of the team, said that the team has helped him greatly. He is going to Purdue next year for a computer engineering degree and would not have known his passion for the field had it not been for this group.

Mr. Chapman invited the public to their open house which will be held on June 7th from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Squires.

Mrs. Patton and Ruth Andrews then introduced members of our local team comprised of 5 students from Sam Adams Elementary School who won state championship in history. Mrs. Andrews noted that the students were judged not only on their performance but also on their detail and knowledge after the performance when they answered questions. The team then presented their 10 minute play about the Kentucky Raid of 1847.

Public Comment – None.

New Business – Discussion Items

Resolution for district to be policy holder for the medical benefit plan – Mr. Hertsel explained that this resolution puts the district in compliance with the first bullet in the Best Practice resolution. As a district, this first resolution must be adopted which will lead to the next resolution and must be done at the Board level. Our having met 7 of the 8 Best Practices will mean an extra \$62,000 to the district.

Resolution for district to participate in Best Practices Incentives – Mr. Hertsel said that there are 8 Best Practices and districts must attain at least 7 of them to participate. He explained the one item he removed was regarding online testing. These must be posted on our web site by June 1st and after that we will receive the extra funds from participating in Best Practices.

5th Grade Camp – Request for approval of overnight trip – Mr. Hertsel introduced Mrs. Mason, 5th grade teacher, and Mrs. Voss to explain the request.

Mrs. Voss said that Mrs. Mason is a new teacher to our district and this was a transition year for 5th grade camp. Mrs. Voss said it was an oversight that they did not request approval from the Board for the camp ahead of time. The camp was very successful.

Mrs. Mason said that she has learned a lot since the first time she was before the Board. Camp was successful, the kids had a lot of fun. Mrs. Mason said that it was exciting to see the differences in kids personalities away from school.

Mr. Ward said that he understands the oversight but Board policy is in place to protect the district and that this type of oversight can't happen again, noting that this was not the first time for such an occurrence this year.

Allocation of Elementary Principal salary/benefits through Title I funds for 2014-15 – Mrs. Voss said that when Mrs. Hague held the position she was both Title I Director and Curriculum Director. Two years ago Mrs. Voss replaced Mrs. Hague and was .5 Curriculum Director and .5 Title I Director. During the audit she was informed that these allocations must change to bring more of her salary from the General Fund and only 15-18% out of Title funding.

Mrs. Voss said that she is meeting with our Title consultant, Jon Blakey and the ISD's Finance Director, Laura Ash, next week. They will then get with Mr. Hertsel and Mrs. Smith from the business office to provide final numbers. She was told that the allocation of her salary and benefits must change to stay in compliance.

Mr. Hertsel said that the consultant said that this must action must be taken at the Board level.

Locker Replacement Project at Ross Beatty JSHS – Mr. Hertsel said that the bid came in quite a bit lower than anticipated. This is for replacement of all 688 student lockers throughout the building. He would recommend the Board approve the bid, as presented.

Interview for Board member – Mr. Ward asked Lisa Cutting to come forward. Mr. Hertsel said that as Ms. Cutting was the only applicant the Board would not go through all the questions but offered them to ask Ms. Cutting questions. Mr. Ward asked she tell a little about herself.

Lisa Cutting said that she has three daughters at the high school, grades 9, 10 and 11. She is a legal secretary in the prosecutor's office and she is a Cassopolis graduate. Ms. Cutting said that she has a passion for kids, individual students as well as at a group level. She wants to help kids succeed.

Mr. Ward said that the Board was honored at the last meeting with an award for being one of only 26 districts in the state of Michigan where all 7 Board members were certified. He asked if Ms. Cutting would be willing and interested in earning credits. Ms. Cutting said yes.

Old Business – Action Items

Approval of Resolution for district to be policy holder for medical benefit plan – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** John Bright that the resolution stating the district be authorized as the policy holder for the medical benefit plan for 2013-14 is approved, as presented. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Resolution for Best Practices Incentives – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle that the resolution for the district to participate in Best Practice Incentives for the 2013-14 school year is hereby approved, as presented. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Carlisle, yes; Horstmann, yes; Bright, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of 5th Grade Overnight Camp – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved the Board of Education approves that 5th Grade students attended Camp Friedenswald on May 7, 8 and 9, 2014. **Motion carried** 4-2, as follows: Bright, no; Carlisle, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, no.

Approval of Elementary Principal Salary/Benefit allocation through Title I funds for 2014-15 – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** John Bright that it is hereby resolved that for the 2014-15 school year the elementary principal's salary/benefits are to be paid as follows: 0.85 principal duties; and, 0.15 Title I Director duties. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Accept Bid for Locker Replacement Project at Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle that it is hereby resolved the bid for the Locker Replacement Project at Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School, from Rayhaven Group, in the amount of \$77,100.00 including the base bid package and Alternate #1 is approved as presented. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Carlisle, yes; Horstmann, yes; Bright, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Appointment of Board member – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** John Bright to appoint Lisa Cutting to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

Mrs. Martynowicz then administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Cutting.

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

- Thanked parents, students, coaches and teachers as the contests take a lot of time and commitment, transporting students and this year encompassed a lot of bad weather.
- Thanked Mr. Ward and Mr. Bright for attending tonight's Lewis Cass ISD Board meeting to be updated on their 2014-15 budget. He said that the resolution supporting their budget will be on the agenda for our special meeting May 19th.
- MEAP vs. Smarter Balance is a hot topic in Lansing and the final outcome has not yet been determined.
- Thursday at 7 p.m. are the senior awards. This will be held in the high school cafeteria.
- Graduation will be on Sunday, June 1st at 2 p.m. in the high school gymnasium and will be our first event on the new gym floor.
- Reminded Board members of Monday's special meeting at 7 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education it was **moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary