

Cassopolis Public Schools
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Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
June 8, 2015

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, June 8, 2015 in the auditorium at Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School and called to order at 7:01 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Deb Deubner, Jesse Binns, Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Scott Ward

Members Absent: None

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Becky Smith, Dee Voss, Dave VanLue, Robyn Bright, Cindy Martynowicz, members of the community and media

George Calvert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda - **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Deb Deubner to approve the agenda, as presented. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes, Ward, yes,

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 11, 2015, as written. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff – Mr. Hertsel said that he would be introducing various student groups from recent competitions and began with Robotics.

Tina Widerquist Bosler spoke on behalf of Jessica Ayers who was out of town. Ms. Widerquist Bosler said that the commitment to be in Robotics takes a lot of time and effort and they want to recognize the kids for that effort. Ms. Widerquist Bosler read a letter from Mrs. Ayers as follows:

“I am so sorry I can’t be here tonight. I consider this a defining year for our team for a number of reasons. This is our fourth year doing robotics which means that we are now considered a veteran team and at this significant time we lost leadership at not one, but three different levels: Student Leadership, Mentor Leadership and a leader in our sponsorship. We needed to adapt to these changes while competing in an International competition in the most highly competitive state in the nation at its most highly competitive year due to the number of new teams in the state.

Most groups in these circumstances would be pleased if they could maintain the status quo but our team wasn’t going to be content with that. Not only did we adapt to these setbacks, we rose above them and I would put this year as one of our most successful for many reasons.

- Our Build and Business teams became one unit with students willing to jump from one role to another.
- Student leadership was shared by many students.
- We defined our brand and are now more recognizable and memorable.

- We are more effective at competition due to making a booth, adding a pit crew and a crew to man the booth and having a committed safety officer.
- We had a wicked good robot and got closer than ever to being a district champ.
- After years of trying, we finally got that Team Spirit Award.
- Lastly we valued each other's contributions and truly embodied what it means to be gracious professionals.

To the students I want to say that I hope that you are as proud of yourselves as I am of you. I hope you know how special it is to be a part of a team like yours where we cooperate and help each other out while having a good laugh at the same time. I treasure the times we have together because they are a truly unique experience in a world where people too often one-up each other rather than cooperate.

To the School Administration: thank you for your support of our team, the skills that these students are learning are not something easily defined, but they are skills that will last a lifetime. To Mr. VanLue, thank you for your enthusiastic embrace of our team. Especially I want to say a personal thank you to Mr. Hertsel who went above and beyond to help us out this year. When I felt in over my head knowing that you were willing to help was often the biggest help of all.

Thank you.
Mrs. Ayers”

Ms. Widerquist Bosler then presented to Robotics team members who are for the first time this year receiving varsity letters for their participation, based on established criteria. After presenting the students with their varsity letters the mentors introduced themselves. Attending were the following mentors: Fritz Kucklick, Karen Wright, Chris Bergen, Tim Green, and the former coach of the team Paul Chapman.

Mr. Hertsel then asked members of the Middle School Math Meet in attendance to come on stage. Attending were Gage Collins, Jonathan Leach and Lane Francis, who talked about their experience in the Middle School Math Meet.

Mr. Hertsel introduced Mrs. Patton to speak about the Michigan History competition. Mrs. Patton said that last year the team won state competition with a production put together by Ruth Andrews. This year the team won state as well. We also had a student who entered the documentary competition. She won state and became a national qualifier as an alternate. Mrs. Patton introduced students attending from this year's competition. She said that there is a lot of research and preparation for this competition.

Mr. Hertsel introduced Mrs. Johnson, Advanced Art teacher who had three students present from their field trip to Chicago's Institute of Art. There were 19 students that attended the field trip and they observed and critiqued specific pieces of art they chose ahead of the trip. When at the museum they had to locate their piece of art and again critique it. Mrs. Johnson had three students explain the pieces of art they chose and why.

Mr. Hertsel gave an update on athletics for the year, as Mr. Brawley was unable to attend tonight's meeting. We made the football playoffs this past year, and made playoffs 8 out of the last 9 years. Boys basketball are conference champs, Ricky Evans was named Coach of the Year. Tymari Brown was 1st team All State in wrestling at the 215 pound weight class. Collin Carlisle qualified for State in Golf. The Boys Baseball team won their 1st district championship since 1998 and won we believe the 1st regional game ever for Cass baseball but lost a 10 inning game to Centreville in the finals. The boys and girls Track team sent 9 kids to the state finals and every kid that we took was 1st team All State. We also had many kids who made 1st team All-Conference in their respective sports.

Public Comment – None.

Financials – April, 2015

Moved by Lisa Cutting, **supported by** Deb Deubner that it is resolved that the Board of Education approves the payment of bills for the month of April as follows: General Fund \$254,241.70, Food Service Fund \$21,990.43, and Debt Service fund \$976,169.69. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Discussion Items

Final 2014-15 Budget Presentation – Mrs. Smith reviewed the 2014-15 General Fund in detail summarizing that the end of fiscal year 2013-14 was at \$945,687, at the time of the budget amendment in February \$845,687 and the final budget draft shows \$1,314,981. Mrs. Smith then reviewed the Food Service Fund stating that it is very solvent and went from \$108,707 in the audited 2013-14 budget to \$132,137 in the final budget draft. Mrs. Smith continued by reviewing the Debt Service and Sinking Funds.

There were no questions from Board members on the final 2014-15 budget presentation.

Preliminary 2015-16 Budget Presentation – Mrs. Smith said that her preliminary budget contained some assumptions including a decrease of 40 students among other revenue items. She then reviewed the assumed expenditures including advanced steps per agreement for \$50,000, health insurance hard cap amount increase of 2.3% among others.

Mrs. Smith reviewed the 2015-16 General Fund in detail summarizing that the end of fiscal year 2013-14 was \$945,687, the 2014-15 draft of the final budget is at \$1,314,981 and the 2015-16 preliminary budget is at \$1,031,612. She then reviewed the Food Service Fund, their 2013-14 audited budget was \$108,707, the 2014-15 final budget is at \$132,137 and the 2015-16 preliminary budget shows \$137,139. Mrs. Smith then reviewed the Debt Service and Sinking Funds preliminary 2015-16 budgets.

Mrs. Smith reviewed next steps to finalize numbers prior to the next Board meeting on June 22, 2015. The Board will need to adopt both the final 2014-15 and preliminary 2015-16 budgets on June 22nd. Grant applications are due by July 1, 2015. She will continue to monitor budgets until fall when more variables will be known and will prepare a 2015-16 budget revision after student counts are confirmed this coming fall.

Mr. Ward thanked Mrs. Smith and the administration for working together to bring the improved budget to the Board. He said the report is very concise and easily read. To see a projected decrease in students and yet an increase in our fund equity brings merit to who is in positions.

2015-16 State Aid Borrowing – Mrs. Smith said that the state aid borrowing is for the district's cash flow purposes. We have most recently borrowed between \$1.3 million and \$1.7 million. Mrs. Smith said that because we are doing a lot better in our cash flow she expected the amount for 2015-16 to be \$1 million or a little lower. She will have that information finalized at the June 22nd meeting.

New Business – Action Item

Hirings – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** George Calvert that the following positions are awarded: Marching Band Advisor, Concert Band Advisor and 7-12 Choir Advisor – Sean Keck; and; Summer School teachers; Kim Holder, Lindsay Gorham, Cristy Ernst, Sarah Mason and Cheryl Graham; and, EduStaff employees May Bennett, Katie Stermer and Lorenne Towne. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Old Business – Action Item

Early Release Schedule for 2015-16 – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved students will be released 90 minutes early the second Wednesday of the month, from October, 2015 through May, 2016, in order for teachers to meet on school improvement. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- Congratulated all team participants and the parents for their support.
- Said that Robotics excelled this year under difficult situations.
- Congratulated all sports teams.
- Construction at Ross Beatty is on a fast track, wiring for the cameras will be run later this week and they will be installed next week. Framing is up in the new entrance.
- Thanked Becky for the detail in her presentation and he feels confident about the figures.
- They had a presentation on the sound booth in the auditorium last week and are now trying to learn how to do it all.
- Thanked the staff and administrators for year-end assemblies. Said the programs have been great.
- Thought graduation went very well also.

Comments from Board members

Mr. Ward thanked everyone involved in graduation, this year was very special to himself as it was to Ms. Cutting and Mr. Hertsel. Mr. Ward thanked everyone for making it a very special day and said he appreciates all of the effort.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education it was **moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary