

Cassopolis Public Schools
725 Center Street
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-0503

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 24, 2016

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, October 24, 2016 in the Board meeting room at Squires Education Center, and called to order at 7:00 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call:

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

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Dee Voss Deb Stermer, Bonnie Adams, John Bright, Robyn Bright, Dave VanLue, Cindy Martynowicz, members of the community and staff.

Amanda Smego led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2016 regular meeting, as written. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

Ross Beatty JSHS / VanLue: Mr. VanLue said that he has been finalizing the first round of teacher evaluations. The academic literacy team from both schools met. The Readers/Writers Workshop began this month for 6-8th Grade teachers. They had a great turnout at parent/teacher conferences last week. Mr. VanLue said that they have an academic intervention program starting on November 15th.

Public Comment – None.

Expulsion Hearing – Student A – Mr. Hertsel told the Board that the parent requested this expulsion hearing be conducted in open session. Mr. Hertsel said that first Mrs. Voss and Mrs. Stermer as Principal and Assistant Principal would speak to the incident. He explained that then they would ask the parents and student for their comments. The Board will then vote on the matter.

Mrs. Voss distributed handouts containing a brief description of the incident as well as a detailed summary and also a picture of the knives that were confiscated.

Mrs. Stermer presented the administration's detail of the incident. They interviewed several students, notified the Superintendent, and following state law then contacted law enforcement. Mrs. Voss and Mrs. Stermer reviewed the steps taken the morning of October 11.

Mr. Hertsel then invited Student A and parent to speak.

Erika Willis, parent of Student A, stated her thoughts as to what led her son to make this poor decision.

Mr. Ward then read an excerpt from The Revised School Code, Section 380.1311(2) "If a pupil possesses in a weapon free school zone a weapon that constitutes a dangerous weapon, commits arson in a school building or on school grounds, or commits criminal sexual conduct in a school building or on school grounds, the school board, or the designee of the school board as described in subsection (1) on behalf of the school board, shall expel the pupil from the school district permanently, subject to possible reinstatement under subsection (5). However, a school board is not required to expel a pupil for possessing a weapon if the pupil establishes in a clear and convincing manner at least 1 of the following:

- (a) The object or instrument possessed by the pupil was not possessed by the pupil for use as a weapon, or for direct or indirect delivery to another person for use as a weapon.
- (b) The weapon was not knowingly possessed by the pupil.
- (c) The pupil did not know or have reason to know that the object or instrument possessed by the pupil constituted a dangerous weapon.
- (d) The weapon was possessed by the pupil at the suggestion, request, or direction of, or with the express permission of, school or police authorities".

He continued,

"(5) The parent or legal guardian of an individual expelled pursuant to subsection (2) or, if the individual is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the individual may petition the expelling school board for reinstatement of the individual to public education in the school district. If the expelling school board denies a petition for reinstatement, the parent or legal guardian or, if the individual is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the individual may petition another school board for reinstatement of the individual in that other school district."

Mr. Hertsel said that the Board is bound by Michigan law for grades 6-12 to expel for 180 school days for this type of incident. As Mr. Ward read, there is a right to request reinstatement after 150 days whereby if approved the student would return to school after completing their 180-day expulsion.

There were questions from Board members to Student A. Upon conclusion of this discussion, it was **moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Deb Deubner to expel Student A for 180 school days, in accordance with State law, and for violating school rules. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Expulsion Hearing – Student B - Mr. Hertsel said that the parent has requested a closed session.

Moved by Lisa Cutting, **supported by** George Calvert, to go into closed session at 7:29 pm for the purpose of an expulsion hearing. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

The Board returned to open session at 7:51 pm.

Moved by George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to expel Student B for 180 days, in accordance with State law and for violating school rules. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Financials – **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved to approve the September, 2016 financials as follows: General Fund \$270,332.12; Food Service Fund \$29,127.34; 2015 Bond Capital Projects Fund \$206,495.61. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Discussion Item

School ADvance Evaluation Tool for Goal #1 – Mr. Ward said that the Board held a workshop on Board goals and now the Board needs to create parameters to create an evaluation tool for the Superintendent.

There was discussion on Board Goal #1 and which domains to apply towards it. The consensus at the workshop was to consider using Domain #1, a through d; Domain #3-A (a1, 2, 3, and 4) and Domain #5 (a1, 2, 3, 4).

Mr. Ward suggested the Board hold a workshop gathering to review the process prior to the Board meeting of November 17.

New Business – Action Item –

Moved by Jesse Binns, **supported by** George Calver to award the following positions:
SADD Advisor - Amber Loy; Homebound Teacher - Amber Loy; FFA Advisor - Abby Asmus; High School Science Olympiad Coach - Carey May; 4th Grade Spelling Bee Coach - Desiree Mooney; and, following successful completion of his probationary period, Maintenance Helper - Jerry Dean Worthington.
Motion carried 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- Is very proud of the FFA team members, it is very tough competing at the national level but we were well represented. Mrs. Asmus is doing a great job.
- Administration meeting tomorrow will have Officer Graves explain new safety training for active shooters. This training will then be shared with staff at a later date.
- Varsity football will play Bridgman at Decatur this Friday at 7 pm, there will be no pre-sale tickets.

Request for closed session to discuss negotiations – **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to go into closed session at 8:10 pm to discuss negotiations. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Mr. Ward called for a 5-minute recess to clear the room.

Return to open session at 9:08 pm.

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 9:09 pm. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary