

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

**Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 12, 2016**

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, December 12, 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: Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Deb Deubner, Amanda Smego, Jesse Binns, Scott Ward

Member absent: None

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Bonnie Adams, Dee Voss, Dave VanLue, Cindy Martynowicz, student and members of the community

Jesse Binns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda – **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Deb Deubner to approve the agenda, as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2016 regular meeting, as written. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications and correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff – Mr. Hertsel asked Mrs. Ward to introduce two special guests.

Rachele Ward introduced Belinda and Gary Gravitt from the Cassopolis VFW. They explained about the VFW's Patriot's Pen Contest. Cassopolis had five students who were winners in the contest and each will receive a \$50 gift card along with other prizes. Also, Cassopolis had one student whose entry won 3rd place in district competition and this student will receive an additional \$50 prize. Four of these 5 students were in attendance and presented with a special recognition gift.

Mrs. Ward then said that another contest, this one sponsored by Scholastic, was called "Picture a President" and was a drawing contest. Out of over 4,000 entries from across the United States, we had a student whose drawing of President Thomas Jefferson was chosen as the best. She is the only winner from Michigan. Mrs. Ward then presented various prizes to the student.

Public Comment – None.

New Business – Discussion Items

Request for 5th Grade overnight field trip to Camp Friedenswald – Mr. Hertsel said that Mrs. Mason was unable to make tonight's meeting due to the weather. This request is for the 5th grade annual trip to the camp. It has always been a great experience for all. He asked that Board members call him if they have any questions, but this would appear on the January 9th agenda for action.

Choose Board goal to use for evaluation tool – Mr. Ward said that at the second meeting at the ISD on the evaluation process, several of our Board members left confused. The Board must now select a second Board goal to use for this year's Superintendent evaluation. He would like this item to be on the next Board meeting for action.

There was discussion between Board members and the consensus was to select Board goal #4 "Don't spend more than you take in" as the second goal to use for the evaluation tool for the 2016-17 school year.

Hiring process for Superintendent vacancy – Mr. Ward said that he needs direction from the Board on their thoughts regarding the hiring process for the next Superintendent. He reviewed the options available, and recommended the Board not hire an outside firm at this time. If voted on tonight this could be posted by the end of the week and run through mid-January.

There was discussion about the benefits of having a committee review all applicants before narrowing the field to those selected to interview. Some Board members indicated wanting to review all resumes before any were removed from consideration. The process was discussed and the consensus was to start with a private search.

Old Business – Action Items

Sale of Red Brick School and property – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved the purchase of Red Brick School and property to Jim Moore for \$10,000 contingent upon his ability to secure proper zoning from the Jefferson Township Board, is approved.

There was discussion about the price being so low. Also, there was concern about anyone being able to open a Charter School on the property, whether still owned by the district or by a new party.

Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Hiring process for Superintendent vacancy – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** Jesse Binns that the Board of Education elect to not hire an outside firm at this time for the position of Superintendent. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Items

Request for maternity leave – Sarah Mason – **Moved by** Amanda Smego, **supported by** Deb Deubner that the maternity leave request of Sarah Mason, tentatively from April 10 through June 2, 2017 is approved. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Hiring – Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** Jesse Binns that the position of Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach is awarded to Mason Stevenson, as recommended by the Athletic Director.

Mr. Ward asked if this was a paid position. Mr. Hertsel said it is a paid position and is needed due to liability if a student is injured during a match and the varsity coach would have to leave. Other wrestlers can't be left unsupervised.

Mr. Ward asked what this position was paid and as that information was not available he asked that this information be available in the future if asked during meetings.

Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Hiring – Co-Basketball Cheerleading Coach – **Moved by** Amanda Smego, **supported by** George Calvert that the position of Co-Basketball Cheerleading Coach be awarded to Michelle Anderson, as recommended by the Athletic Director. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Hiring – Cross Country Coach – **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** Deb Deubner that the position of Cross Country Coach is awarded to Marty McGinn, as recommended by the Athletic Director. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- He, John Bright and Bonnie Adams will meet with Tony Leininger tomorrow to review the bond budget.
- Reviewed what work is scheduled to be done over the holiday break in the buildings.
- Thanked Mr. Bright's crew for their work clearing snow today.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Binns asked for an update on the dryer fire. Mr. Hertsel said they had a fire inspector at the building last week who took samples. He thanked the kitchen staff for making sure we were approved to serve the next day.

Mr. Ward said that the holiday band/choir concert at the high school was very nice and it is exciting to see how many kids are in the band this year. They did a great job.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education it was **moved by** George Calvert and **supported by** Jesse Binns to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary