

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

Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
February 8, 2016

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, February 8, 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: Deb Deubner, Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Jesse Binns, Scott Ward

Members Absent: Amanda Smego

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Becky Smith, Jeremy Carlisle, John Bright, Cindy Martynowicz, staff member and community members

George Calvert 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: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Sue Horstmann to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2016, as written. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff – None.

Public Comment –

Martha Kaszar, 61122 Spencer Road, thanked the Board and said she appreciates the school district. She also is appreciative that the buses are going slower on Spencer Road, keeping it safer and sets a good example for the school. Mrs. Kaszar said she is grateful to the teachers, who are enthusiastic and caring individuals. She also thanked the Board for their support of the Our Fathers Family Keepers Ministries summer school program that she worked for last year. Mrs. Kaszar reviewed her experience with the program noting that the summer school program provided many part-time jobs to local residents.

Karen Copley, from Cassopolis, also a 1976 Cassopolis graduate, represented the May family. She said that the program works for her, she believes in the program. Ms. Copley said that Mrs. May is very disciplined running the program and cares about the kids. She spoke of various field trips for participants of the summer school program. Ms. Copley said she hopes the Board doesn't turn their backs on the program.

New Business – Discussion Items

MASB Region 6 Representative – Mr. Hertsel said that information on this was put in the Board's Friday update. The Board will need to decide which candidate to support at the next Board meeting.

Request to speak on procedures for public participation at Board meetings

Bianca May, 61486 Donald Roadway, Vandalia, began speaking at 7:13 p.m. She discussed her wishes for a top down change from the school Board to administration. She then discussed the Zero F Policy.

At the conclusion of her 15 minute time period, Mr. Ward granted her an additional 5 minutes to speak. At the conclusion of this 5 minutes, Mr. Ward granted Mrs. May an additional 5 minutes.

At 7:37 p.m., Mr. Ward said that the Board would consider Mrs. May's comments.

Mr. Ward asked if Mrs. May wanted to take a few minutes to discuss her letter to the Board dated December 17, 2015.

**Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Deb Deubner, to go into closed session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss a complaint about a district administrator at the request of the Superintendent. **Motion carried** 5-1, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, no; Horstmann, yes; Ward, yes.

A 5 minute recess was taken at this time.

The Board returned to open session at 8:28 p.m.

Old Business – Action Items

Act on Overnight Field Trip Request – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** Lisa Cutting that the request for the Advanced Art Class to visit the Chicago Art Institute from April 28-29, 2016, is approved. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Act on Request for Easement – **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** George Calvert that the request from the Village of Cassopolis for Cassopolis Public Schools to grant an easement for 33 feet across the northern border of the Ross Beatty property from the west boundary to the last driveway to the east is approved. This easement is granted for \$1, provided the Village's

sidewalk grant is approved by the State of Michigan in 2016.

Mr. Hertsel said that to address questions the Board had on this, although included in the update, street lighting and a crossing guard are not included as of now, but the Village took our suggestions under consideration.

**Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

#### New Business Action Item

Hiring – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** Jesse Binns that the following positions are awarded for the Secondary Level Academic Intervention Program: Brooke Brawley, Steve Mammel, Jessica Pompey and Kristine Widerquist Bosler, the hours of 3:00-4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- The FFA teams had a great night at districts and will compete in regionals on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 pm, at Hopkins.
- This Wednesday is Count Day. If school were to be canceled due to the weather, Count Day would be Thursday.
- The district finished our 3<sup>rd</sup> in a series of lockdown drills last week.
- Carmi Design Group is working diligently on our projects. We have several Invitations to Bid out at this time.
- Last Friday he attended the induction ceremony for the Tech Center Honor Society.
- Thanked Mr. Bright and Mr. Carlisle for various projects they are working on.
- Received a donation of furniture including seats for the public in Board meetings, along with other items, from the Edward Lowe Foundation.

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 8:35. All in favor.

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary