

Cassopolis Public Schools  
725 Center Street  
Cassopolis, MI 49031  
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Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
August 22, 2016

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, August 22, 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 (arrived at 7:02 pm), Jesse Binns, Scott Ward

Members Absent: None

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Brian Harris, Robyn Bright, Jeremy Carlisle, John Bright, Dee Voss, Dave VanLue, Cindy Martynowicz and members of the staff

Jesse Binns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda – **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Lisa Cutting 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** Deb Deubner, **supported by** Jesse Binns that the minutes from the August 8, 2016 meeting are approved, as written. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Mrs. Smego arrived at this point in the meeting.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

**Operations / Bright:** Mr. Bright updated the Board about the status of work at the high school, football field, track, soccer field and practice football field as well as the windows and louvers.

**Administration / Hertsel:** Mr. Hertsel introduced Brian Harris, our interim Business Manager.

**Sam Adams Elementary School / Voss:** Mrs. Voss said that they completed their third day of Kindergarten round-up. As of today, Kindergarten is at 64 and the K-6 total is approximately 480.

Public Comment – None.

Financials – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** Lisa Cutting that it is hereby resolved to approve the July, 2016 financials as follows: General Fund \$410,418.92; Food Service Fund \$10,583.19; and, 2015 Bond Capital Projects Fund \$199,656.00. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, ye; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Discussion Item

Sam Adams Elementary School student handbook – Mr. Hertsel asked Mrs. Voss what had changed in the student handbook. Mrs. Voss said that they are sure to cover the state requirements, as they are a Title I school.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Board could approve the student handbook in the spring and then Mrs. Voss could bring any changes back to the Board before the start of school. At that time the Board would approve any changes/amendments to the student handbook.

Old Business – Action Items

Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School student handbook – **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved that the Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School student handbook for 2016-17 is approved, as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Sam Adams Elementary School student handbook – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** Jesse Binns that it is hereby resolved that the Sam Adams Elementary School student handbook for 2016-17 is approved, as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Item

Hiring – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert to hire Amber Gil DeLamadrid as a Special Education teacher at Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School, effective with the 2016-17 school year. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Mr. VanLue introduced Amber who said she is very excited to be here and is looking forward to teaching in Cassopolis. She will also teach some elective classes.

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

- Reminded Board members about tomorrow night's meeting to learn the new format to conduct Superintendent evaluations. We need a majority of Board members to attend. A light dinner will be provided and the meeting is from 5-8 pm and all County districts are included.
- The district learned on Friday that we received E-Rate approval which will help greatly with technology at the junior/senior high school.

- Had discussion about planning the next community meeting to have open dialogue on the football field and track project. After discussion it was agreed to hold one meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 8 pm, following the open house at Ross Beatty. Meeting to be held in the auditorium.
- Reviewed next week's inservice schedule for staff.
- Reviewed the football game schedule for this week and next.
- Last Friday he and Mr. Carlisle attended a very informative inservice at Southwestern Michigan College.
- Gave a construction update.

Comments from Board members – Mr. Ward said that it came to his attention that another school district (out of county) sent flyers advertising their district for Schools of Choice. He asked we be sure to add to our signs at both buildings that we are accepting applications for Schools of Choice.

Mr. Ward asked Board members not speak on behalf of the full Board. There is no such thing as a Board mandate and Board members should not speak to others about the Board as a whole. If an administrator needs Board approval, items are to be brought to the Board as a whole. If Board members are being approached he directed them to speak on their own behalf.

Mrs. Deubner said that she would like to be involved in a PR committee of the Board. She would like to see some action toward positive press, there is always room for more.

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 8:00 pm. All in favor.

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary