

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

**Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2017**

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, November 13, 2017 in the Board meeting room at Squires Education Center, and called to order at 6:30 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call: Members present: Amanda Smego, Deb Deubner, Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Jesse Binns, Scott Ward

Member absent: None

Also present: Dr. Angela Piazza, Karen Blaha, Brooke Brawley, Jerry Zachary, Jason Messner, Deb Stermer, Cindy Martynowicz, students, community members and staff members

Lisa Cutting led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ward welcomed all to tonight's meeting of the School Board of Education. He stated that the purpose of this public meeting is to conduct the business of the School Corporation and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There will be time for public participation as indicated by the agenda.

Mission: To ensure that all students achieve the educational and life skills necessary to be successful in today's ever-changing society.

Vision: All students will demonstrate the academic, technological, and cultural competencies necessary to compete in a global society.

We will keep these statements at the forefront of all business decisions.

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** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of October 23, 2017, as written. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Piazza said it was good to see people in the audience for tonight's meeting. She then introduced Mrs. Blaha.

Curriculum Update: Mrs. Karen Blaha said that she will begin working with the K-3 teachers tomorrow in the Cassopolis Reading Academy. This is in accordance with the Michigan 3rd Grade Reading Law. Mrs. Blaha distributed the syllabus/agenda for this workshop, which included the topics and essential questions for each topic. Mrs. Blaha said that K-6 teachers have begun curriculum mapping and will also be working on that at Ross Beatty JSHS.

Board Committee Reports:

Athletic – Mrs. Deubner said that the fall sports teams all had good seasons.

Building & Grounds/Transportation – No report.

Curriculum – No report.

Personnel/Finance – Mrs. Horstmann said that this committee met prior to tonight's meeting. They explored options about the Red Brick property and decided to keep pursuing answers on questions that were brought to light. There was also committee discussion on the audit and corrective actions needing to take place so that our recording is correct and so we are able to provide budgets to department heads.

Mr. Ward said that the Board appreciates people stepping up to help with reports from the business office lately.

Public Comment: None.

New Business – Action Items:

Hire: **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that Emily Kozinski be awarded the position of Elementary Level Special Education Teacher, effective October 23, 2017. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Hire: **Moved by** Amanda Smego, **supported by** Deb Deubner that upon successful completion of his probationary period the position of Maintenance Helper be awarded to Bradley Smith. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Mr. Smith thanked the Board for the opportunity and said he looks forward to continuing to work in the district.

New Business – Discussion Items:

FFA Presentation / Ag Barn: Jesse Bement, current FFA Alumni President, also a high school alumnus. Mr. Bement thanked the Board for their show of good faith and commitment by commissioning the construction of the new ag science barn. This will provide on-site, year-round, hands-on training for students in the field of animal science. Mr. Bement said that the Alumni Association would like to make a \$6,000 donation to be used entirely for expenses for the animal science building. He then presented the donation to Dr. Piazza.

Nick Prestly and Madison Suseland, FFA Chapter members were present on behalf of the chapter. Miss Suseland read the following into the record:

“Dear Dr. Piazza and School Board Members,

Thank you for allowing the Ag Department to have a barn on school campus. Many students, including FFA members, will have the opportunity to develop public speaking, leadership and hands-on skills for future agriculture careers through project-based learning. We cannot thank you enough. Please accept our \$4,000 donation for the barn.

Sincerely,

Abby Asmus & FFA Officers”

Miss Suseland and Mr. Prestly then presented the donation to Dr. Piazza.

Old Business – Action Items: **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert to accept a \$10,000 donation from the Cassopolis FFA, \$6,000 of which is from the Alumni Association and \$4,00 from the Chapter, to be used to expenses towards the Ag Barn. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstman, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Miscellaneous Administrative Items:

November 14 Half Day for Students; Teacher PD in Afternoon

November 22 Half Day for Students and Staff

November 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess

December 11 BOE meeting, 6:30 p.m., Squires Education Center

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 6:48 p.m.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary