

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

**Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
April 10, 2017**

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, April 10, 2017 in the Board meeting room at Squires Education Center, and called to order at 7:02 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

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

Member absent: Amanda Smego

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Robyn Bright, John Bright, Bonnie Adams, Cindy Martynowicz and member of the press

Sue Horstmann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** George Calvert to amend the agenda by adding a new Discussion Item “D” and a new Action Item “D” Superintendent Contract. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Moved by George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to approve the amended agenda. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** Lisa Cutting to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2017 regular meeting, as written. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications and correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

Finance / Adams: Mrs. Adams distributed information on the district’s long-term debt bonds and the amount currently in hand for each the 2003 QZAB Bonds and the 2009 Energy Conservation Improvement Bonds. Also discussed was the Sinking Fund balance. Mr. Bright then clarified information about the balances for each bond account.

Public Comment – None.

New Business – Discussion Items

2016-17 Proposed Budget Revisions – Mr. Hertsel asked if there were questions from information provided to Board members on the proposed budget amendments. Mr. Ward asked if Mrs. Adams was confident that the numbers being presented would accurately reflect the district's budget at year-end. Mrs. Adams said that barring emergencies that is correct.

NEOLA First Readings / Policy Amendments – Mr. Hertsel said that information provided to Board members were the highlights of items NEOLA is proposing be amended. Mr. Ward asked if Board members could receive the actual policies for #5610 and #5610.01 as they deal with changes in expulsion laws. Mrs. Martynowicz will provide this information to Board members.

Robotics Request for Overnight Trip – Mr. Hertsel said that on Sunday the Robotics team learned they were indeed advancing to the state competition. It would be from April 12-15 and is being held at Saginaw Valley State University. They have already arranged for their transportation.

Superintendent contract – Mr. Ward said that prior to tonight's meeting, Board members were given a final copy of the proposed contract for Dr. Piazza. She met with the Finance Committee earlier tonight, and they would now like Board members to review contract language so that this can be acted on tonight.

Old Business – Action Items

457(b) Resolution – **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved by this action that the Board of Education adopts a 457(b) Plan document to be available for all staff, effective immediately. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Ag Barn – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved the Superintendent is authorized to move forward with the construction of a new Ag Barn to be located on the Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School Campus.

There was discussion as some members of the Board were not comfortable moving forward until they had more definite answers on financing of this project. Mr. Hertsel distributed information he had put together about the project and he guaranteed that this would not be financed at all through the General Fund. After further discussion, Dr. Calvert called for the vote.

Motion carried 4-2, as follows: Cutting, no; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Horstmann, no; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Robotics Request for Overnight Trip – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved the Robotics Club request to attend the Michigan Robotics State Championship at Saginaw Valley State University from April 12-13, 2017 is approved. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent Contract- **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** George Calvert that Dr. Angela Piazza be hired as Cassopolis Public Schools Superintendent. Her initial contract term will be from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- As we will be paying off our current loan for the last buses purchased, in order to keep the fleet on target with replacement, he and Mr. Bright have been looking into purchasing more buses that are coming off of leases. The buses that are available are 2016 models and their mileage is fairly low. He asked for general Board consensus to start dialogue with Midwest Transit so they can visit the facility and bring more detailed information to the next Board meeting.
- Wished Robo Rangers good luck at state competition this week.
- State testing begins this week.
- FFA banquet is this Friday.
- Welcomed Angela Piazza to the district and wished her well.

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 8:13 p.m.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary