

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

**Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
April 24, 2017**

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, April 24, 2017 in the Board Meeting Room at Squires Education Center and called to order at 7:01 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

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

Member absent: Lisa Cutting

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Bonnie Adams, Robyn Bright, John Bright, Dee Voss, Deb Stermer, Dave VanLue, Cindy Martynowicz, members of the staff and community

George Calvert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda – **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to approve the agenda, as presented. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** George Calvert that the minutes from the regular April 10, 2017 meeting are approved, as written. **Motion carried**, 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications and correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

**Sam Adams Elementary School / Voss:** Mrs. Voss said that she met with the Curriculum Committee earlier. The students are into M-STEP testing and it is off to a great start. Mrs. Voss said she will give data from the test to the Board at the last meeting in June. They have also started NWEA testing.

**Food Services / R Bright:** Mrs. Bright said that they had their AAR review with MDE. It was an intense audit and they received 100% on the nutritional aspect. There were a few minor infractions which were not critical and were corrected on site. Also, she said they catered the Foundation dinner Saturday night.

**Operations/Transportation / J Bright:** Mr. Bright distributed information on negotiations that are underway for the district to purchase buses. We are looking into purchasing four 2016 buses.

There was discussion as to if the district is looking into purchasing smaller buses as was previously discussed. Mr. Bright gave the current options but said he will look into other possibilities as well.

Mr. Bright stated that the district's trailer is over 20 years old and is quite a bit larger than we need. He was able to purchase a smaller trailer for \$3,980 that would be of great use in the district. Its first trip will be this week's trip to St. Louis MO for the Robotics International Championship.

He requested a Building & Grounds Committee meeting as he would like committee input on some building use requests. He asked Mrs. Adams to put together information for this meeting on how much money was collected this past year for building uses throughout the district. This meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 8 prior to the Board meeting.

Public Comment – None.

Financials – March, 2017 – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** George Calvert, that the March, 2017 payables are approved as follows: General Fund \$273,909.22; Food Service Fund \$47,317.29; and, 2015 Bond Capital Projects Fund \$151,281.18. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Discussion Items

Bond Update – Tony Leininger, Carmi Design Group, distributed a project summary and also a document log. These items showed completed bond projects and those nearing completion. He said that 11 of the 13 bond projects are complete. Several came in under budget and we were able to cover some extra items. Our remaining contingency is \$55,600.

There was discussion about the track project that is taking longer to complete and the reason being due to issues which were not anticipated being corrected last fall at the football field. Board members were concerned about upcoming sports seasons and if the field would be ready. Mr. Ward asked Mr. Hertsel and Mr. Leininger to relay specifics to the Board when new information is received on anticipated progress to this project. Pictures will also be added to the web site as they become available.

Robotics Request for Overnight Trip to World Championships – Mrs. Ayers said that the Cassopolis RoboRangers team qualified for the World Championships. There are 6,771 Robotics teams across the world, 406 teams will be at the World Championships, which means that our team is in the top 5% world-wide. She reviewed their request.

Mr. Binns said he talked to Mr. Hertsel late last week to see what could be done to cover costs for all team members to attend, noting the team has been self-funded up to now. Mr. Ward said that the proposed motion reads that the district will cover costs for all students to attend. This will be voted on later in the meeting.

Mrs. Ayers said she would amend their request for 24 kids and extra chaperones to attend. Mr. Hertsel thanked the team mentors for their fabulous help.

Old Business – Action Items

2016-17 Budget Revisions – **Moved by** Amanda Smego, **supported by** Jesse Binns that the amendments to the 2016-17 General Fund, Food Service Fund, Debt Service Fund and Sinking Fund are approved as presented. Copies of said amendments are attached hereto. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

NEOLA Second Reading / Policy Amendments – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that the following policies are amended and/or adopted, from Volume 31, Number 2, as follows: 0168.1, 2221, 2461, 2623, 3120.04, 3121, 4121, 5517.01, 5610, 5610.01, 7540.02, 8330, 8400, 8500 and 8510. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Robotics Request for Overnight Trip to World Championships – **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** George Calvert that the Robotics Club request for an overnight trip to participate in the World Championships in St. Louis, MO from April 26-30, 2017, is approved. Further, be it resolved that the school district will fund the food, transportation and lodging for this trip. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Item

Maternity Leave Request- **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** Jesse Binns, that the maternity leave request of Abby Asmus to begin on May 22, 2017 through release from her physician, is approved. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- Parade for RoboRangers will be at 8 a.m. Wednesday morning.
- Dr. Piazza, Mrs. Voss and Mr. VanLue attended the Thrun spring update with him last week. He appreciated Dr. Piazza being available to attend.
- CTE honor awards assembly will be Tuesday night at the ISD.
- Thanked Mrs. Bright and Mr. Bright for clearing their schedules and being a big part of making the Robotics trip happen.
- Thanked those that attended the Foundation dinner. A Platinum Award was presented to the Weatherspoon Family and the Miller Family. Money collected for the Foundation goes back to student scholarships and for items needed for classroom teachers. He thanked the Board for their support
- Thanked the community for supporting the RoboRangers.

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 8:06 p.m. All in Favor.

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary