

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

**Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
September 25, 2017**

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, September 25, 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, Scott Ward

Member absent: Jesse Binns

Also present: Dr. Angela Piazza, Jerry Zachary, Dee Voss, Matt Brawley, Bonnie Adams, Brooke Brawley, Forrest Glasper, Karen Blaha, Jeff Wernette, Cindy Martynowicz, and member of the public.

Sue Horstmann 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** 6-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Amanda Smego, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2017 special meeting, as written. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent's Report:

Curriculum Update: Mrs. Blaha distributed copies of a new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading initiative. In this program, all K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students must be tested three times a year. They will work through the data, following timelines and the checklist that is provided.

Dr. Piazza gave Mrs. Blaha kudos for the work she has done on this already, as when they attend a meeting at the ISD on this new reading program next week, Cassopolis will already have their plan in place.

Board Committee Reports:

Athletic: Mrs. Deubner said that she had asked Mr. Brawley for an update on athletics and she gave that report including the GPA's for all fall sports teams. Mrs. Deubner said that the Patriot Games last week were very well received and the week ended on a great note with fireworks after the varsity football game in Eau Claire. Other Board members also stated that the Patriot Games went great and thanked Mr. Brawley for initiating the idea.

Building & Grounds / Transportation: No report.

Curriculum: No report.

Personnel/Finance: Mrs. Horstmann said that the committee met prior to tonight's Board meeting. They met with Steve Kirinovic from SK&T, the auditing firm that conducted our 2016-17 audit and went through financial information in detail during the committee meeting. Mr. Kirinovic will present this information to the Board later in the agenda.

Public Comment: None.

Financials: **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** Sue Horstmann, to approve the August, 2017 financials, as follows: General Fund \$312,835.02; Food Service Fund \$16,568.56; Sinking Fund \$50,446.35; and, Capital Projects 2015 Bond Fund \$60,456.46. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Items: None.

New Business – Discussion Items:

2016-17 Audit Presentation by SK&T: Steve Kirinovic, from Stevens, Kirinovic & Tucker, P.C., distributed the following documents to Board members: Financial Statements as of 6/30/17; Supplementary Information to Financial Statements as of 6/30/17; a letter from his firm outlining various steps in the 2016-17 audit process; as well as graphs showing General Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance; and, a graph of the General Fund Revenue and Expenditure detail.

Mr. Kirinovic reviewed the financial audit, stating that they went into much more depth in the Finance Committee meeting, but that he would be glad to speak to any Board member with questions. Mr. Kirinovic continued by reviewing Findings from the audit and the district's Corrective Action Plan for the Findings.

Review Board Committee Assignments: Mr. Ward said that during last week's Board Retreat, there was discussion about looking at committee assignments and making some possible changes. Mr. Ward said that he has spoken with Dr. Piazza about the role of Committee Chairs and agendas for committee meetings are to be coordinated between the Superintendent and the Committee Chair. Also, he said that it is important for the Committee Chair to let the Superintendent know if others are expected to attend committee meetings and the same for the Superintendent to advise the Committee Chair of requests for others to attend, as well as being involved with creating the meeting agenda. Mr. Ward said that this is about the Board reaching 100% transparency.

Discussion on committee assignments were decided as follows:

Athletic – no change: Deb Deubner (Chair), Lisa Cutting, Jesse Binns

Building & Grounds / Transportation – no change at this time: George Calvert (Chair), Scott Ward, Jesse Binns

Curriculum – no change at this time: Lisa Cutting (Chair), George Calvert, Sue Horstmann

Personnel/Finance – no change: Sue Horstmann (Chair), Scott Ward, Lisa Cutting

Public Relations – Lisa Cutting (Chair); Amanda Smego, Deb Deubner

Technology (Curriculum) – new committee: Amanda Smego (Chair), Jesse Binns, Deb Deubner

Old Business – Action Item:

2017 Tax Levy, Form L-4029: **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the 2017 Tax Levy, Form L-4029, as presented. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Miscellaneous Administrative Items:

October 4      Fall Count Day

October 9      Curriculum Committee, 5:30 p.m., Squires Education Center

October 9      BOE Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Squires Education Center

October 10     Half Day for Students; Teacher PD in afternoon

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education it was **moved by** George Calvert and **supported by** Lisa Cutting to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary