

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

**Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
January 22, 2018**

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, January 22, 2018 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: Deb Deubner, Sue Horstmann, Jesse Binns, Scott Ward

Members absent: Amanda Smego, Lisa Cutting, George Calvert

Also present: Dr. Angela Piazza, Karen Blaha, Renee Manno, Brooke Brawley, Dee Voss, Dave VanLue, Jeff Wernette, Forrest Glasper, Jerry Zachary, Geri Vlasicak, Cindy Martynowicz and community members

Jesse Binns 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** Jesse Binns, **supported by** Deb Deubner to approve the agenda, as presented. **Motion carried** 4-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** Jesse Binns to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2018 meeting, as written. **Motion carried** 4-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent's Report:

Curriculum Update: Dr. Piazza reported that the College and Career Pathways parent meeting held last week went very well and there was good parent representation. Also attending were representatives from Lake Michigan College, Southwestern Michigan College, Van Buren Tech Center and the ETS Coordinator. She thanked Mrs. Blaha, Mrs. Brawley and Ms. Manno for all of their help with the event.

Mrs. Blaha distributed information of the five actual pathways that will be offered to students starting next school year. She reviewed last week's parent meeting and said the presentation from the colleges represented was very well received.

Board Committee Reports:

Athletic: Mrs. Deubner said that the Athletic Boosters are having a spaghetti dinner on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to help raise funds for equipment. Dr. Piazza asked she forward this information to her for the Board's weekly update.

Building & Grounds/Transportation: No report.

Curriculum: No report.

Personnel/Finance: No report.

Public Comment: None.

New Business – Action Item:

Hire: **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** Sue Horstmann that the position of FFA Coach is awarded to Daniel Deubner. **Motion passed** 3-0-1, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, abstained; Ward, yes. \* (see note at end of minutes)

New Business – Discussion Items:

Resolution Calling Special School Election: Dr. Piazza said that this is for non-homestead residents and would need to be acted on at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to meet the deadline for the May election.

Revised Policies 5610 and 5610.01: Dr. Piazza said that these proposed revisions were in the Board packet. They are regarding policy changes on student discipline that were effective August, 2017 and will bring us into compliance. These are being presented for first reading and will be action items on the February 5<sup>th</sup> agenda.

New Tech Proposal: Dr. Piazza said that building administrators, teachers, as well as some Board members, parents, and community members have toured various New Tech Schools in the area over the past few months. Dr. Piazza wants the Board to take a formal step in moving forward to implement the New Tech Network for all K-12 district students.

Ms. Manno presented a New Tech Overview, showing how the program works with districts to transform schools. The program is currently used in more high schools but is also found in some middle schools as well as some elementary buildings and is a nation-wide program. She explained the NT model is about Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Problem-Based Learning (PrBL). Ms. Manno explained traditional learning versus PBL which showed how much more detailed the PBL approach is versus traditional.

Ms. Manno's presentation further showed that the average cohort graduation rates for New Tech schools is 9 percentage points higher than the national average; also New Tech Network students persist in college at a higher rate (82%) compared to the national average. New Tech Network students are also estimated to grow 52% more in higher order thinking skills than comparison groups. Ms. Manno's presentation further showed that NTN students outperformed similar non-NTN students on the ACT, and NTN students had higher employability skills.

Ms. Manno then reviewed the district's progress toward implementation, stating that they have already completed the investigative and exploration phases and now are getting into the plan itself as well as the design and implementation of the program for Cassopolis Public Schools.

Dr. Piazza and Ms. Manno answered questions from Board members and said that this would be on the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for Board action.

Review Technology Quotes: Dr. Piazza said that she has been looking into getting the district into 1 – 1 technology and has a proposal for review. The proposal is for grades 1-12, and includes almost 600 devices. Per Board Policy, Dr. Piazza obtained two quotes and would be recommending the district approve the proposals from Competitive Support Options, Inc. later in this meeting. This would provide tablets for 1<sup>st</sup> grade students; additional Chromebooks for students in grades 2-9; and, Dell laptops for students in grades 10 and 11. She would propose to add technology for Kindergarten students the following year. Dr. Piazza said that the funds to purchase these items would come from various title grants (Title IV and V, 31-A, Title 1 and also through a Literacy Grant).

Old Business – Action Items:

NEOLA Volume 32, #1 Revised Policies: **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** Jesse Binns that the following policies are revised, as presented: 1421, 1439, 2410, 2414, 2418, 3121, 3139, 4121, 4139, 5630.01, 8142 and 8321. **Motion carried** 4-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Act on technology quotes: **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** Jesse Binns that the quotes from Competitive Support Options, Inc. for implementation of 1 to 1 computer support for students are approved. **Motion carried** 4-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Horstmann, yes; Ward, yes.

Miscellaneous Administrative Items: Mr. Ward read the following items into the record:

Thursday, January 25	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester
Friday, January 26	No School for Students – Teacher Records Day
Monday, February 5	Rescheduled Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Squires Education Center
Tuesday, February 13	Half Day for Students; Teacher PD in Afternoon

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education it was **moved by** Jesse Binns and **supported by** Deb Deubner to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

*\* For New Business-Action Item – Hire, please note that this motion did not pass with a vote of 3-0-1, therefore it will be on the February 5, 2018 agenda for action.*

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary