

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

**Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2018**

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, January 8, 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: George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Amanda Smego, Jesse Binns, Lisa Cutting, Deb Deubner, Scott Ward

Member absent: None

Also present: Dr. Angela Piazza, Matt Brawley, Dave VanLue, Brooke Brawley, Karen Blaha, Jeff Wernette, Jason Messner, Glen Barr, Geri Vlasticak, 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** George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to approve the agenda, as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017 regular meeting, as written. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent's Report:

Curriculum Update: Mrs. Blaha and Mrs. Brawley presented an update on the district's new College and Career Pathways Program. They have scheduled a parent meeting for January 18th that will be for 9, 10 and 11th grade students. Also attending will be representatives from SMC, LMC and the Van Buren Tech Center. Also, Mrs. Brawley said that they are currently working on the district's Early College Application as well as College and Career Preparedness.

Mrs. Blaha said that Michigan is now opening the process for applying for 21st Century Community Learning Centers. This would be a 3-year grant and is to provide money to schools for after school and summer programs. Mrs. Blaha said that she and Mrs. Brawley will be working on this application and would like to focus on students in Grades 7-12. The grant would focus on reading and math needs as well as college and career preparedness. Mrs. Brawley said that on January 31st they would be attending an informational meeting to learn more specifics about applying for the grant.

Dr. Piazza said that she, Mrs. Blaha and Mrs. Doll, Guidance Counselor, would be meeting with 9, 10 and 11th grade students prior to the parent meeting so students are prepared ahead of time. Mrs. Blaha said that they would meet with current 7 and 8th grade students later in the year.

Board Member Recognition: Dr. Piazza stated that in honor of Board Recognition Month, she wanted to let the Board members know that their work is appreciated. Dr. Piazza appreciates their dedication to the students and community, which goes beyond attending Board meetings. Dr. Piazza acknowledged their commitment, and presented each with a recognition gift, a small token to thank them for their service.

Board Committee Reports:

Athletic: No report at this time.

Building & Grounds/Transportation: No report at this time.

Curriculum: No report at this time.

Personnel/Finance: No report at this time.

Public Comment: None.

New Business – Action Items:

Hire: **Moved by** Amanda Smego, **supported by** George Calvert that, upon successful completion of her probationary period, the position of Bus Driver is awarded to Phyliss Bannow. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Hire: **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** Jesse Binns that Cheryl Graham is awarded the position of 4th Grade Spelling Bee Coach. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Hire: **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** Jesse Binns that Bill Yarbrough is awarded the position of Accounting & Payroll Manager, with a start date of January 16, 2018, contingent upon results of a background check. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Mr. Yarbrough said that he is looking forward to getting to know everyone and thanked all for the opportunity.

Hire: **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** Sue Horstmann that Renee Manno is awarded the position of Coordinator of Career and College Readiness/District New Tech Coach, effective January 9, 2018, contingent upon results of a background check. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Ms. Manno thanked the Board for the opportunity and said she is excited to work with the staff, students and administration.

New Business – Discussion Item:

Relinquishing Title III Funds: Dr. Piazza said that this is the first time the district has been eligible to receive these funds but would first need to join a consortium. The amount the district would have received was minimal and there wasn't time to find a consortium. Therefore, we will not take those Title III funds at this time. We will look into this in the future, especially if our EL numbers grow.

Old Business – Action Item:

Relinquishing Title III Funds: **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved Cassopolis Public Schools is relinquishing Title III Funds (Part A-Immigrant Students; and, Part A-English Learning) for the 2017-18 school year. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Expulsion Hearing: Mr. Ward noted that the parent has requested a closed session.

Moved by George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to go into closed session at 6:49 p.m. for the purpose of an expulsion hearing. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

The Board took a 5-minute recess.

The Board returned to open session at 7:35 p.m.

Moved by Deb Deubner, **supported by** Amanda Smego that, due to changes in State Law, Student "A" not be expelled but referred to the district's Alternative Education program, under terms to be stipulated by the Superintendent. **Motion carried** 5-2, as follows: Binns, no; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, no.

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

January 15 No School for Students or Staff – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 22 Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Squires Education Center

January 25 End of 1st Semester

February 5 BOE Regular 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 7:37 p.m.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary