

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

Board of Education
Minutes
Reorganizational Meeting
July 9, 2018

Call to Order: This reorganizational meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, July 9, 2018 in the Board meeting room at Squires Education Center and was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Ward.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Amanda Smego, Deb Deubner, Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Jesse Binns, Scott Ward

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Angela Piazza, Geri Vlasicak, Jason Messner, Glen Barr, Renee Manno, Robin Hadrick.

Election of Officers:

President– Moved by George Calvert, supported by Lisa Cutting to nominate Scott Ward for the office of President. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes. Mr. Ward is elected President.

Vice President – Moved by Sue Horstmann, supported by Deb Deubner to nominate Lisa Cutting for the office of Vice President. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes. Ms. Cutting is elected Vice President.

Secretary – Moved by George Calvert, supported by Deb Deubner to nominate Sue Horstmann for the office of Secretary. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes. Mrs. Horstmann is elected Secretary.

Treasurer – Moved by George Calvert, supported by Amanda Smego to nominate Jesse Binns as Treasurer.

Moved by Jesse Binns to nominate Deb Deubner as Treasurer, supported by Scott Ward.

Vote for Jesse Binns as Treasurer was: Smego, yes; Binns no; Calvert, yes; Horstmann no; Deubner, yes; Cutting yes; Ward, yes. Motion carried 5-2. Mr. Binns is elected Treasurer.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Deb Deubner, supported by George Calvert to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by George Calvert, supported by Deb Deubner to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2018 budget hearing and regular meeting, as written. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Public Comment – None.

Set Date, Time and Place of Regular Meeting: Moved by Amanda Smego, supported by Jesse Binns to set the following dates for regular Board meetings in 2018-19, to be held at Squires Education Center, beginning at 6:30 p.m.: July 9, August 13, August 27, September 24, October 8, October 22, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, April 22, May 13, June 10, June 24. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Ward yes

Name Depositories: Moved by Deb Deubner supported by George Calvert, that WHEREAS, there may now be in and may hereafter, from time to time, come into the possession of the Treasurer of the Board of Education of Cassopolis Public School District, Cassopolis, Michigan, certain public monies belonging to or held for the Cassopolis Public School District, or otherwise held according to law; and,

WHEREAS, under the laws of the State of Michigan, this Board is required to provide by resolution for the deposit of all public monies, including tax monies coming into the possession of said Treasurer, in one or more banks (hereinafter called BANK) to be designated in said Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that said Treasurer, Jesse Binns, is hereby directed to deposit all public monies, including tax monies, now in or coming into his possession, as Treasurer, in the following:

Chemical Bank – General Fund, Building & Site Funds / Sinking Fund, Debt Retirement Funds (2009 AZAB, 2010A, 2010B), and 2015 Bond Capital Projects Fund, Payroll Account.

Greater Niles Community Federal Credit Union – Athletic Account Fund, Food Service Fund, Activity Fund, Athletic Referee

Fifth Third Bank – QZAB Fund

Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Authorize Check Signatories: Moved by Sue Horstmann, supported by Deb Deubner that it be FURTHER RESOLVED That funds from the below listed accounts be withdrawn from said banks, by check, signed by Jesse Binns, Treasurer and/or Scott Ward, President, and/or Susan Horstmann, Secretary: General Fund, Payroll, Food Service, Building and Site, Debt Retirements, Activity, Athletics, QZAB. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Authorization to use check signer for payroll transfers, investments and emergency use: Moved by Sue Horstmann, supported by George Calvert that the Cassopolis Board of Education authorize the use of the check signer for payroll transfers, investments and emergency use. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Appointment of Legal Counsel: Moved by Deb Deubner, supported by Lisa Cutting that the Cassopolis Board of Education retains Thrun Law Firm of East Lansing, Michigan as legal counsel for Cassopolis Public Schools for the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Other Business to be addressed

Membership in MHSAA: Moved by Jesse Binns, supported by Deb Deubner that it is hereby resolved the Cassopolis Public Schools continue membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Membership in MASB Legal Trust Fund: Moved by Amanda Smego, supported by Deb Deubner that the Cassopolis Board of Education continue membership in the Michigan Association of School Boards Legal Trust Fund for the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Approve SET-SEG for Property. Liability and Fleet Insurance: Moved by Sue Horstmann, supported by George Calvert that Set Seg be the agent for Cassopolis Public Schools property, liability and fleet insurance for the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Membership in MASB: Moved by Lisa Cutting, supported by Deb Deubner that Cassopolis Board of Education continue membership in the Michigan Association of School Boards for the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried 7-0, as follows:

Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Legislative Relations Network Representative: Moved by George Calvert, supported by Amanda Smego that Lisa Cutting be appointed as the Board's Legislative Relations Network Representative for 2018-19. Motion carried 6-1, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, no; Ward, yes.

Berrien/Cass School Board Association Representative: Moved by George Calvert, supported by Lisa Cutting that Jesse Binns be appointed as the Board's Berrien/Cass School Board Association Representative and that Amanda Smego be appointed as the Alternate. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Board Members to attend District Related Conferences: Moved by Deb Deubner, supported by Lisa Cutting that it is hereby authorized members of the Cassopolis Board of Education are authorized to attend District related conferences for the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Continuing Participation in Section 105 and 105c – Schools of Choice – Moved by Deb Deubner, supported by George Calvert that it is hereby resolved that Cassopolis public Schools will continue to participate in Section 105 and 105c of the State School Aid Act (Schools of Choice). Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Item

Hiring – Moved by Jesse Binns, supported by George Calvert that the position of Elementary Level Teacher is awarded to Hannah Deubner, effective with the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried, 6-0-1, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, abstain; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Ms. Deubner said that she is excited to be home and to start teaching here in the fall. Mr. Ward said that it is always very special when a Cassopolis graduate comes home to teach in their home district and welcomed her to the staff.

School Start Date – Moved by Amanda Smego, supported by Jesse Binns that the start date for the 2018-19 school year will be Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Old Business – Action Item

Fiber Lease to Cass County Medical Care Facility – Moved by Deb Deubner, supported by Jesse Binns that it is hereby resolved that the 5-year lease of fiber to Cass County Medical Care Facility, as outlined in the attached Lease Agreement, is approved as presented. This approval is contingent upon agreement to assume maintenance costs for Cass County Medical Care Facility's portion of the fiber usage.

There was considerable discussion on this matter, as the Board had concerns about not receiving a response that the Medical Care Facility would assume the maintenance costs for their portion of the fiber. This information had been provided to their representative at Merit Networking, who was aware that this clarification was needed and of the timeline for tonight's meeting and yet we have not received a response from their representative at Merit Networking.

After considerable deliberation, it was moved by Amanda Smego, supported by Deb Deubner to table this request from the Cass County Medical Care Facility. Motion carried 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent Evaluation – Moved by Deb Deubner, supported by Lisa Cutting that it is hereby resolved that Angela Piazza's contract as Superintendent of Cassopolis Public Schools is hereby extended from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022.

Mr. Ward said that he appreciates the work Dr. Piazza has done the last year, and knows it has been difficult. Her wanting to step up and commit to the district for two more years is very admirable. He hopes the coming years are even better.

Motion carried 5-2, as follows: Smego, no; Binns, no; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Piazza welcomed Mrs. Robin Hadrick, the new high school principal. Mrs. Hadrick came to us from Niles, where she was principal at the high school and currently comes from Ballard Elementary.

Mr. Ward said that as a whole this last year has been difficult for all, as tough decisions had to be made. In the end, he believes all worked together to get things done and the district is moving in a very positive direction more than in years past. He is very anxious to see where we are going, hopes in the coming year we can move forward as much as possible and help Dr. Piazza do what is best for the kids.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education it was moved by George Calvert, supported by Jesse Binns to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary