

Cassopolis Public Schools  
Cassopolis High School  
Media Center  
(269)445-0503

Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
January 23, 2023

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was at Cassopolis High School in the Media Center on Monday, January 23, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m., as President Deubner welcomed those attending. Aaron Steensma led the Pledge.

Roll Call:

Board of Education Members present: Heather Beaudoin, Jesse Bement, Teresa Dahlgren, Deb Deubner, Amanda Smego, and Aaron Steensma

Members absent: Scott Ward

Also present: Dr. John Ritzler, Lindsay Gorham-Pflug, Yara Neuerburg, Chris Bergen, Tammi Preston, Rachele Ward, Geri Vlasticak, Carey May, Brian Smith, Heather Rigby, Lisa Phillips, Jess Ayers, Hannah Hoff, and members of the community.

Swearing in of New and Re-Elected Board Members:

Heather Beaudoin, Jesse Bement, Teresa Dahlgren, and Deb Deubner were sworn in as Cassopolis Public Schools Board of Education members.

Election of Officers:

**Moved by** Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Jesse Bement to maintain the current offices held by the current board members. Deb Deubner, President. Amanda Smego, Vice President. Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary. Jesse Bement, Treasurer. **Motion carried** 6 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

Appointment of Facilities Committee:

Dr. Ritzler requested that a facilities committee be formed for this upcoming year to address issues that pertain to the facilities. President Deubner reached out to members of the Board for interest in serving on this committee. Members that agreed to serve on this committee are Jesse Bement, Amanda Smego, and Aaron Steensma. Jesse Bement was appointed chair for the committee.

Agenda:

**Moved by** Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Teresa Dahlgren to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

Minutes:

**Moved by** Heather Beaudoin, **supported by** Amanda Smego to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

### Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Ritzler acknowledged donations made last month to buy supplies at the elementary school by Linda Minnix and Valerie Pompa. Linda wished to donate additional monies which Dr. Ritzler accepted on behalf of the Board. Thank you, again, to Linda Minnix and Valerie Pompa.

Dr. Ritzler then discussed that the high school does not currently have a working library. We have been working on ways to remedy this. One possible solution that shows promise is a partnership with the Cass District Library. This partnership would put a branch of the library at the high school. While we are in the very early stages of discussing this, Dr. Ritzler wanted to keep the Board informed of what is being researched and the steps that are being taken. Whether these plans continue to evolve or if it is decided that this is not a feasible option, he will continue to keep the Board updated.

Baskets of popcorn were donated by the elementary school to the Board members in recognition of School Board Recognition Month.

### Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Agenda Items.

### Consent Agenda:

**Moved by** Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Amanda Smego to approve the consent agenda as amended. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

### New Business: Action Item

**Moved by** Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the Robotics overnight trips upon qualification to the State Championship and World Competitions. **Motion carried** 6 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

**Moved by** Jesse Bement, **supported by** Teresa Dahlgren to approve the FFA overnight trips to the Green and White Pig Show and the State Convention. **Motion carried** 6 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

**Moved by** Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve the resolution calling for a non-homestead millage renewal election and approving the ballot proposal to be considered by the voters. **Motion carried** 6 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

### Miscellaneous Items:

Jesse Bement serves as our representative for the Berrien/Cass School Board Association. He is unable to attend the next meeting. Deb Deubner agreed to attend the meeting in Jesse's absence.

### Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:

Members of the public spoke.

### Closed Session:

Superintendent Evaluation (Formative)

Adjournment:

**Moved by** Amanda Smego to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Submitted by Beth Westrick  
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary

\*Next BOE meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2023.