

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

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 23, 2023

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was at Cassopolis High School in the Media Center on Monday, October 23, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 5:31p.m., as President Deubner welcomed those attending. Amanda Smego led the Pledge.

Roll Call:

Board of Education Members present: Heather Beaudoin, Jesse Bement (arrived at 5:33pm), Teresa Dahlgren, Deb Deubner, and Amanda Smego.

Members absent: Aaron Steensma and Scott Ward

Also present: Dr. John Ritzler, Chris Bergen, Rachele Bogue, James English, Lindsay Gorham-Pflug, Sean Keck, Tanya Leach, Carey May, Yara Neuerburg, Tammi Preston, Brett Scott, Brian Smith, Jennifer Torbet, Beth Westrick, and members of the community.

Agenda:

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to amend the agenda to move the Superintendent's report to be presented before the financial report and presentation. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, and Deubner. No – Zero

Agenda:

Moved by Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Amanda Smego to approve the agenda as amended. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, and Deubner. No – Zero

Minutes:

Moved by Heather Beaudoin, **supported by** Amanda Smego to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, and Deubner. No - Zero

Superintendent's Report:

The Cassopolis Public Schools Foundation presented \$2,871.54 to 15 of our staff members that applied for the fall mini grant through the foundation. These funds will be used in various ways to enhance different areas in our schools. Thank you to the Cassopolis Public Schools Foundation for their continued support.

Dr. Ritzler invited Mr. Sean Keck and some of his marching band members to discuss the accomplishments and awards that the 23-24 Cassopolis Marching Band had bestowed upon them. The performances earned them the highest rating in many years. The students expressed how much they enjoy the marching band program.

Financial Report and Presentation of 22-23 Financial Audit:

Mr. English invited Alex Schaeffer with Kruggel Lawton to present on the 2022-23 financial audit. The district received its revenue from state, federal, and local resources. Federal and State revenues have increased over the last few years. This is mainly due to Covid, and these funds are restricted to specific use. Expenditures were broken down in his presentation between instruction and support services. Support service expenditures have fluctuated over the last three years due to grants being directed toward operation and maintenance. Mr. Schaeffer stated that the audit went well.

Mr. English followed up with important information. The overall financial picture is that we are in good shape, however, the one-time ESSER federal funding will expire in September 2024. The district and business office will put together a long-term plan that the district will follow to function within a budget which will have less available resources after 2023-24. The enrollment trend is still declining. Continued focus on keeping costs to match the size of the enrollment will be key in maintaining a positive fund balance. The district has an aging infrastructure that will require funding so that needed improvements can be made in the coming years. Questions were asked of both Mr. Schaeffer and Mr. English and answered.

Closed Session:

Moved by Amanda Smego, **supported by** Jesse Bement to move into closed session to review and consider the contents of an application for employment. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, and Deubner. No – Zero The Board went into closed session at 6:25pm and returned to open session at 6:33pm.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Agenda Items.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Amanda Smego, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the consent agenda as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve the 5th Grade Camp for May 8th-10th, 2024. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve that the Superintendent and Director of Finance be authorized to establish the Building Repair and Technology Fund to be used for tracking the revenue and expenditures related to the sinking fund approved by voters in August of 2022. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, and Deubner. No – Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Amanda Smego, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the purchase of up to 470 Chromebooks at \$230.00 each for a total cost of \$108,100.00. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, and Deubner. No - Zero

Miscellaneous Administrative Items:

There were no miscellaneous administrative items.

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Non-agenda Items.

Adjournment:

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Amanda Smego to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

Submitted by Beth Westrick
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary

*Next BOE meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2023.