

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

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 18, 2023

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was at Cassopolis High School in the Media Center on Monday, December 18, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 5:30p.m., as President Deubner welcomed those attending. Teresa Dahlgren 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: None

Also present: Chris Bergen, Rachele Bogue, James English, Lindsay Gorham, Carey May, Lisa Phillips, Heather Rigby, Yara Neurerburg, Lauren Sheeley, Brian Smith, Beth Westrick, and members of the community.

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Moved by Aaron Steensma, **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 – Zero

Superintendent's Report:

In Dr. Ritzler's absence, Mrs. Neurerburg recognized the Fall All-Conference Athletes. Cross Country-Rhys Orth; Football Offense-Jadyn Brown, Spencer Wagoner, Kenny May, Dameond Kaminski, and Neelanh Vanhpphoumy; Football Defense-Jalyne Brown, Malachi Ward, and Mason Smego; Soccer-Kenny May, Gavin Anderson, and William Drews; Volleyball-Ryli Burks (Captain), Atyanna Alford, Ryley Bowsher, Ella Smith, Mackenzie Boyer, and Tori Burks. The Varsity Girls Volleyball Team was awarded Academic All State.

Special thanks to board member Jesse Bement and Ag Science teacher Hannah Hoff that worked to detail the needs and associated costs with the needs to the improvements of the Ag barn that will be funded through the CTE grant.

Financial Report

Mr. English spoke about the vision for our district. As the available federal covid relief funds will no longer be available after 2024, now is a good time to think about our vision for where we want to go as a district over the next ten years. We will also have an opportunity to pursue a bond issue without a millage increase, which would allow us to invest in district facilities and technology. The administration wants to include stakeholders in a long-term vision process as we consider how we might invest in Cassopolis Public Schools. We envision four to six community forums where board members will be present to hear from community stakeholders. These community stakeholders would need to commit to being present for each of the forums. The district will start by giving information of what a bond issue is, give the community an opportunity to discuss what the needs of the district are, and then come back to the board with a recommendation for investing as we seek a comprehensive and cohesive vision for Cassopolis Public Schools in 2033. Architects from GMB Architecture + Engineering would be involved in this planning process. GMB has worked extensively in the K-12 design market, with offices in Holland, Grand Rapids, and Indianapolis. Simultaneously, we will seek input from staff regarding the needs of the district. The district will also be utilizing a survey company, EPIC MRA, to conduct a scientific survey within the community to acquire input from a representative sample of voters.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Agenda Items.

Consent Agenda:

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

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Aaron Steensma to approve that the 2023-24 budget amendment resolutions be adopted for the General Fund, Food Service Fund, Debt Funds, and Sinking Fund as presented, and that the 2023-24 budget and tax levy on all property of 0.8285 mills for the new Building Repair & Technology Fund be adopted as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve the purchase of a Bobcat Skid Steer Loader from Bobcat of Michiana for \$57,002.67 using CTE equipment grant funds. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve Board Policies 1540, 2370.01, 7540.03, 8305, and 8531. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

Miscellaneous Administrative Items:

There were no miscellaneous administrative items.

Board Vacancy Selection:

Moved by Heather Beaudoin, **supported by** Jesse Bement to appoint William Lee as Board of Education Trustee to fill the Board vacancy.

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Non-agenda Items.

Adjournment:

Moved by Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Amanda Smego to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Submitted by Beth Westrick
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary

*Next BOE meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2024.