

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

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 27, 2023

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was at Cassopolis High School in the Media Center on Monday, February 27, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m., as President Deubner welcomed those attending. Jesse Bement led the Pledge.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: Teresa Dahlgren, Amanda Smego, and Scott Ward

Also present: Dr. John Ritzler, Lindsay Gorham-Pflug, Yara Neuerburg, Chris Bergen, Tammi Preston, Carey May, Brian Smith, Heather Rigby, Jess Ayers, and members of the community.

Agenda:

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 4 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

Minutes:

Moved by Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 4 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

Superintendent's Report:

Members of the school musical, My Fair Lady, were present to promote the musical that is taking place this weekend. March 3rd and 4th at 7:00pm and March 5th at 2:00pm.

Dr. Ritzler recognized our students who have advanced through district and regional competitions to their respective state finals. In Wrestling: Brandon Hemminger. In FFA, Prepared Public Speaking: Mason Smego, Demonstration Team: Katherine Gregory and Emily Carlisle, Greenhand Conduct of Meetings Team: Dickson Samadder, Jered Wellman, Jackson Bement, Chase DeBruine, Micah Christian, Tabitha Williamson, Alexandra Westphal, Kenyen Kennedy, and Jr. High Conduct of Meetings Team: Isabel Kennedy, Olivia Hayden, Brylee Jones, Colt Bement, Mason McMillen, Taeler DeBruine, Melody Bussey, Braxton Schoetzow.

School Security Officer, Chris Bergen, spoke of security improvements and protocols that have been put in place over the year since he has been hired. He expressed that he has been working to build relationships with the students, parents, and staff as another way to protect the buildings. Mr. Bergen answered questions by the Board members.

Dr. Ritzler and Mrs. Neuerburg presented an update on accountability, assessments, curriculum, and instruction. Student growth and proficiency are based on the tests that are given on the State level. Our graduation rate and our assessment participation we are excelling at. Each of the last four years our graduation rate was in the highest level as rated by the State. We reached our targets in growth last year. This year we are working toward more challenging goals. In our high school, by the time our students are graduating, most have at least three college credits. Each grade level is working with the grade level below and above to make sure that their curriculums align to promote student success.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Agenda Items.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Heather Beaudoin, **supported by** Aaron Steensma to approve the consent agenda as amended. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 4 – 0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Steensma, and Deubner. No – 0

New Business: Action Item

Moving future regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting start time from 6:30pm to 5:30pm. No action was taken.

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

Adjournment:

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Submitted by Beth Westrick
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary

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