

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

Board of Education
Minutes
Facilities Committee
February 8, 2023

Welcome: This Special meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was at Cassopolis High School in the Media Center on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 5:41p.m., as Committee Chair Bement welcomed those attending. Aaron Steensma led the Pledge.

Roll Call:

Board of Education Members present: Jesse Bement, Amanda Smego, and Aaron Steensma

Also Present: Brian Smith

Agenda:

Moved by Amanda Smego, **supported by** Aaron Steensma to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 3 – 0 Yes – Bement, Smego, and Steensma. No – 0

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

New Business: Discussion

High School Football Field-Dating back to October 2015 Bob Frame Plumbing was hired to come in and check for blockages and drainage and perhaps plan new drainage. In the Spring of 2016 Carmi had been hired to start the project. They began by doing soil borings and making recommendations. We have a drainage plan document that does not appear to have any drainage. The project began in November 2016. There was a large slope from North to South and a crown in the middle of the field. These were removed. In March of 2019 Hostetler was asked to quote renovation of the practice field but they were also asked for an opinion on what could be done to address the issues on the main field. At that time the Board wanted to have Carmi make the corrections. Carmi would investigate the problem. In March of 2020 everything was shut down for COVID-19. Carmi did not return. Games have been postponed and cancelled due to field conditions.

Possible next steps-Get bids to restore some of the mound in the field that we believe would alleviate some of the problem. Contact Carmi and ask that they honor their agreement to address the issue in 2020 before shut down. The downside is that it has now been seven years and there is uncertainty what we could get from them.

Discussion of the irrigation being run incorrectly. They also discussed that the field is all clay. Thoughts that runoff from the parking lot were connected to a “mystery pipe” that is part of the issue. The mystery pipe is recalled being in the northeast corner of the field. There is no idea of where the pipe begins or ends. That pipe could be using the football field as a retention pond.

Do we go back to Carmi and apply pressure? Brian stated that Carmi said that there were not any complaints from the time the project was finished. Brian also stated that he knew that there was communication between his predecessor, Jason Messner, and Carmi about issues with the field.

Amanda stated that the statute of limitations was coming to an end soon and we need to make some decisions soon if we wanted to file a civil suit.

Brian stated that he is still using the same vendors that were put into place when the football field was renovated so that he would be able to use their input of the field since its completion.

Dr. Ritzler stated that Carmi gave him two options that he has been unable to find a change order or an original quote that suggests that either of these two options were implemented.

Is it possible to put some type of drainage in without ripping out the entire field? You could use a tile plow to lay the tile. This would cause issues with the irrigation.

Clay soil is a major issue.

It was questioned if Carmi would be willing to come back and discuss these issues and suggestions.

Aaron stated that they expressed concern over going with turf instead of artificial turf. Expressed concern over the drainage issue.

Dr. Ritzler stated that he would call Carmi on the 9th. The committee discussed how difficult it was to get Carmi here to meet with them. Dr. Ritzler stated that he could reach out to C & E as well.

The project was completed in the summer of 2017. Jason reached out to Carmi but we don't have documentation of when the correspondence took place. Scott reached out to Carmi in 2019 with complaints.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

Submitted by Beth Westrick
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary