

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

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
June 19, 2023

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was at Cassopolis High School in the Media Center on Monday, June 19, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 5:55p.m., as President Deubner welcomed those attending. Aaron Steensma led the Pledge.

Roll Call:

Board of Education Members present: Heather Beaudoin, Jesse Bement (arrived at 5:32), Deb Deubner, Amanda Smego, and Aaron Steensma.

Members absent: Teresa Dahlgren, Scott Ward

Also present: Dr. John Ritzler, Diane Alford, Jess Ayers, Chris Bergen, Jennifer Bloss, Breana Bowsher, Misty Christian, Torie Conner, James English, Lindsay Gorham-Pflug, Kelly Gouff, Hannah Hoff, Carey May, Yara Neuerburg, Lisa Phillips, Nikki Phillips, Tammi Preston, Heather Rigby, Julie Shaefer, Lauren Sheeley, Geri Vlasticak, Patty Waldschmidt, Rachele Ward, Beth Westrick, and members of the community.

Agenda:

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

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Ritzler acknowledged the newest Federal holiday of Juneteenth. Cassopolis Sam Adams Elementary School was recognized for their accomplishments in NWEA testing. Goals set for student progress for the district were set and 80% of the student body earned all their credits. Students that were behind have all improved and continue to improve the further we move away from COVID. Explanation was given on the evaluation scores. Cassopolis Public Schools is a recipient of the Grow Your Own Grant which is designed to help encourage more people to join the educational profession. Mrs. Rigby has earned the child nutrition director certification. Ethan Pflug was awarded the Lake Michigan College WAVE Award for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical. Dr. Ritzler recognized Mrs. Vlasticak for her years of service and welcomed Mr. English who has accepted the position of Director of Finance for our district. Dr. Ritzler also recognized Janice Gatson for her years of service as she retires.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Agenda Items.

Consent Agenda:

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

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Amanda Smego, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve the 22-23 Final Budget Resolution as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Aaron Steensma to approve the 23-24 Preliminary General Fund Budget as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Heather Beaudoin, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the 23-24 Preliminary Debt Service Fund Budget as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Amanda Smego to approve the 23-24 Preliminary Sinking Fund Budget as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Amanda Smego, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the 23-24 Preliminary Food Service Fund Budget as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve the 23-24 Preliminary Special Revenue Fund Budget as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the 23-24, 24-25, 25-26 CSEA Contract as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Heather Beaudoin, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the Superintendent's contract for July 1, 2023, through June 20, 2027, as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Amanda Smego to approve the FFA overnight trips for the Chapter Office Planning Retreat and Leadership Conference. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve participation in Section 105 and 105c School of Choice for the 23-24 school year as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Amanda Smego, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve utilizing RZSports Turf with Option 1A regarding resolving the issue of excess water retention on the football field as presented. Coach Lee joined the discussion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

Miscellaneous Administrative Items:

There were no miscellaneous administrative items.

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:

Members of the community spoke.

Closed Session: Superintendent Evaluation

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Aaron Steensma to move into closed session. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

Closed Session: Action Item

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Aaron Steensma to approve the Superintendent's evaluation rating of highly affective. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

Adjournment:

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Amanda Smego to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Submitted by Beth Westrick
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary

*Next BOE meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2023.