

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

Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
September 18, 2023

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was at Cassopolis High School in the Media Center on Monday, August 18, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 5:31p.m., as President Deubner welcomed those attending. Heather Beaudoin led the Pledge.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: Scott Ward

Also present: Dr. John Ritzler, Chris Bergen, Rachele Bogue, James English, Lindsay Gorham-Pflug, Kelly Gouff, Allison Hill, Hannah Hoff, Carey May, Yara Neuerburg, Tammi Preston, Heather Rigby, Lauren Sheeley, Brian Smith, Beth Westrick, and members of the community.

Agenda:

**Moved by** Jesse Bement, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to amend the agenda to include Tracy Phillips (teacher), Jonathon Foster (coach), and Austin Bruens (instructional assistant). There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

Agenda:

**Moved by** Jesse Bement, **supported by** Teresa Dahlgren 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:

Dr. Ritzler invited James English, Finance Director, to speak on the financial status of the district. Mr. English explained that we are two and a half months into the fiscal year and that next month the auditors will be here to present the final audit results for the last fiscal year. The Board will receive a comprehensive update from the auditors and Mr. English next month. The cash flow loan was received as expected. We have not received any money from the State for this school year yet. Those funds will begin to come to us on October 20<sup>th</sup>. We are managing our budget well locally. The action taken last month by the Board had an immediate effect which allowed us to transfer money into a higher interest rate account, putting the money to work for us. At this point, the first two months in, the budget looks good.

Allison Hill and Tom Vihtelic spoke of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade swim camp program that is celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> year partnering with Mr. Vihtelic, which is a community supported program that started with Tom Swartz and Jeanne Jourdan. The students learn swimming safety, to float on their backs, how to go be able to have their heads under water, ways to get themselves to safety if needed, as well as ways to help others should they be in distress.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Agenda Items.

Consent Agenda:

**Moved by** Heather Beaudoin, **supported by** Amanda Smego 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** Jesse Bement, **supported by** Amanda Smego to approve the FFA Fall Leadership Conference Trip. 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 the FFA National Convention Trip. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

Miscellaneous Administrative Items:

Board members asked for feedback on the condition of the football field since the renovations. Brian Smith, Facilities Director, stated that the football field is looking great, and he is pleased with the results of the renovations. Praise was given for the speed with which the renovations were accomplished.

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:

Community members spoke on Non-agenda Items.

Adjournment:

**Moved by** Jesse Bement, **supported by** Amanda Smego to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Submitted by Beth Westrick  
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary

\*Next BOE meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2023.