

Cassopolis Public Schools
725 Center Street
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-0500

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 22, 2014

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, September 22, 2014 in the Board meeting room at Squires Educational Center and called to order at 7:01 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call: Members Present: George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, John Bright, Jason Pompey, Lisa Cutting, Jeremy Carlisle, Scott Ward
Members Absent: None
Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Becky Smith, Laura Ash, Dave VanLue, Matt Brawley, Robyn Bright, members of the staff, community and media

Sue Horstmann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda - Moved by George Calvert, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Cutting, yes; Bright, yes; Calvert, yes; Carlisle, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of September 8, 2014, as written. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows; Carlisle, yes; Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

Ross Beatty JSHS / VanLue: Mr. VanLue said that their bully free school rubrics is going very well. The first couple of days there was an increase with discipline incidents but it then went down significantly. Teachers are being very fair and consistent and the students are doing very well.

Public Comment –

Sara Bullocks said that the Cassopolis community is very diverse and she couldn't help but notice there is no diversity on the Board. She encouraged that when the Board is seeking Board members in the future they consider diversity along with everything else.

Financials – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle that it is hereby resolved the Board of Education approve bills for the month of August, as follows: General Fund, \$374,867.87; Food Service Fund, \$13,005.12; and, Sinking Fund \$156,963.57. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Discussion Items

2014 Tax Levy – Mr. Hertsel asked Mrs. Ash to review this discussion item. Mrs. Ash said that this item will set the tax levy for this coming December. Once the Board has approved the tax levy and Board officers have signed the forms they will be sent to the County Clerk, the County Equalization Department and all township officials tomorrow.

Retroactive teacher layoffs – Mr. Hertsel said that as part of the 2014-15 budget package there were two

teacher layoffs that occurred and this action will be retroactive to the start of school.

Old Business – Action Items

Robotics Club – Math Credit / Varsity Letter – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** Jason Pompey that it is hereby resolved that, beginning with the 2014-15 school year, members of the Robotics Club meeting specific criteria will earn a math credit and a varsity letter. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

2014 Tax Levy – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle that the 2014 Tax Levy is approved, as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Carlisle, yes; Cutting, yes; Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Retroactive teacher layoffs – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** John Bright that it is resolved to lay off Kelly Butcher and Julie Taylor, effective August 25, 2014. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Bright, yes; Carlisle, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Items

Request for maternity leave – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle that Brooke Brawley's request for a maternity leave beginning November 1, 2014 through January 5, 2015 is approved. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Hirings – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** Jason Pompey that Tanya Leach is awarded the position of Home School Partnership Liaison up to 20 hours per week during the school year. Also to award the following positions: Marching Band, Concert Band and 7-12 Choir to Adam Noaeill; and, Spanish Club to Theresa Lockhart.

Dr. Calvert asked for some background on Mrs. Leach. Mr. Hertsel said that she has been subbing in the district and working on getting the program moving. They visited White Hall, MI district to look at how their program is set up. Mrs. Leach has already made connections plus has a good rapport with parents of home school kids who have said they would come into the district. Mr. Hertsel introduced Tanya Leach, and welcomed her to the position. Mrs. Leach said she is looking forward to getting this program in place for Cassopolis.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Hertsel reported as follows:

- Encouraged every parent and community member to attend the October 20th program at the high school in the evening on Internet safety and password protection. This event is open to all and we will see that notice of the program is in the local paper. The presentation is important for all to see. Students will have the opportunity to hear it during the school day. Also 5-6th grade students will hear the presentation at the elementary earlier that day.
- Auditors are in district this week and things are going smoothly. He thanked Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Ash for the smooth transition.
- Count Day is next Wednesday, October 1. If students are not in attendance on that day we have 10 days for them to be in seats in order to count them.
- A legislative breakfast will be held on October 13 from 8-10 a.m. at Berrien RESA. Please let Cindy or him know if you are able to attend.

Mr. Pompey gave an update from Friday's Finance Committee meeting. He asked anyone with ideas on where to cut the budget please call or email him. The district needs to cut \$350,000. There were four teacher cuts that did not happen yet so we have been down \$40,000 each month since August that we do nothing with this cut. If we continue to do nothing it will take our fund equity down to \$576,000 and that will also put us on a red flag with the state.

Mr. Bright said at the next Finance Committee meeting all areas will be looked at, while we need to look at teacher cuts it could be a combination of other areas to cut.

Mr. Ward said through the first month or so of school student numbers change, class sizes shift. We may need to add teachers in some areas, and take them away in others.

Mr. Bright said the next Finance Committee meeting will be after count day so we will have more accurate numbers.

Mr. Bright said on homecoming night, October 10th, there will be a fundraiser for athletics, as part of a tailgate. He hopes that Board members are able to work the event.

Mr. Ward updated the Board on tonight's Athletic Committee meeting, noting several community members were present. The meeting was held due to questions in the community on the no F policy and the potential for loopholes with that policy. There was good dialogue back and forth and all were in agreement they want to see as much achievement as possible from our students. Another meeting has been scheduled following the end of the first marking period. Congratulated the Robotics team members as they have worked hard to earn a varsity letter and a Math credit. Mr. Ward charged chairpersons of the Board sub committees to put forth a regular schedule of committee meetings.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education it was **moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary