

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

Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
October 13, 2014

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, October 13, 2014 in the Board meeting room at Squires Educational Center and called to order at 7:00 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call: Members Present: George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, John Bright, Jason Pompey, Jeremy Carlisle, Scott Ward  
Members Absent: Lisa Cutting  
Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Becky Smith, Robyn Bright, Rosa Haines, Cindy Martynowicz, members of the community

Jeremy Carlisle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda - **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle to amend the agenda by adding a new discussion item "G" Layoff of Mechanic; and a new action item "B" Layoff of Mechanic. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Bright, yes; Calvert, yes; Carlisle, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

**Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Carlisle, yes; Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** John Bright to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2014 regular meeting, as written. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff – None.

Public Comment – Mary Middleton, Executive Director of the Cassopolis Family Clinic said that the Ranger Wellness Center is doing really well. They saw 16 patients last week and saw 10 today. She has applied for funding through the Michigan Department of Community Health and Community Education. Ms. Middleton said that she would be sending a letter inviting one Board member to become a member of their Community Advisory Council. Ms. Middleton informed the Board of the Ranger Wellness Center open house that will be on October 24 before the last home football game.

Mr. Hertsel said that area Superintendents were in district last week and toured the Wellness Center. They were thoroughly impressed with the facility.

New Business – Discussion Items

First Reading – NEOLA policy #6320 / purchase of athletic uniform language – Mr. Hertsel said that this item is to formalize through NEOLA policy a change in procedures that the Board adopted a couple of months ago regarding the process for purchase of athletic uniforms. It will be up for second reading and action at the next Board meeting.

Request for overnight trip – Fall Leadership Conference (FFA)

Request for overnight trip – National Convention (FFA)

Request for overnight trip – Green & White Hog Show (FFA)

Request for overnight trip – State Convention (FFA)

Request for overnight trip – Regional Camp (FFA) –

Mrs. George spoke to these 5 overnight field trips that are coming up throughout the school year. Two are for this month, the Fall Leadership Conference in Lansing and National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. There are five students going to the Fall Conference on October 16-17. The National Conference is from October 28-31 and our Ag Issues team will be competing along with Emily Waldschmidt who will represent Michigan in the Job Interview Contest. There will be a total of 11 students plus 2 additional students attending nationals. Mrs. George then reviewed the last three overnight trip requests and asked if there were questions. There were none.

Layoff of Mechanic – Mr. Hertsel said that the Finance Committee met on Friday and the district must take some immediate measures to firm up the budget. Now that the audit is complete we have more firm numbers to work with and he is recommending the mechanic position be eliminated. The district would outsource mechanical issues with our buses.

Dr. Calvert asked how much we expect to save with this reduction. Mr. Hertsel said that costs would prorated throughout the rest of the school year. He said that he is also looking at a series of items to address in budget cuts.

New Business – Action Item

Request for overnight trip – FFA Fall Conference – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** John Bright to approve the FFA request to attend fall conference from October 16-17, 2014. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Mechanic – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** John Bright to eliminate the Mechanic position. **Motion carried** 4-2, Carlisle, yes; Pompey, yes; Horstmann, no; Calvert, no; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- Thanked Board members for organizing the athletic fundraiser dinner on homecoming night.
- Last week the grandstand at the fairgrounds was unavailable to use for float construction due to some maintenance issues in their building. This is the first year he is aware of that floats were constructed in different locations, and said he has heard positive comments.
- All homecoming festivities, parade, the dinner, game, went very well.
- A smoke alarm went off at the elementary today after a frozen meal was left in the microwave too long. It showed there was a problem with the security system so EPS was called and will get that corrected.
- Noted that a Building & Grounds Committee meeting will need to be scheduled.
- Has Carmi Design working on a facility study to quickly provide a report. It looks tight for the deadlines to put a bond issue on the February ballot but they are working towards that election.

- He wants to have facts before we decide which way to go with the bond, the biggest difference is in the interest rate, if the rate is too high for an unqualified bond we would probably wait for the May election. He hopes to have more information by the next Board meeting.
- Soccer won their district game against Schoolcraft so will play in Marcellus on Wednesday.
- Summarized the legislative breakfast meeting that he and Mr. Bright attended today.

Mr. Pompey gave an update on Friday's Finance Committee meeting. With reduced funds, less students and our being over expenditures, plus the projected patch work needed at the buildings it looks like we need to cut approximately \$610,000 from the 2014-15 budget. The four buses purchased last school year are under warranty so we should realize some savings there. The committee is meeting again this Friday but he urged anyone with suggestions for savings to please let them know so all possibilities can be discussed.

Mrs. Horstmann said that if the committee is going to bring an item to the full Board for action on the Board agenda she would appreciate having the reasoning for that item prior to the action. Mrs. Horstmann said she voted no on the mechanic layoff because she was uninformed. She realizes that every day we don't make cuts costs the district more money.

Mr. Bright said there was \$360,000 in budget cuts in the preliminary budget and some were never completed. Some have never happened. Also there is \$100,000 in the budget that is to cover the district for an accounting liability; it shows that should the district close we would have to pay that amount out for unused days. Due to new accounting laws that now has to be listed.

Mr. Ward asked if hard copies of information could be provided to Board members that are having trouble opening attachments. Mr. Hertsel will check with Mr. Diol about what could be causing these attachments not to open.

Mrs. Horstmann asked how the athletic fundraiser ended up and Mr. Bright said that sales from the night of the dinner took in \$440 and noted that Matt Brawley as well as many coaches had tickets they had sold. He will know more when he gets the information from Mr. Brawley but expects it to be at least \$1,000.

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 7:29 p.m. All in favor.

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary