

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

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 27, 2014

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, October 27, 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: Jeremy Carlisle (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), John Bright, Jason Pompey, Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Scott Ward
Members Absent: None.
Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Becky Smith, Rosa Haines, Dee Voss, Dave VanLue, Robyn Bright, Cindy Martynowicz, members of the staff, community and press.

John Bright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda - Moved by Lisa Cutting, **supported by** John Bright to approve the agenda, as presented. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Bright, yes; Horstmann, yes; Pompey, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** John Bright to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 13, 2014, as written. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Cutting, yes; Bright, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff – None.

Public Comment – Kevin Evans, 63683 White Street said he would like more information about the reason for making changes such as combining 7-8th grade band and various layoffs. He has heard things and would like to know why.

Financials – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved the Board of Education approve bills for the month of September, as follows: General Fund \$298,852.81; Food Service Fund \$5,877.17; Debt Service Fund, \$999,496.08, and, Sinking Fund \$309,410.81. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Bright, yes; Pompey, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Discussion Items

CSEA (support staff) layoffs – Mr. Hertsel said that this has not been an easy time for the Board and administrators. He met with the administrators for many hours over several days to find the best resolution to the budget deficit. Mr. Hertsel said that with the support staff we are looking at reducing some positions, not to compromise services but to right size the staff.

Mr. Hertsel said the budget cuts being recommended by the administration are to layoff the 5.5 hour/day Adult/Alternative Education daytime paraprofessional; layoff a 5.5 hour/day Special Education Instructional Paraprofessional at the elementary; layoff a 2 hour/day Non-Instructional Paraprofessional at the elementary; and, layoff the 5.5 hour/day Library Paraprofessional at the secondary. There were no questions from Board members.

Mr. Pompey said that as Chairman of the Finance Committee a lot of the layoffs with support staff and teachers were items that were included with the preliminary budget in June. Those never came forward to the Board for action as we wanted to see what our fall student count was going to be and what would happen at the state level.

CEA (teaching staff) layoffs – Mr. Hertsel said that the changes being recommended were to layoff Jenna Hughes a high school science teacher; layoff Kimberly Holder, 6th grade teacher, layoff Wendy Grace, an elementary 31-a teacher; transfer Kelly Hargrove, junior high math teacher from General Fund to 31-a funding; transfer Cheryl Graham, elementary Special Education teacher from General Fund for 5.25 hours into 31-a funding; transfer Catherine Prestly, elementary 31-a teacher to an elementary classroom assignment; transfer Glorianna Lang, a secondary Special Education teacher to the elementary, half time in 310a; transfer Dan Purlee, secondary P.E. teacher to the elementary; and, transfer Eric Burns, the elementary P.E. teacher into an elementary classroom.

Mr. Hertsel said that the administrators looked at right sizing classrooms, addressed overages and these were not easy decisions. They looked at highly qualified status for all teachers to make sure changes were workable, moved some funding into grant positions where possible to save in the General Fund.

Mr. Pompey asked what will happen at the secondary with P.E. classes. Mr. Hertsel said those would be covered by another highly qualified teacher at that building.

Mr. Pompey asked if we had verified with legal counsel that all layoffs and transfers follow state law and Board policy. Mr. Hertsel said yes.

There were no questions from Board members.

Additional line item budget reductions – Mr. Hertsel said that the administrators looked at all line items and made changes wherever possible.

Mr. Carlisle arrived at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Hertsel said they looked at copier related costs, and the vendor is working with us on a tighter control for all copies. They also looked at teaching and building supply budgets to bring those into alignment.

Mr. Bright said where numbers are listed they are not for the full year but for the time period November through June.

Mr. Carlisle asked if all proposals laid out are consistent with law, in case that had not been addressed. Mr. Hertsel said that all items follow state law and Board Policy.

Old Business – Action Items

Second Reading on Neola Policy #6320 / athletic uniform language – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** John Bright that it is hereby resolved the second reading of and the revision to Neola Policy #6320 is adopted, as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Cutting, yes; Bright, yes; Calvert, yes; Carlisle, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

FFA National Convention / request for overnight trip – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** George Calvert it is hereby resolved that the request for FFA members to attend the national convention from October 29 to November 1, 2014, is approved. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Carlisle, yes; Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

FFA Green & White Hog Show / request for overnight trip – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle that the request for FFA members to attend the Green & White Hog Show from January 30 to January 31, 2015 is approved. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Pompey, yes; Ward, yes.

FFA State Convention / request for overnight trip – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** Jason Pompey it is hereby resolved that the request for FFA members to attend the State Convention from March 11 to March 13, 2015 is approved. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

FFA Regional Camp / request for overnight trip – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** John Bright it is hereby resolved that the request for FFA members to attend the Region I FFA Camp from April 29 to May 1, 2015 is approved. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Carlisle, yes; Cutting, yes; Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

CSEA (support staff) layoffs – **Moved by** Jason Pompey, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle that it hereby be resolved as follows: layoff the 5.5 hour/day Adult/Alternative Education daytime paraprofessional; layoff a 5.5 hour/day Special Education Instructional Paraprofessional at the elementary; layoff a 2 hour/day Non-Instructional Paraprofessional at the elementary; and, layoff the 5.5 hour/day Library Paraprofessional at the secondary, as recommended by the administration. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

CEA (teaching staff) layoffs and transfers – **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** George Calvert as follows: layoff Jenna Hughes, high school science teacher; layoff Kimberly Holder, 6th grade teacher, layoff Wendy Grace, an elementary 31-a teacher; transfer Kelly Hargrove, junior high math teacher from General Fund to 31-a funding; transfer Cheryl Graham, elementary Special Education teacher from General Fund for 5.25 hours into 31-a funding; transfer Catherine Prestly, elementary 31-a teacher to an elementary classroom assignment; transfer Glorianna Lang, a secondary Special Education teacher to the elementary, half time in 31-a; transfer Dan Purlee, secondary P.E. teacher to elementary; and, transfer Eric Burns, the elementary P.E. teacher into an elementary classroom, as recommended by the administration. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Additional line item budget reductions – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** John Bright that the following line items are reduced from the 2014-15 budget, effective immediately, as recommended by the administration: Red Brick closure \$15,000; Copier costs at Ross Beatty JSH \$7,500; Teaching supplies at Ross Beatty JSH \$13,000; Office supplies at Ross Beatty JSH \$5,000; Library supplies at Ross Beatty JSH \$1,000; Miscellaneous supplies at Ross Beatty JSH \$2,000; Ross Beatty JSH Assistant Principal Conferences \$1,500; Library Paraprofessional (EduStaff) at Sam Adams Elementary \$8,400; Library supplies at Sam Adams Elementary \$4,500; Social Worker supplies at Sam Adams Elementary \$275; Office supplies at Sam Adams Elementary \$1,500; Copier costs at Sam Adams Elementary \$4,000; and, Pupil health supplies \$200. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Pompey, yes; Carlisle, yes; Horstmann, yes; Bright, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Item

Hiring – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** John Bright that the following positions are awarded, as recommended by the Athletic Director: 7th grade girls basketball coach – Janice Gatson; 8th grade girls basketball coach – Jeff Wernette; and, JV girls basketball coach – Lamar Pittman. **Motion carried** 6-1, as follows: Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Pompey, no; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- Congratulated freshman Amy Adams who qualified for the state cross country tournament.
- Congratulated Coach Purlee and the varsity football team who qualified for playoffs. We play at Decatur on Friday at 7 p.m.
- Wished the FFA good luck at national convention this week in Louisville, Kentucky. He and Mr. VanLue plan to attend on Wednesday to observe our team's competition.
- Said that making budget cuts was challenging for everyone and he appreciated all of the administrative input on these hard decisions.

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 7:21 p.m. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary