

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

Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
December 8, 2014

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, December 8, 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: John Bright, Jeremy Carlisle, Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Scott Ward  
Members Absent: Sue Horstmann, Jason Pompey  
Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Dee Voss, Dave VanLue, Deb Deubner, Cindy Martynowicz, and member of the staff and community

Lisa Cutting led the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time Mrs. Martynowicz conducted the oaths of office for John Bright, George Calvert, Lisa Cutting and for incoming Board member Deb Deubner. Sue Horstmann was not able to attend and will be sworn in at a later date. Mrs. Deubner's term begins on January 1, 2015.

Approval of Agenda - Moved by Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** George Calvert to amend the agenda by adding two action items, "B" Maternity Leave Request; and, "C" Concession by winter and spring varsity sport coaches. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

**Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jeremy Carlisle to approve the agenda, as amended. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 24, 2014, as written. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

**Ross Beatty JSHS / VanLue:** Mr. VanLue said they are updating their crisis intervention kit. He said that they ordered replacement batteries and pads for the AED in the cafeteria and they have now been put in place. He said that these will be checked monthly to make sure they are in proper working order. Mr. VanLue said on days that a staff member is not available to care for the needs of our diabetic students the nurse assistant in the Ranger Wellness Center will do so. Mr. VanLue said that is very much appreciated. Also, Mr. VanLue said that NWEA testing began today at the high school. They expect to be done this week and have 1-2 make up days next week. Mr. VanLue said he met with Dee and Matt Mayer from K-RESA on Friday. Their goal is to have similar programs between the buildings. The first step is to look at math. A team from both buildings will attend five days of training in Lansing this coming spring. Mr. VanLue said that Mr. Mayer also discussed Delta Math when he was in district. Mr. VanLue said that they could adopt STAR testing for the junior/senior high school and use that rather than Cambridge, as it is available as a K-12 program. He said that he and Mrs. Voss are working together to have a commonality between the buildings. Mr. VanLue said he had hoped to interview candidates for the open Band Director/Teacher position yet

this week but parents of band students would like the process to slow down. Tomorrow he will contact the four candidates that he is aware are interested. Also, Mr. VanLue said he has been updated on STAGES and his goal is to do classroom walk throughs before Christmas break and finish them before the end of the first semester.

**Sam Adams Elementary / Voss:** Mrs. Voss said that she and Mr. VanLue talk throughout the week and meet regularly. It was recommended that all programs be evaluated. The state now mandates that every school do a program evaluation at the elementary, secondary as well as at the district levels. She said that they need to find one that can be evaluated consistently. This Thursday is the 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade band and choir concert at the high school. She invited Board member to visit Sam Adams Elementary anytime.

**Administration / Hertsel:** Mr. Hertsel presented Jeremy Carlisle with a desk clock thanking him for his years of service on the Board of Education. Mr. Carlisle said he has thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone. There are challenges ahead but he is confident that the district can handle them. Mr. Carlisle wished everyone the best of luck, saying he will still be around.

#### Public Comment –

Mary Middleton, Executive Director of the Cass Family Clinic was present with good news. They received the community school child adolescent health care funding for the Ranger Wellness Center. This funding will be \$135,000 a year for five years and the funds will help pay for programs and personnel at the clinic. Ms. Middleton said that Dr. Calvert has agreed to be on the community advisory board along with one of the clinic's Board members Lois McNeary, Mr. VanLue, some teachers and some students.

#### New Business – Discussion Item

Request for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Overnight Trip to Camp Friedenswald – Mrs. Voss said that last year Mrs. Mason was in charge of the camp and is again this year. This year they wanted to be sure to submit their request early. This will be an action item at the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### New Business – Action Item

Hirings – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** George Calvert that the following positions are awarded: High School Science Olympiad Coach – Teresa Wellman; Varsity Baseball Coach – Andrew Brawley; Middle School Wrestling Coach – Scott Turnbow; and, Varsity Winter Cheerleading Coach – Erin Westrate and Lindsay Gorham.

**Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Carlisle, yes; Bright, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Maternity Leave Request – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** Lisa Cutting to approve the maternity leave request of Kelly Gustafson from January 5, 2015 until release by her physician. **Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Bright, yes; Carlisle, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Concession by winter and spring varsity sports coaches – **Moved by** Jeremy Carlisle, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved the varsity winter and spring coaches agree to a one percent reduction in their percentage multiplier for their coaching pay. This concession is for the 2014-15 school year only and their rates of pay will be reinstated at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Mr. Hertsel said that this is part of the athletic recommendation for budget cuts, noting that the multiplier depends on their years of experience.

**Motion carried** 5-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Bright, yes; Calvert, yes; Carlisle, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- Thanked Jeremy Carlisle for his service and commitment to make it to meetings even when traveling many miles.
- Welcomed Deb Deubner to the Board as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Asked Board members let he or Cindy know what dates work best for the county training for Board members that Mr. Colby is organizing. Dates for consideration are January 29, February 10 or 12 at 7 p.m.
- Recognized his daughter, Olivia, who received the award for the essay contest for the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is now eligible for scholarships to be announced at a later time.
- Met earlier today with Ron Diol, Carmi Design Group and representatives from Secant Technologies to start determining what to include with the bond proposal. As technology depreciates quicker than a building that must be considered when making plans. It was a good initial meeting and he said Secant will be back at the high school later this week.
- Noted that Midwest Energy is putting fiber in over a large area, but pricing is a concern. The district has been with Comcast for a long time. They have been almost flawless, but we will look at Midwest's information when available.
- Carmi Design Group hopes to spend a lot of time in district this week, weather permitting, working on our feasibility study.
- The Band/Choir Concert for 5-12<sup>th</sup> grade students is this Thursday at 7 p.m.
- Last week our Title I Consultant, Jon Blakey was in district and worked on seeing what was available in 31-a.
- There has been much discussion in Lansing recently about school funding, and noted he personally contacted some of our state legislators.
- Wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Mr. Bright asked for an update on the auditorium. Mr. VanLue said he hasn't seen anyone working in there recently. Mr. Hertsel said other than the carpet everything is done, he will contact the rep again to see when they will return to finish the project. Mr. Bright said there had been discussion about holding a Board meeting in the auditorium in October and now that it's December he would like this re-emphasized.

Mr. Ward welcomed Mrs. Deubner to the Board, said he is looking forward to next year. He asked Mrs. Deubner to please call him or any Board member if she needs information during her transition. Mr. Ward also thanked Jeremy Carlisle for his help over the past several years.

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 7:35 p.m. All in favor.

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary