

Cassopolis Public Schools
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Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 10, 2014

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, February 10, 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: Jeremy Carlisle, John Bright, Jason Pompey, Lori Whitmyer, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Scott Ward
Member Absent: None
Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Dee Voss, Bob Sieko, Robyn Bright, Cindy Martynowicz, members of the student body, staff and community

George Calvert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jason Pompey to approve the minutes from the regular/rescheduled meeting of February 3, 2014, as written. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Pompey, yes; Whitmyer, yes; Bright, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Carlisle, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

Food Services / Bright: Mrs. Bright said that the cement floor was poured in the kitchen area over the weekend for the new cooler/freezer. Both units were ordered last week and installation should be no later than the second week of March. Other equipment ordered is scheduled for delivery this Thursday.

FFA / Ag Issues team / George: Mrs. George stated that FFA regional competition will be this Thursday at the high school. Tonight the Ag Issues team will present their topic for the convention which is: Pipelines in the Great Lakes Region: sustainable future or disaster in the making? Team members were: Emily Cutting, Moriah Holloway, Kwesi Huffman, Justin Polmateer, Jacob Roth, Marissa Waldschmidt, Stephen Walker, and Tyler Ward.

Public Comment –

Austyn Withers from the Cassopolis Robotics team said that he attended last week Cass Cares meeting. At that meeting they discussed starting the district's first Lego League. This league has a \$1,100 start-up cost which includes the coach handbook, pins, DVD's, a Lego mind storms kit and instructions. The First Lego League is offered to students in grades 4-8 and registrations open mid-March.

Mr. Ward said he knows that members of the Robotics team have been obtaining donations from area businesses and asked if First Lego League members would do the same. Austyn said to an extent but also noted there are grants available. Austyn said he would like to see this league get started but the Robotics members can't manage it full time, they would need an elementary teacher to act as mentor.

Mr. Ward asked if Austyn would be able to provide an update to Mr. Hertsel later this week so Board members could receive it first in their Friday update. Austyn asked if it might be possible for Robotics members to earn a varsity letter for their participation. Mr. Hertsel will look into that possibility.

New Business – Discussion Items

Request for overnight trip / FFA state convention – Mrs. George said that the state FFA convention is March 5-7 and she is not yet sure how many students will be attending. Regionals are this Thursday at the high school beginning at 5 p.m., and there will be 11 different contests. Mrs. George asked for approval of her request for the trip to state convention.

Proposal from Lewis Cass ISD for business services – Mr. Hertsel said that in recent months Lewis Cass ISD has been looking for ways to consolidate services to benefit all county districts. The ISD paid for a consultant to interview business service staff in all districts and report back with results. The ISD has offered Cassopolis financial services and to pay for those services for 18 months.

Mr. Pompey said that the Finance Committee met with Mr. Colby who presented their proposal. He said that this would be up to 18 months at little to no cost to Cassopolis and even after that time would be a cost savings from last years' Finance Department budget.

Mr. Bright said that the ISD brought a person in to help Mrs. Voss in the Title area, and they are willing to work with Cassopolis in several areas.

Mr. Carlisle said that with the district's reduced budget he feels working together to reach a common goal is a positive step, especially when we are able to have a collaborative effort and see a cost savings.

Mr. Hertsel said that Mr. Colby would like to hold a county wide Board meeting with all four local districts as well as the ISD for all Boards to hear the business consultant's report at the same time. That date has not yet been determined.

Review / update Board Goals – Mr. Ward opened the floor for discussion on Board goals. Mr. Carlisle said he thinks simplicity is the key. In looking back, he believes the Board got too specific on Board goals when revised in September of 2012. He thinks general guidelines would be better, although he wanted to be sure to include a goal on increasing student enrollment.

Dr. Calvert said when this was discussed in the summer of 2012 he felt the goals were too specific but was told they were necessary to comply with state mandates. He asked if that is still the case. Mr. Hertsel will look into this question but noted when reporting to the state the goals are kept more basic.

Mr. Ward said he also believes Board goals should be more generic in order for administrators to be able to achieve results.

It was the consensus of the Board to add updating the Board goals as an action item on the next meeting agenda.

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

- Wished FFA great success at state convention and encouraged others to attend regionals this Thursday at the high school.
- Thanked the Title consultant for working with the district on our Title concerns.
- Thanked Austyn Withers for his presentation on behalf of the First Lego League.
- Said the cement floor has been poured in the freezer/cooler area of the kitchen.
- The gym floor is being removed from the high school, starting today.
- Tuesday and Wednesday he will meet with Carmi Design Group on issues in the auditorium to look at the most economical way to proceed, while updating it as much as possible.
- Said that our insurance provider, Set Seg, has been very good in working with the district to make sure that restoration continues in a timely manner.
- At the elementary we are in a holding pattern as we wait to hear from the construction manager and architect, because repairs were not handled properly with this same issue two years ago.

Mr. Bright said while attending a state conference last year he and Mr. Ward saw a First Lego League demonstration and the league appears to be another phenomenal program.

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 8:05 p.m. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary