

Cassopolis Public Schools
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Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 12, 2015

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, October 12, 2015 in the auditorium at Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School and called to order at 7:00 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Amanda Smego, Deb Deubner, Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Jesse Binns, Scott Ward

Members Absent: None.

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Robyn Bright, John Bright, Cindy Martynowicz and members of the staff

Amanda Smego led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda – **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to approve the agenda, as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the minutes of the special meeting of October 5, 2015, as written. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

Operations/Transportation – Bright: Mr. Bright said that transportation is very busy, we are adding students to the routes every day. Mr. Bright said that with operations, all buildings now have working fire alarm monitoring systems. Two buildings were not online but are now. Also, Mr. Bright said that the district's fire systems have been inspected and any deficiencies have been corrected. All emergency generators have been inspected and those deficiencies also fixed, along with preventive maintenance. All boilers have been inspected, corrected where needed and preventive maintenance has been completed. Mr. Bright said that the district has a new pest control company that comes into the building monthly for a total inspection. They will come in at no additional costs for emergency situations. Mr. Bright said that the new band room doors will be replaced in a week. The asbestos inspection is scheduled for the end of October. Snow plows have been serviced and are ready to go. Ice melt has been ordered and will arrive by the end of the month.

Public Comment – None.

New Business – Discussion Items

Request for 5th grade overnight field trip – Sarah Mason, a 5th grade teacher at Sam Adams Elementary said that this will be the third time she has been able to go to this camp. Jessica Struble is the other 5th grade teacher who will also be on the trip. The dates will be May 18-20, at Camp Friedenswald. Their request is for the 5th grade students and chaperones to spend two night on the camp site. There were no questions.

Review proposal for working on storm water drain lines around the football field – Mr. Hertsel said that the company is ready to complete this work tomorrow if the Board approves the request tonight. They would be running cameras down existing drainage at the football field to look for blockages and to see where it drains. The cost for this project would be covered from the bond. The information from this report is what the architect needs when he designs the bid. Results

will also tell them if they can tie into the north end of the football field for drainage. Bidding for this project will go out in January but they are assembling information ahead of time.

Old Business – Action Item

Act on proposal for working on storm water drain lines around the football field – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved that the proposal from Bob Frame Plumbing Services, Inc. to televise and locate the storm water drain lines around the track area of the football field, in an amount not to exceed \$1,990.00 is approved. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Item

Hirings – **Moved by** Amanda Smego, **supported by** Deb Deubner that the following positions are awarded: French Club Advisor – Emily Quinn; and, Yearbook Advisor – Lesley Steensma. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent Report – Mr. Hertsel reported as follows:

- Thanked building personnel that worked hard up to count day, and said that because of that error reports are greatly reduced. The budget was built on 904.5 students. Fall count last year was 950.62. This current count has exceeded last years by approximately 10 students. We had a great increase in student enrollment. In June the budget adopted was in the red, so we will still be fighting that even with new enrollments.
- Regarding the process for the bond money, the administration is working on the rating for the bonds via various conference calls. They plan on the Board being able to approve a motion at the October 26th meeting to sell the bonds and we should have the money from the bond by November 12th.
- Thanked everyone who worked on homecoming activities, and gave a special thanks to emergency services who took part in the parade and also had an ambulance available at the game.
- The switchover of our student system from K-RESA to Berrien RESA has had a few issues but the support offered by Berrien has been a great improvement. He said that in January transportation will change to Transfinder which will then be in sync with our student information system also, keeping both more efficient.
- Thanked Dr. Calvert for attending the legislative breakfast to hear the representatives speak on some serious financial issues they are facing.

Comments from Board members – Dr. Calvert said the 3rd grade retention piece was also discussed. Mr. Hertsel said that legislators know some intervention is needed and many of them believe retention is the answer. One representative from our area is against the retention option.

Mrs. Deubner said that next Tuesday at the high school auditorium at 7 pm the FFA Parliamentary Procedure team will give their presentation, in preparation for the National Conference at the end of the month.

Mr. Ward thanked everyone involved in Saturday's Project Graduation fundraiser. He thanked the people that came to help support the senior class this year.

Mrs. Deubner said that she was very proud of the kids for how hard they worked homecoming week, all working together. All classes did a great job.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education it was **moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Lisa Cutting to adjourn the meeting at 7:18. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary