

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

Board of Education  
Minutes  
Special Meeting  
October 5, 2015

This special meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, October 5, 2015 in the Board Meeting Room at Squires Education Center and began at 7:00 as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Members Present: Deb Deubner, Jesse Binns, Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann, Scott Ward  
Member Absent: Amanda Smego  
Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Becky Smith, Robyn Bright, Cindy Martynowicz, community members and member of the press

George Calvert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the agenda, as presented. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes – **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** Lisa Cutting to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2015 regular meeting, as written. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Public Comment – None.

#### New Business – Discussion Items

Review Bids for Roofing Project – Mr. Hertsel said that the bid tabulation was reviewed. The work included membrane overlay and total roof composite replacement improvements. Mr. Hertsel reviewed the critical roof areas on both the Ross Beatty JSHS and Sam Adams Elementary School buildings. He said that Mr. Leininger thinks that possibly pricing for the alternates will be better when we are to that point of the projects. If so, they will issue change orders in which will keep us closer on the budget. Mr. Hertsel said that these projects will be done this fall and that is why we are moving forward quickly.

Proposal to revise graduation date – Mr. Hertsel said that in speaking with Mrs. Herwick last week, if we keep the date of May 22<sup>nd</sup> for graduation next year, our kids would get out of school about two weeks earlier than other county schools. He said he also checked and the other county schools graduation will be on June 5<sup>th</sup> next year. Between that and the fact that starting next year we will have 180 school days he feels it is not educationally sound to keep graduation for 2016 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Hertsel suggested having a meeting with senior parents to discuss this but felt moving the date should be considered.

Mr. Ward said that he has heard feedback in the community since the agenda was published and if at all possible senior parents want the date of graduation kept intact for this coming school year. He said they would prefer to look at possibly changing the date for future years if that keeps us more in line with the state.

Mrs. Deubner said she also heard from parents who said that most area graduations are on Sunday and she asked if that was the case. Mr. Hertsel said that we have tried other days of the week in past years but the Board had preferred to stay with Sundays. Mrs. Deubner suggested if Mr. Hertsel meets with parents of seniors that he also include parents of this years' juniors as this will directly affect them next year.

Establish Grant & Project Coordinator position – Mr. Hertsel said that he has become overwhelmed with various reports and with the support of the Finance Committee this position has been created and is being proposed to the full Board. The person in this position would be focusing on grants and reporting as well as to also work on the website.

Dr. Calvert asked if this position is only for two years. Mr. Ward said that he sees this position growing in the future, it is a permanent position. He feels it makes more sense to bring someone in now. This person may be able to secure grants that we have not been able to receive before and this could open new doors.

Old Business – Action Items

Award Bid for Roofing Project – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved that the bid from Midland Engineering Company for partial roof improvements at Ross Beatty Jr./Sr. High School and Sam Adams Elementary School in an amount not to exceed \$247,450 is accepted. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Ward, yes.

Approve new position for Grant & Project Coordinator – **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** Jesse Binns that it is hereby resolved that the Board of Education approves adding a Grant & Project Coordinator position, effective immediately. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Item

Hiring – **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** Sue Horstmann that it is hereby resolved that Jeremy Carlisle be awarded an initial two-year contract as the district's Grant & Project Coordinator, with the start date to be determined. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Mr. Carlisle was present and said he is looking forward to working with the district in this new position. He believes it will be a positive for everyone and he is excited to be a part of what is going on in the district.

Superintendent Report – Mr. Hertsel said that the enrollment numbers are holding steady, looking favorable and we are still enrolling new students. We will know more after count day but it is looking better than anticipated.

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

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary