

Cassopolis Public Schools
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Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 9, 2015

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, November 9, 2015 in the Board meeting room at Squires Education Center and called to order at 7:00 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: None

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Becky Smith, Robyn Bright, John Bright, Cindy Martynowicz and community member

Lisa Cutting 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: Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes: **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** Lisa Cutting to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2015, as written. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

Food Services / R. Bright: Mrs. Bright said that her staff started serving smoothies for breakfast the past month at the high school and they are very popular with the students. The smoothie machine was purchased through the Fuel to Play 60 grant. Mrs. Bright attended the School Nutrition Conference last week in Battle Creek. It was their largest group in several years and attendees received information such as: updated new regulations, information on Smart Snacks and how that program affects the ala carte items.

Operations & Transportation / J. Bright: Mr. Bright said that the playgrounds at the elementary have new mulch in them. Also some large roots were moved or covered. It was a major project but is complete. The athletic fields, restrooms and concessions have been winterized. He has been working with staff from DM Burr about deep cleaning projects for over the holiday break. Mr. Bright said that Transportation is still adding students, at least 3 each week so far this year, to the routes.

Public Comment – None

New Business – Discussion Items

Request for FFA to attend overnight Green and White Hog Show; and

Request for FFA to attend State Convention; and,

Request for FFA to attend Region I FFA Camp – Mr. Hertsel said that we have formal requests for each of these items, which are regular trips that the FFA makes annually. He would request approval at the next meeting as he wants to be sure all are approved in a timely manner.

Old Business – Action Item

Extension of Superintendent Contract – **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** Sue Horstmann that it is hereby resolved that the Superintendent contract for Tracy D. Hertsel is extended from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018.

Mrs. Deubner moved to table this motion to allow the new Board members an opportunity to look at the contract, stating that she prefers to review items before voting.

Mrs. Horstmann said that nothing changed in the contract and she doesn't want to put the district in a situation where Mr. Hertsel would have an opportunity to reconsider.

Dr. Calvert suggested postponing this item until the next meeting rather than it being tabled.

Mr. Binns said that this being an extension, the three newest Board members weren't here when the contract was put in place. Nothing is being questioned, they just want to review the contract.

Mr. Ward said that the contract was prepared and approved by the Personnel Committee when Mr. Hertsel started as Superintendent. It has been in place for over three years and there is no change in contract language. He asked that this be voted on as a vote of confidence in Mr. Hertsel.

Mrs. Deubner asked what the risk is in moving this action to the next meeting. Mr. Ward said there is no risk.

When called for a second to the motion to table, Jesse Binns seconded said motion. **Motion failed** 2-5, as follows: Horstmann, no; Cutting, no; Smego, no; Calvert, no; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, no.

Mr. Ward then opened the motion to extend the contract for discussion.

Dr. Calvert suggested upon extension of this contract the Board request Mr. Hertsel have a thorough physical as the job of Superintendent is very hard on a person.

Mr. Ward said we have brought Mr. Bright in to replace Mrs. Haines and he is doing very well. Mrs. Smith is in her second year and doing a fantastic job. Mr. Carlisle is now on staff. There is more of a team working environment. The Board, as a team, has made those decisions. Mr. Ward said that if we continue moving forward with that process it will be beneficial to all.

Mr. Binns said that he thinks Mr. Hertsel is doing a great job and has no doubts that he will continue but he doesn't approve a financial report or audit without looking at the information. He requested that the Superintendent contract be made available for review.

Mrs. Deubner said she agrees that Mr. Hertsel is doing a great job and she will support the motion based on comments from tonight, but she thought Board members would have copies to review.

Ms. Cutting said to lose a Superintendent now would put a damper in a lot of the progress that we've made and Mr. Hertsel has been vital to everything happening in the district.

Vote was then taken on the original motion to extend the Superintendent contract. Said **motion passed** 7-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent Report – Mr. Hertsel reported as follows:

- Last week he and Mr. Carlisle met with the NEOLA rep on new and/or revised policies. This is the first time since he has been Superintendent that NEOLA has backed so many Federal policies rather than those specific to Michigan. Board members will receive their packet for review after it has been prepared and after he has had an opportunity to review the information.
- Surveying is complete at Red Brick but we have no clear date on when it will be finalized.
- The radio tower on the Red Brick property can be moved but it needs to stay out in the country where it will receive better reception.
- The roofers are finishing up their project at the high school. Their equipment was moved to Sam Adams and they will be there for the next week or two.
- On October 28th there was a power outage at Ross Beatty. Due to that outage the district had issues as it took out our power supply and servers. He is working with the insurance adjuster.
- On a very positive note this might be the best fall we have had for athletics and other contests. The band did very well at their competition, FFA placed at national convention, we had an individual cross country runner that finished 86th in the state and improved 44 positions from last year, the boys soccer team made it to the district finals, as did the girls volleyball team, and this Friday our varsity football team will play in regional competition.

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 7:29. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary