

Cassopolis Public Schools
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Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
July 27, 2015

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, July 27, 2015 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: Lisa Cutting, George Calvert, Sue Horstmann (arrived at 7:03 pm), Deb Deubner, Amanda Smego, Jesse Binns, Scott Ward

Members Absent: None

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, John Bright, Cindy Martynowicz and member of the press

Jesse Binns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda - **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to amend the agenda by adding a new discussion item, "B" Purchase of 2 new vans with trade-ins; and, a new action item "C" clarify check signatories for athletic referee bank account. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Moved by George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to approve the agenda, as amended. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Approval of Minutes – **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015 reorganizational meeting, as presented. **Motion carried** 6-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Mrs. Horstmann arrived at this point in the meeting.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff – None.

Public Comment – None.

Financials – June, 2015

Moved by Lisa Cutting, **supported by** Sue Horstmann that it is resolved that the Board of Education approves the payment of bills for the month of June as follows: General Fund \$487,264.87 and Food Service Fund \$22,619.76. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Discussion Items

Authorization to move forward with sale of Red Brick property – Mr. Hertsel said he would like to move forward with the sale of this property. We are in the process of having the property surveyed and looking at the options.

Ms. Cutting said there was talk at one time that a charter school might want to purchase the property. Mr. Hertsel said he thinks charter schools are usually in more of a city environment and that there have not been charter schools appearing in southwestern lower Michigan.

Mrs. Deubner asked if we would sell the entire property or split it into parcels. Mr. Hertsel said that the parcel the school itself on is the one that would be for sale, after the property lines are moved. The property for sale would not include the ag barn.

Proposal for purchase of 2 new vans with trade-ins – Mr. Hertsel said that after the last Board meeting approving the purchase of a new van, Mr. Bright finalized the deal and we also have the possibility to purchase a couple more vans with either short-term financing or up to 5 year financing. Mr. Bright wanted to explain this proposal and ways he believes the vans would pay for themselves. Also the new van was outside the building for the Board to look at.

Mr. Bright said that the sticker price for the van with warranties was \$40,550 but our end cost was just under \$32,900, with a 5 year bumper to bumper warranty. We also got 2 years for all regular maintenance, plus a 60 day price freeze from the day we ordered the van that we could purchase up to 2 more vans.

Mr. Bright explained the condition of the district's current vehicles and their mileage. If we purchased these additional 2 vans it would be safer for the kids as they have more air bags than our Expeditions. Also they would get much better gas mileage and he projected there would be a savings in fuel of \$4,318 per year. Mr. Bright said that the 5 year financing would be at 1.9%. He said there are also huge savings for the district with soap dispensers, paper towels and bathroom tissue. If we use Hospital Purchasing Services (HPS) and fill the dispensers three times during the school year the savings would be over \$8,000.

Mrs. Deubner asked if we would go to industrial dispensers and said that that she would want to make sure they look nice and that the ones no longer being used were taken down. Mr. Bright said we would fill the soap dispensers from gallon containers rather than as they are now changed.

Board members then looked at the new van that was parked outside the building.

Mr. Bright said in closing if the Board approves the purchase of these 2 vans it would allow us to take 21 kids to a function in 3 new vehicles. He is proposing that we trade in the 2007 Expedition and the old gold van and would have 2 Expeditions and 3 new vans.

Mr. Ward said that the district has a 5 year plan for replacement of buses but over the last few years with budget constraints vehicle replacement was put on hold. He said we need to update our fleet and keep our kids safe.

Mrs. Deubner asked if we would be getting the logo or lettering on the vans. Mr. Bright said that Mrs. Bright and Mr. Hertsel are looking into this now.

Old Business – Action Items

Future Graduation Dates – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** Deb Deubner that it is hereby resolved that graduation will be held at 2 p.m. on the Sunday the week before Memorial Day weekend for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years, as recommended by the administration. Upon passage of this motion, graduation dates will be as follows: Sunday, May 22, 2016; Sunday, May 21, 2017; and, Sunday, May 20, 2018. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Authorization to move forward with sale of Red Brick property – **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved that the Superintendent is authorized to move forward with the sale of the Red Brick property on Brick Church Road. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Clarify check signatories for Athletic Referee bank account – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved that funds from the Athletic Referee account may be withdrawn from the Greater Niles Community Federal Credit Union, by check, signed by Superintendent, Business Manager, Payroll Specialist or Athletic Director. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- Reminded Board members that tomorrow is the 2nd community meeting about the bond proposal. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. We put another post on Facebook about the meeting and a 2nd alert was sent. He is hoping for a better turnout. Flyers about the bond proposal will be distributed at the fair.
- Stated that the custodians have been doing a much better job cleaning. There was a change in our custodial supervisor from DM Burr and things are going in a much better direction.
- Thanked the Athletic Boosters who had a phenomenal golf outing this past weekend.
- Band Camp concluded last week at Central Michigan University.
- The new entrance at Ross Beatty is nearing completion.
- If anyone is available to work the booth at the fair please let Mrs. Martynowicz know. We will have a video running and have handouts ready.

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 7:42 p.m. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary