

Cassopolis Public Schools  
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Cassopolis, MI 49031  
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Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
August 24, 2015

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, August 24, 2015 in the Board meeting room at Squires Educational Center and called to order at 7:08 p.m., as President Ward welcomed those attending.

Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: None

Also present: Tracy Hertsel, Becky Smith, Matt Brawley, John Bright, Cindy Martynowicz, members of the community

Lisa Cutting led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda - **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** George Calvert, to amend the agenda by adding a new discussion item IX-D, adding an elementary teacher; and adding a new business action item, adding an elementary teacher; also to add a new item XII, Reinstatement Hearing, and move Superintendent's Report to XIII and Adjournment to XIV. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

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

Approval of Minutes – **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** George Calvert to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of August 10, 2015, as written. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Communications or correspondence – None.

Reports, Information Items from School Staff –

**Athletics / Brawley:** Mr. Brawley said that the fall sports seasons have begun. We hosted the classic volleyball tournament last weekend. Varsity won their pool play and ended up 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 8 in the tournament. The new coach is doing a great job. The first home football game is this Friday against Brandywine. The football teams have 28 on varsity and 20-22 on JV. Soccer did well in their first tournament, beating Brandywine in overtime.

**Finance / Smith:** Mrs. Smith said that last week was the annual audit with our new firm, Abraham & Gaffney. It was a long and tiring week but she thanked the administrators and their staffs, as well as Cindy Martynowicz and Geri Vlasicak for their help ahead of time and the week of the audit. Abraham & Gaffney will present their results to the Board later in October.

**Administrative / Hertsel – bond update:** Mr. Hertsel said that Mr. Leininger with Carmi Design Group is present to update the Board on the bond. First, Mr. Leininger said that the high school front office security project is nearing completion. Visitors will have to be buzzed through each of the two entry doors in order to get into the building. The new office includes a space for the resource officer and the principal. The work is complete with the exception of the intercom system and door release. Due to fire alarm modifications to the project we asked for approval from the State of Michigan Bureau of Fire Services and are waiting for a response. We are currently under a temporary occupancy permit from the state and will have a permanent occupancy permit once approved by the state, which should happen over the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Leininger congratulated the Board on the bond passing. He said there are four areas to target: running track, high school sign, critical roof improvement and critical masonry improvements.

Mr. Leininger said that the track will be a comprehensive improvement. We will replace the asphalt base beneath as well as have improvements on the storm water drainage system. The rubberized coating is temperature sensitive and there are concerns with fall weather approaching. There has to be a maintained 50 degree temperature when the coating is applied, so they are looking into the possibility of a phased project if necessary due to the weather. The best case scenario is to have it on the street by September 4, release the bid award by September 25, start construction around the first of October, demo and asphalt base in by October 23, cure time of 14 days would put us into November for the rubberized coating. He would recommend delaying this project and release early in the spring because of the required temperatures. It will be an 8-lane track that will meet the National Federation of High School regulations. He confirmed that the numbers allocated to the project look good to the vendors.

Mr. Leininger next reported on the high school sign, saying that this would be a combination of an informational sign as well as a message sign. We are running into some issues about the brick base at the sign and some modifications would have to be made. We are looking to release this around August 21.

Mr. Leininger said looking at critical roof improvements there is a 7,000 square foot area at Ross Beatty behind the auditorium where they will have to do an overlay rather than a coating. There are additional roof areas that will be handled next season as the coating for this is temperature sensitive also.

Regarding critical masonry, we are concentrating on the high walls at Ross Beatty, the curved wall behind the auditorium and upper parts of the gym.

Public Comment – None.

Financials – July, 2015

**Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** George Calvert that it is resolved that the Board of Education approves the payment of bills for the month of July as follows: General Fund \$371,260.42 and Food Service Fund \$41,434.84. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

### New Business – Discussion Items

Resolution authorizing issuance of bonds and other matters relating thereto – Mr. Hertsel said he has been working with legal counsel and the bond authority. After he and Mrs. Smith had a conference call with the other parties it was determined that the district could get a better rate by going out to bid. They are recommending the district go to a public offering in order to get the best rate.

Mrs. Smith said that the rate was the main reason for going out to bid.

Mr. Ward said that the district's credit rating is high enough that it is advantageous for us to go out for bids and could save us ¼ to ½ of a percent which is a sizeable amount of money over time.

BCS Conference Resolution – Mr. Hertsel said that this is the same resolution we have done in the past for athletics. It is a resolution stating that the district will participate in the BCS conference for the current school year. He noted that the conference has expanded from 10 to 18 teams.

Continuing participation in Section 105 and 105c – Schools of Choice – Mr. Hertsel said that this matter is to be adopted by the Board annually.

Adding elementary teacher – Mr. Hertsel said that numbers are very good in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We had a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> grade split in order to utilize existing staff. However, this means we would have two classes at 31 and 2 at 30. The Finance Committee met earlier and recommend adding an elementary teacher as they want to start the year with good numbers for all grade levels.

Mr. Ward said that 30 is the maximum number per elementary class before the district has to pay teachers an overage. Adding this elementary teacher will bring classes to more manageable numbers.

### Old Business – Action Items

Updated FOIA forms – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved that the updated procedures and guidelines, written summary and fee itemization form for Freedom of Information Act requests as presented by the Superintendent are approved. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Ward, yes.

Revision to Policy #6320 – **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** Deb Deubner that the revision to Policy #6320 to increase the single item purchase threshold from \$3,000 to \$10,000, as presented by the Superintendent, is approved. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

BCS Conference Resolution – **Moved by** Amanda Smego, **supported by** Jesse Binns that it is hereby resolved that the resolution for Cassopolis Public Schools to participate in the BCS Conference for 2015-16 is approved, as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Bonds and Other Matters Relating Thereto – **Moved by** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved the attached resolution authorizing issuance of bonds and other matters relating thereto is adopted, as presented. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Continuing Participation in Section 105 and 105c – Schools of Choice – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** Jesse Binns that it is hereby resolved that Cassopolis Public Schools will continue to participate in Section 105 and 105c of the State School Aid Act (Schools of Choice). **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Ward, yes.

New Business – Action Items

Hiring – English/Language Arts Teacher, Grades 6-12 – **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Deb Deubner that the position of English/Language Arts Teacher, Grades 6-12, is awarded to Matthew Walker.

Mr. Walker said he was excited about the opportunity and is glad to be back in the community.

**Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Smego, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Ward, yes.

Hiring – Pilot K-12 teachers for Home School Partnership Program – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** Jesse Binns that the positions of Pilot K-12 teachers for the Home School Partnership Program are awarded to Michelle Johnson and Nan Schuur. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Hiring – JV Assistant Football Coach – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that the position of JV Assistant Football Coach is awarded to Andrew Brawley. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Ward, yes.

Hiring – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach – **Moved by** Jesse Binns, **supported by** George Calvert that the position of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach is awarded to Nikitas Nelson. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Horstmann, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Calvert, yes; Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Hiring - Middle School Football Coach – **Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Sue Horstmann that the position of Junior High Football Coach be awarded to Dashaun Curtis.

Mrs. Deubner asked if this position is for a coach or an assistant coach. It was agreed that it could be considered an assistant coach.

**Moved by** Deb Deubner to amend the motion so it reads that this is for a Junior High Assistant Football Coach, **motion supported by** George Calvert. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Vote was then taken on the amended motion to award the position of Junior High Assistant Football Coach to Dashaun Curtis. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Deubner, yes; Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

Add elementary teacher – **Moved by** Sue Horstmann, **supported by** George Calvert to add an elementary teaching position for the 2015-16 school year. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Smego, yes; Deubner, yes; Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Reinstatement hearing – Mr. Hertsel turned the meeting over to Mr. Brawley, stating that this would be held in open session per the request of the family.

Mr. Brawley said that in March of 2014 Student A was suspended for 10 days pending expulsion for violating school rules. Student A was expelled for a full calendar year per Board action. According to Board policy, a reinstatement committee met today and recommends to reinstate Student A. They had a good conversation with Student A at the reinstatement meeting and truly think Student A wants to get back in school and graduate. There were no stipulations with this recommendation from the committee.

Mrs. Deubner asked what grade Student A would be entering. Mr. Brawley said a Freshman. Student A was expelled two weeks into the second semester of Student A's freshman year. The Counselor will get Student A on a schedule where with E-2020 classes and following Student A's class load when back in school Student A should be on track to hopefully graduate with Student A's class. Student A said that if by the age of 20 Student A has not graduated Student A would enroll in Alternative Education to complete Student A's diploma requirements.

Mrs. Horstmann said she is confident that Student A will succeed.

**Moved by** George Calvert, **supported by** Jesse Binns to reinstate Student A effective immediately, with no restrictions. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Binns, yes; Horstmann, yes; Calvert, yes; Cutting, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Ward, yes.

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

- Last Friday attended a meeting of local officials as well as state legislators. They had a lot of good, open dialogue, some of which was on the road fund.
- The first teacher inservice will be next Tuesday, September 1. We will host the inservice with teachers from Marcellus and ISD in our auditorium starting at 7:30 am. Dr. White will give a 90 minute presentation.
- Thanked Mr. Leininger for the updates and said he would keep the Board updated weekly but would ask Mr. Leininger to give periodic updates at Board meetings.  
Mr. Ward suggested running a majority of the information through the Building & Grounds Committee and let the committee decide what needs to come to the Board.
- Thanked Mr. Bright who has been looking into many areas in the district.

Mrs. Deubner said that inside of the buildings are looking great.

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 7:47 p.m. All in favor.

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Susan Horstmann, Secretary