

Cassopolis Public Schools
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Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 14, 2015

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was held on Monday, September 14, 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, Dee Voss, Dave VanLue, Robyn Bright, John Bright, Cindy Martynowicz, and member of the staff

Deb Deubner 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** Lisa Cutting, **supported by** Sue Horstmann that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 24, 2015, are approved 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 –

Sam Adams Elementary School / Voss: Mrs. Voss said that she is glad to be back for the school year. Mrs. Voss said one of the best things is their new 3rd grade teacher, Mark McGlothlen who lives in Three Rivers. He is in his third year of teaching, coming from Constantine after teaching there for two years. Due to budget cuts his position was cut and we were lucky enough to hire him. She said that Mark has done a great job so far this year.

Mr. McGlothlen said that he is a late in life teacher as he was in banking and insurance but went back to school to become a teacher. He is very happy to be here and said he left his interview feeling comfortable with the staff, with Mrs. Voss and with the school.

Mrs. Voss said that the school improvement plan teams have been established and they will do professional development with the high school staff. They will be at K-RESA on a regular basis to do school improvement. Her team is Nan Schuur for Science; Jessica Struble for Social Studies; Cheryl Graham for English/Language Arts; and, Renee Newland for Math. Mrs. Voss said that swim lessons have begun a Diamond Lake and continue through this Friday. Mrs. Voss said that this coming Thursday our 3rd grade students at the elementary were invited by the

Potawatomi and Pokagon tribes to attend their Culture Day. On Tuesday of next week she will meet with Josh Townsley on Curriculum. Next week we will conduct the elementary bus safety class. Mr. Burns will work with Mr. Bright to review safety procedures for entering and exiting the bus and proper behavior. Mrs. Voss said that her staff will have a red, white and blue day for Constitution Day on the 17th and her teachers will report to her what they covered in class on that day.

Ross Beatty JSHS / VanLue: Mr. VanLue said that along with physical changes inside the building they are also hearing many compliments on the outside appearance of the grounds. He thanked those involved in helping to improve the looks of the campus. Mr. VanLue also said that he will meet bi-weekly with a group on the Positive School Culture, being led by Josh Townsley. Also participating are Kylee Ridge, Heidi Hall and himself. They wanted to put a positive twist on this and reward students for the good things they are doing. This will intertwine with the bully free rubric. Mr. VanLue said that students are required to have their planners with them at all times and have taken ownership of the new rules. Mr. VanLue said that regarding tardies there will be no more Saturday detention or lunch detention. Instead there will be a warning, then a half day, then a full day suspension, as a social probation. He said that he is excited for the new school year.

Food Service / R Bright: Mrs. Bright said there were a few glitches starting out the new school year but that is to be expected. She has two new staff members at Ross Beatty, both are being trained to work the registers and are doing very well. There are several 7th grade students not familiar with their ID numbers and we have some new students that are not yet in the software, but those issues are working out. Mrs. Bright said that there are a few issues at the elementary. She and Mrs. Voss have talked about using keypads or a scanner for the younger students and will research the options. They are also working on speeding up the line at the elementary. Mrs. Bright said that she and Mrs. Phillips are appreciate of their new office area in the former Guidance Department. They are off to a great start and she is excited about the school year.

Operations/Transportation / J Bright: Mr. Bright said that he sees we have an awesome teaching and administrative staff. With the Operations Department, he indicated having talked with the Finance Committee about equipment issues. Those items have been bid out and are scheduled. Our equipment will be fixed and/or replaced. There are many items that have been completed but more are to be done before winter. They have stopped painting in the classrooms but has many inside painting projects. Mr. Bright said that there are many inside painting projects. His drivers have said that they have more students riding the bus so far this year. He said that we already have 45 extra trips scheduled and our vehicles are running about non-stop.

Public Comment – None.

New Business – Action Item

Hirings – **Moved by** Deb Deubner, **supported by** George Calvert that it is hereby resolved the following positions are awarded: Mark McGlothlen, elementary teacher; and, Emily Quinn, French teacher. **Motion carried** 7-0, as follows: Cutting, yes; Calvert, yes; Horstmann, yes; Deubner, yes; Smego, yes; Binns, yes; Ward, yes.

Superintendent Report – Mr. Hertsel reported as follows:

- Complimented both principals on their open houses, and he heard only positives on both. They were well attended by parents.
- Is trying to address an issue with Spanish for some junior and senior students needing a session of Spanish II. He is researching all areas.
- Sounds like our offering of French is a good fit, and we have a good teacher.
- Went to a thank you party for the swimming project. The event was at Tom Swartz's home and there is much support for the county schools (they will add Marcellus next year and then Dowagiac).
- As an update on the Carmi contract, we are working through what started as 7 pages of questions and now are down to two items. This should be resolved and ready for action at the next Board meeting.

- Our enrollment is stable, we still have kids going in and out but our numbers are looking favorable. The official count will be the first Wednesday in October.
- On Title IX, Mr. Brawley and he attended an inservice at Van Buren ISD. He is looking into training for staff, but are working through available dates.
- Recognized our custodians, and said since Mr. Bright came on board and DM Burr changed their supervisors the cleaning changed for the better almost overnight.

Comments from Board members – Mrs. Deubner asked where we are with the sign for the high school. Mr. Hertsel said that we are in the bidding phase for that project. He said that regarding the roofs, Mr. Leininger was on the roofs last Friday looking at our most critical areas.

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 7:37. All in favor.

Susan Horstmann, Secretary