

Cassopolis Public Schools
Cassopolis High School
Media Center
(269)445-0503

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 20, 2023

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was at Cassopolis High School in the Media Center on Monday, November 20, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 5:31p.m., as President Deubner welcomed those attending. Jesse Bement led the Pledge.

Roll Call:

Board of Education Members present: Heather Beaudoin, Jesse Bement, Teresa Dahlgren (arrived at 5:35pm), Deb Deubner, and Aaron Steensma.

Members absent: Amanda Smego, and Scott Ward

Also present: Dr. John Ritzler, Rachele Bogue, James English, Hannah Hoff, Carey May, Theresa Mott, Heather Rigby, Susie Light, Yara Neuerburg, Tammi Preston, Lauren Sheeley, Melissa Smith, Deborah Watson, Beth Westrick, and members of the community.

Agenda:

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve the agenda as amended. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 4-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Steensma, and Deubner.
No – Zero

Minutes:

Moved by Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 4-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Steensma and Deubner.
No – Zero

Financial Report

Mr. English presented financial information focused on the general fund revenue. He explained where the revenue comes from, what revenue is certain, variable, and one-time funds that will no longer be available after this year. Variable funds are revenue amounts that can fluctuate, moving up or down. One-time revenue may not be available next year which means there will be less resources coming into the district. The ESSER III funds were highlighted as a major federal funding source that will not be available in future years.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Ritzler invited Mrs. Rigby to introduce and recognize Theresa Mott, the winner of the 2023 Employee of the Year from the School Nutrition Association of Michigan. This honor was bestowed upon her out of 1400 other nominees throughout the state.

Timberwolf has generously donated \$500.00 to the 5th Grade camp. Farm Bureau, Elk Park Feed Mill, and Drakes Country Cuts have donated funds to the elementary school to support two days with the Farm Science Lab. Hydro has also made recent contributions to the Cass Kick Start program, the Cassopolis Band Boosters, and to the Cassopolis RoboRangers.

Dr. Ritzler read a letter of resignation from the Board of Education submitted by Scott Ward. We would like to thank Scott for his service. A letter of interest for the vacated seat of the Board of Education may be submitted to Mrs. Westrick in the administrative office by December 7th.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Agenda Items.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Heather Beaudoin, **supported by** Teresa Dahlgren to approve the consent agenda as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

New Business: Discussion

Mrs. Williamson and Mr. Bettinger from the Cass County Historical Society and the Cass County Historical Commission were present to discuss the future of the Red Brick Schoolhouse. Three options were presented: 1. Maintain the lease agreement with the district which would continue as it has, however, the concern is that the district could change the parameters of the lease agreement. 2. The District would retain ownership of the property, however, limited resources could be a potential problem in maintaining the property. 3. Transfer of ownership which could allow for the Historical Society and Historical Commission to maintain the property. Questions were asked by the Board and answered.

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Aaron Steensma to approve to accept the donation in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the Cass County Conservation Club for 5th Grade Camp in May. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve the overnight trip for the Winter Beef Show in December, the Green & White Pig Show in January, and the FFA State Convention in February and March. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 5-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

Miscellaneous Administrative Items:

There were no miscellaneous administrative items.

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Non-agenda Items.

Adjournment:

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Aaron Steensma to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

Submitted by Beth Westrick
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary