

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

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
August 14, 2023

Welcome: This regular meeting of the Cassopolis Board of Education was at Cassopolis High School in the Media Center on Monday, August 14, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 5:30p.m., as President Deubner welcomed those attending. Heather Beaudoin led the Pledge.

Roll Call:

Board of Education Members present: Heather Beaudoin, Jesse Bement (arrived at 5:32), Teresa Dahlgren, Deb Deubner, Amanda Smego, and Aaron Steensma.

Members absent: Scott Ward

Also present: Dr. John Ritzler, Chris Bergen, James English, Lindsay Gorham-Pflug, Carey May, Yara Neuerburg, Tammi Preston, Lauren Sheeley, Rachele Ward, Beth Westrick, and members of the community.

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

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

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Ritzler invited James English, Finance Director, to speak on the financial status of the district. The annual financial audit will be taking place next week. The cash flow loan proceeds for the 23-24 school year will be received next week. The reason for this loan is that we are well into the year before the State gives us funding as they are on a fiscal year of October to September. We are looking to speak with other banks to get better interest rates in our checking accounts to put the money back into the classroom instead of toward paying interest on a loan. Final grant allocations and fall enrollment will have an impact on our budget. Mr. English will work with principals, administration, and union leadership to make sure the district has a balanced budget as well as making sure that the district can meet its capital needs.

Dr. Ritzler then discussed the progress of return to school. We have new staff coming into the district. We have two more Cassopolis Alumni joining our staff. There has been staff restructuring with current staff moving positions that is believed will strengthen the core content subjects. Transportation staff is fully staffed. The electric buses that we received the grant for are currently scheduled to be delivered sometime in September. The chargers have been delivered.

Dr. Ritzler acknowledged the contribution of the board members that were involved in both the community support committee and the football field facilities committee.

Dr. Ritzler expressed disappointment in not having the numbers to field a junior varsity football team.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Agenda Items.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve the consent agenda as presented. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Heather Beaudoin to approve the Bank of New York Mellon, Circle Federal Credit Union, Huntington Securities, Horizon Bank, Huntington National Bank, Everwise Credit Union, Lake Michigan Credit Union, Old National Bank, and Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System be used as depositories for Cassopolis Public Schools for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Questions were answered by James English. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Aaron Steensma, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve that the Board President, Board Secretary, Board Treasurer, James English, and Abbie Feirick be authorized signers for all bank accounts and Lindsay Gorham-Pflug will be an additional authorized signer on bank accounts related to athletics as deemed necessary by the Director of Finance. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No – Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Teresa Dahlgren, **supported by** Jesse Bement to approve that the Superintendent be authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the school district and administrators to be authorized to sign and/or approve purchase orders as designated by the Superintendent. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

New Business: Action Item

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Teresa Dahlgren to approve the District School Improvement Plan dated August 2023. There was no discussion. **Motion carried** 6-0 Yes – Beaudoin, Bement, Dahlgren, Smego, Steensma, and Deubner. No - Zero

Miscellaneous Administrative Items:

Jesse Bement spoke on the Cass/Berrien County meeting where more information will come on an event at SMC on November 2nd, that would allow Board members throughout the two counties to meet.

Deb Deubner spoke on the AG program that received funding through the CTE Program. This allowed the AG program to purchase a livestock trailer, an enclosed trailer for moving supplies and demonstration materials to events, among other things.

She also expressed gratitude to the community that came out to participate with the community support committee.

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:

There was no public comment on Non-agenda Items.

Adjournment:

Moved by Jesse Bement, **supported by** Teresa Dahlgren to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:24pm.

Submitted by Beth Westrick
Teresa Dahlgren, Secretary

*Next BOE meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2023.