The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Midland Public Schools, Midland, Michigan, was held at the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan, on Monday, September 10, 2012, beginning at 7 p.m. in accordance with the requirements of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1 et.seq. effective July 1, 1996, and the policies established in How Midland Schools Work.

1. **CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL**

   Board members present: President Mault, Secretary Baker, Treasurer Ohle, Member Brandstadt, Member Gorton, Member Kaminski

   Board member absent: Vice President Wasserman

   Central staff present: Superintendent Ellinger, Associate Superintendent Cline, Assistant Superintendent Verlinde, Associate Superintendent Ellison

   Visitors present: 9 staff, citizens and guests

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   Ohle/Kaminski moved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved

   2.1 Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of Monday, August 27, 2012.

   2.2 2013 District-wide Capital Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concrete Replacement</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor Tile Replacement</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fence Repair</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Lot Crack Sealing</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   2.3 The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2012-13 school year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heidi Marie Scales</td>
<td>School Psychologist, Midland Public Schools</td>
<td>September 10, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan M. Storm</td>
<td>Kindergarten Teacher, Siebert Elementary</td>
<td>September 10, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   2.4 The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of the dates indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Chisholm</td>
<td>Paraprofessional, H. H. Dow High</td>
<td>August 24, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.5 Approval was requested to authorize payment for the following legal bill:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRM</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thrun Law Firm, P.C.</td>
<td>8/30/12</td>
<td>$642.00</td>
<td>Professional services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMOUNT DUE</td>
<td></td>
<td>$642.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

3.1 No hearings have been requested.

4. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Recommended For Action:

4.1 Ohle/Brandstadt moved that the following Tax Resolution be read aloud and approved.

**WHEREAS,** this Board of Education was authorized by the electors of the Midland Public Schools on May 3, 2005 to assess up to 18.0 mills of the taxable valuation of the school district for 10 years, 2006-2015, for the general operating fund, subject to the limitations of Article 9, Section 31 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, as amended; and

**WHEREAS,** Section 1211 of the Revised School Code, as amended, provides that the Board of Education of the school district may levy 18.0 mills of the taxable valuation of non-homestead property within the school district for school operating purposes except that commercial personal property is exempt from 12.0 of the mills, and that principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property are exempt from such millage levy; and

**WHEREAS,** the Revised School Code further provides that the supplemental millage rate which may be levied by the school district on principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property may not exceed the lesser of 5.6523 mills (that being the capped millage rate for the school district as certified by the Michigan Department of Treasury) or the millage rate which will, when added to other revenue of the school district, provide revenues equal to the foundation allowance of the school district, as determined in accordance with the Revised School Code and the State School Aid Act; and

**WHEREAS,** the Revised School Code further provides that if the number of mills from which industrial personal property is exempted is reduced under this section, then the number of mills from which commercial personal property is exempted shall be reduced by that same number of mills; and

**WHEREAS,** Public Act 38 of 1999, being MCLA 211.39, requires that millage rate assessments be rounded down to four decimal places; and

**WHEREAS,** based upon information now available, the millage rate to be levied on principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property of
the school district for the 2012-13 school year in order to provide the full foundation allowance amount to the school district is 1.9509 mills; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with revised millage rates for the 2011-12 school year, as determined by the Michigan Department of Treasury in a communication dated May 10, 2012, the corrected number of mills available for the district to have levied on homestead and qualified agricultural property for the 2011-12 school year is 1.5903 mills; and

WHEREAS, the tax rate of 1.5909 mills levied by the school district on principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property for the 2011-12 fiscal year resulted in revenue that was $1,111 more than the amount which should have been received by the school district under Section 1211 of the Revised School Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 1211 of the Revised School Code provides that if a school district levies millage for school operating purposes that is more than the limits of such section, the amount of the resulting tax revenue surplus may be subtracted from the school district's next regular tax levy, requiring in this instance a decrease in the mills which the district could otherwise levy for the 2012-13 school year by 0.0006 mill; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that there be spread on the 2012 Tax Roll a tax levy on the taxable value of non-homestead property of the school district of 18.0 mills for the general operating fund; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the exemption for principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property be reduced by 16.0501 mills, so that there be spread on the 2012 Tax Roll a tax levy on the taxable value of principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property of the school district of 1.9499 mills for the general operating fund; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the exemption for commercial personal property be reduced by 4.0501 mills, so that there be spread on the 2012 Tax Roll a tax levy on the taxable value of commercial personal property of the school district of 7.9499 mills for the general operating fund; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that if the revenues produced by the above levies for operating purposes result in revenues exceeding or falling short of the limits specified in Section 1211 of the Revised School Code, as amended, such difference may be made up in the school district’s next regular tax levy, in accordance with such section; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Clerk of the City of Midland and the Clerk of each Township within the school district be and hereby is authorized and instructed on behalf of the school district to assess and spread the amounts and only those amounts required by the above mills on the 2012 Tax Roll.

Ayes: Mault, Baker, Brandstadt, Gorton, Kaminski, Ohle
Absent: Wasserman
Nayes: 
Motion: Motion carried by those members present (6-0)

Motion carried unanimously (6-0).
5. **CURRICULUM and INSTRUCTION**

For Information:

5.1 The “Curriculum and Special Services (CaSS) Study Committee Report” was read aloud by Dr. John Kaminski. The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. Members present were John Kaminski (chair), Lynn Baker, Yvonne Gorton, Carl Ellinger and Kathy Ellison. Others in attendance: Pam Kastl, Penny Miller-Nelson, Randy Schaedig.

**District Priorities for 2012-13**
Kathy Ellison distributed a chart of the priorities for elementary, middle school, high school and the district for 2012-13. Over all levels there is a focus on closing the achievement gap, technology, Common Core State Standards, and extending the International Baccalaureate program. Other priorities for each level include elementary – full day kindergarten, middle school – closing Central and Writing Across the Content Areas (WACA), New Tech Program; high school – WACA, 5 year IB DP evaluation, and New Tech Program.

**New Tech Program**
Kathy Ellison introduced the district’s exploration of the New Tech Program at Midland Public Schools, and introduced the members of the New Tech Planning Committee: Pam Kastl, Penny Miller-Nelson, and Randy Schaedig. Janet Greif is also a member of the Planning Committee, but could not attend due to another obligation.

Penny Miller-Nelson provided a review of the key pillars of a New Tech program:

1. **Teaching That Engages** - Project Based Learning (PBL) creates life-long learners when curriculum is relevant, contextual, creative, and shared. PBL promotes the attainment of 21st Century Skills such as collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, communication, and reflection.

2. **Technology That Enables** - Embedded, web-based tools and technology enrich the learning experience and keep everyone connected. All classes have a one-to-one computing ratio.

3. **Culture That Empowers** - Facilitators (teachers) and learners (students) own the learning experience which creates a culture of trust, respect, and responsibility.

Penny described the **events leading to the investigation of a New Tech Program** as an option for our students who need this type of environment for successful learning. Her summary included researching program success, attributes of the program, locations of our visits, and how many people have participated in these visits. She also recapped the reflections following these visits.

Randy Schaedig presented to the group a **2012-2013 Process Map** that captures the key dates and benchmarks the Planning Committee has identified for the potential implementation of a New Tech Program to begin in the fall of 2013.

**Pam Kastl then discussed Why New Tech for Midland Public Schools?**

New Tech Program will create another option for learners that will:

- Increase student engagement through the use of Project Based Learning.
• Provide students with a small school environment in which Trust, Respect and Responsibility are emphasized.
• Focus on 21st Century Skill development that is essential for students’ success after high school.
• Utilize business and community partners to increase the relevance of student learning and projects.
• Focus on STEM content and skills.
• Provides an opportunity to compare a project based learning to our current structures.

Committee members expressed appreciation to the planning committee for the in-depth summary of the New Tech Program. Mr. Ellinger facilitated committee discussion of the impact and financial issues during the last segment of the meeting.

Next CaSS meeting: September 18, 5:00 p.m., Administration Center, Room 9

6. **FINANCE**

**For Information:**

6.1 The “Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Minutes” were read aloud by Mr. Rick Ohle. The meeting was held on August 28, 2012. Members present were: Mr. Rick Ohle (chair), Mr. Gerald Wasserman, Dr. John Kaminski, Mr. Carl Ellinger, Mr. Gary Verlinde, Mrs. Linda Cline and Mrs. Carol Laux. Others in attendance: Mr. Chris Sabourin and Mr. Blake Sobol.

Mrs. Cline gave a preview of the audit results that will be presented at the September meeting. She distributed a chart showing the history of changes in fund balance and net assets since 2000 and explained the role that grants and the sinking fund have played.

In November 2001 the District entered into a twenty year agreement with the City of Midland to jointly fund and maintain the playground at Chippewassee. The agreement contained a provision for early termination that requires MPS to reimburse the City for a prorated share of the costs. Since we no longer own the property, we sought legal advice on our options and have determined that it is in the best interest of the District to exercise the termination clause. The cost to the district is likely to be no more than $10,000.

Mr. Ellinger provided an update on the exploration of implementing a New Tech program. Projected costs and possible funding sources were discussed.

As part of a continued conversation of how best to fund capital needs and program improvements, the committee examined the following topics:

- Mr. Sabourin and Mr. Sobol joined the group to present a three to five year vision for technology upgrades for MPS. The goals are to equip students to remain competitive, prepare for the 21st century workplace, improve learning outcomes and extend learning outside classroom walls.
- Mrs. Cline distributed an updated list of future capital projects originally prepared by Mr. Kostus last year. It includes projects that had initially been included in earlier sinking fund proposals as well as newly identified needs.
• Greater Midland Community Centers, Inc. recently coordinated an extensive study of the aquatic facilities serving Midland County including the MPS pools at Jefferson, Northeast and HHD. Mrs. Cline, who represented the District throughout the study, reviewed the comments and recommendations made regarding our pools.

• Mr. Ellinger reported that we are moving forward with plans for Cobalt Community Research to conduct a survey this fall. The committee had previously participated in a conference call with Cobalt in March 2011 and felt that a community survey would be useful as the Board makes budget decisions.

• Mr. Ellinger and Mrs. Cline reminded the committee of our current tax rates, millage expiration dates and election timelines.

Next meeting: 4 p.m. Monday, September 17, 2012

6.2 The following gifts, which total $6,939.35, have been received and processed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Kiwassee Kiwanis Foundation</td>
<td>Classroom management carpet for Carpenter Street School first grade classroom</td>
<td>$ 539.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Midland Violence Prevention Partnership Through Midland Area Community Foundation</td>
<td>Support for parent nights at MPS middle schools on topics of bullying, trends with drugs/alcohol, cyber-safety, supporting students academically at home and more</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Midland Area Community Foundation</td>
<td>H. H. Dow High pre-vocational classroom equipment</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) H. H. Dow High School Athletic Booster Club</td>
<td>Nacho cheese warmer for concession stand at the Community Stadium</td>
<td>$ 400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An appropriate thanks to the donors was recommended.

7. TECHNOLOGY

For Action:

Ohle/Kaminski moved that the following item be approved:

7.1 Administration sought approval to deliver a purchase order to Apple Inc. of Cupertino, CA for up to $224,000 to purchase 570 second generation iPads and 7 MacBook Pros. This equipment will be used to support the action research initiative that will help craft the District's long-term vision for using mobile devices to enhance instruction, improve learning and improve efficiencies. iPads and MacBook Pros are only available directly through Apple, making them a sole source provider. This expenditure was included in the regular budgeting process for 2012-2013 and will be paid for out of general funds.

Motion carried unanimously.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*For Information:*

8.1 Letters from the Board of Education or the school system to:
- Wal-Mart Vision Center
- Chestnut Hill Elementary PTO
- Plymouth Elementary PTO
- Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Oberlin

9. **SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES**

*For Information:*

The following is a listing of scheduled meetings or activities of the Board of Education for 2012:

- September 24, 2012  7 p.m.  Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- October 8, 2012    7 p.m.  Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- October 22, 2012   7 p.m.  Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- November 12, 2012  7 p.m.  Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- November 26, 2012  7 p.m.  Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- December 10, 2012  7 p.m.  Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

10. **STUDY-DISCUSSION SESSION**

This portion of the agenda is utilized by the Board to introduce topics for future study, to discuss school district-related matters, to complete professional association business and to relate items of interest. No action is taken during this time. Occasionally closed sessions are scheduled to discuss confidential personnel, negotiations or property matters.

10.1 Hearing from Board Members: Congratulations to everyone. The 2012-13 school year is off to a great start; a lot of positive things that are happening. We wish our teachers a great teaching year and our students a great learning year. The back to school staff meeting on August 28 at Central Middle School Auditorium was a wonderful start to the new school year. Thank you to those groups whose gifts were presented this evening. Your support is truly appreciated. Thank you to Mr. Scott McFarland and Ms. Joyce Perry for being with us this evening. Mr. McFarland and Ms. Perry are two of the four community members who are running for the Board of Education seats up for election in November. Mr. Ohle announced that he will be out of the country and will not attend the next board meeting. Thank you to Mr. Verlinde, Mr. Sabourin, and Mr. Sobol for your iPad initiative presentation this evening and for breaking it down into an easy to understand format. We are excited to see the launch of this iPad initiative and look forward to seeing what the future holds as we continue to prepare our students to be digital citizens in the 21st Century. Some of us had the privilege of being in Mt. Pleasant this past weekend to see some of our graduates on the football field as CMU competed against MSU. We were sad to see in the newspaper today that one of the Board member’s MPS math teachers passed away recently, Mrs. Donna Lorton. In addition to the twice-monthly meetings our Board members also participate in committee meetings each month, which contain healthy debate and discussion. Thank you to the CaSS and FFO groups for their hard work and for their reports this evening. Even though Mr. Maul and Mr. Ohle will no longer be on the Board after the beginning of the new year, they know the hard work and dedication by the Board committees like CaSS and FFO will continue to move this District forward.
10.2 Announcements from Superintendent Ellinger:

- The overall tone and common theme at the opening staff meeting on August 28 was a unifying message and positive start to the school year, which was very well received by those in attendance.
- In the September 2012 Food Pantry Network News an item was noted that last year Jefferson Middle School collected over 500 items for Sam’s Pantry this past spring. Great job JMS students and staff; this is just one example of the caring students and staff we have across our 12 MPS schools.
- Thank you to Joyce Perry and Scott McFarland for being with us this evening. Ms. Perry and Mr. McFarland are two of the four candidates who are running for the MPS Board of Education in November. Mr. Ellinger has reached out to all four Board candidates to offer to meet with them to give them a good understanding of the role, responsibility and time commitment it takes to be an MPS Board member.
- At each Board member’s desk this evening is a calendar of events for the rest of this month. Mr. Ellinger encouraged Board members to attend any or all of the events listed.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Kaminski/Ohle moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

President: _________________________     Secretary: _________________________

Ken Mault                 Lynn Baker

Approved by the Board on:

C. Young    24-September-2012