BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – January 28, 2013

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, January 28, 2013, beginning at 7:00 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 Wasserman,
                          Vice President Baker,
                          Secretary Kaminski,
                          Treasurer Brandstadt,
                          Member Gorton,
                          Member McFarland,
                          Member VanderKelen

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

   Central staff absent: Associate Superintendent Cline

   Visitors present: 6 staff, citizens and guests

2. CONSENT AGENDA

   Kaminski/Brandstadt moved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved.

   2.1 Board Retreat Minutes of Saturday, January 12, 2013 and Organization and Regular Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 14, 2013.

   2.2 The following staff member has announced her resignation effective as of the date indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Kourouma</td>
<td>Paraprofessional, Carpenter Elementary</td>
<td>January 14, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   2.3 Administration sought approval to issue a purchase order to CDWG of Vernon Hills, IL for $46,979.44 to upgrade the storage hardware for our Microsoft Exchange email system. CDWG was the low bidder for the MPS Netgear Equipment Bid 13-0010. Given the increasing use by staff and students of email as a means of moving files between teacher and student and the ever increasing size and number of the attachments within those communications, this purchase will allow MPS to provide the capacity that staff and students will need. Funds have been earmarked in the 2012 – 2013 budget.
2.4 Approval of the payment of the school system's bills for the months of November and December 2012, as listed in the check register prepared by Ms. Laux, in the total amount of $7,577,284 (November) and $7,145,851 (December) was recommended. The distribution of obligations, by fund, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Through</th>
<th>Through</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.4.a</td>
<td>11/15/2012</td>
<td>11/30/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund / Athletics</td>
<td>$1,027,214</td>
<td>$831,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Projects</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinking Fund</td>
<td>116,727</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Science Lab Renovation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Grant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Stores</td>
<td>1,152</td>
<td>4,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Service</td>
<td>206,270</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Activities</td>
<td>30,168</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-totals</td>
<td>1,381,531</td>
<td>841,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Withholding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Withholding/Sales Tax</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security/Medicare</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Transfers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACH Transfers</td>
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<tr>
<td>ConnectCare Transfers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumers payments paid electronically</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PESG payroll (contracted substitutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase Card Transactions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total November Distributions</td>
<td>$7,577,284</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Through</th>
<th>Through</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.4.b</td>
<td>12/15/2012</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund / Athletics</td>
<td>$1,189,466</td>
<td>$948,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Projects</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinking Fund</td>
<td>24,318</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Science Lab Renovation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Grant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Stores</td>
<td>12,382</td>
<td>28,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Service</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>178,424</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Activities 8,798 29,960 38,758
Sub-totals 1,235,282 1,185,937 2,421,219

State Withholding/Sales Tax 191,054
Social Security/Medicare 713,383
Payroll Transfers 52,684
ACH Transfers 2,381,351
ConnectCare Transfers 530,940
Consumers payments paid electronically 117,471
PESG payroll (contracted substitutes) 63,180
Purchase Card Transactions 114,287

Total December Distributions $7,145,851

Submitted herewith are the following financial reports:

2.4.c Listing of Purchase Orders exceeding three thousand dollars ($3,000) or more for the months of November and December 2012 prepared by Ms. Laux.

2.4.d Listing of Purchase Card transactions exceeding three thousand ($3,000) or more for months of November and December 2012 prepared by Ms. Laux.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

3.1 No hearings were requested.

4. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS**

**PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

*For Information:*

4.1 In honor of Board of Education Appreciation Month, Mr. Ellinger thanked the Board of Education members for their selfless service to the students, staff and community of Midland Public Schools. He presented them with a framed certificate as well as thank you cards hand made by third grade students in Mrs. Kellynn Jacob’s class at Plymouth Elementary School.

4.2 Mr. Ellinger acknowledged the donation of $200 by the Midland City Education Association (MCEA) to the “Looking Sharp” fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation in thanks to MPS Board Members for Board of Education Recognition Month.

4.3 Mr. Ellinger recognized this year’s Roland M. Gerstacker Distinguished Service Award Recipients:
- Ms. John Brennan, Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary School
- Mr. Tim Chisholm, Building Manager, H. H. Dow High School
- Ms. Rita Klumpp, Administrative Assistant, Administration Center
• Ms. Jo Majeske, Administrative Assistant, Administration Center

Congratulations to these very deserving Midland Public Schools’ support staff personnel for being nominated and chosen the 2012 Gerstacker Distinguished Service Award recipients.

4.4 Midland High School Principal, Ms. Janet Greif, Assistant Principal Ms. Amy Hutchinson and teacher Ms. Carol Neff shared details about the student/staff exchange program between Midland High School and Taipei Fuhsing Private School. Their presentation gave background on their initial ideas, putting the proposal together, securing funding, making the connections with Taiwanese educators and selecting teachers and students to take part in the exchange. The group will travel to Taiwan from April 12-26. Funding for this exciting exchange program has been graciously provided by a $100,000 grant from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation.

5. CURRICULUM and INSTRUCTION

For Information:

5.1 The “Curriculum and Special Services (Cass) Study Committee” met on January 22, 2013. Minutes were read aloud by Ms. Lynn Baker.

Members present: Lynn Baker (chair) and Carl Ellinger

Others present: Bob Cooper, Jeff Jaster, Jeff Lauer, Penny Miller-Nelson

**CTE & Career Development in Middle School**

The group visited the World of Tech classroom of Mr. Jorge Pena at Northeast Middle School. Mr. Pena presented the course content and the many projects that are part of his program. The group also visited the Life Management classes Quilt display that showcased the quilts students made and are donating to the Linus program. Students learn a skill and learn the importance of giving back.

On return to the conference room at Northeast, Penny Miller-Nelson, Career and Technical Education Curriculum Specialist and Jeff Lauer, Career Development Administrator, presented.

Mr. Lauer reviewed the new Secondary Course Offering Guide, which is moving primarily online for parent and student access. The guide, formerly known as What Next?, is a combination of middle and high school information because there is so much overlap in the career development and planning process.

Mr. Lauer and Ms. Miller-Nelson reviewed the current offerings relating to career development: Careers, PE, Health, Art, Music, Industrial Ed, Business and Life Management.

In pursuit of continuous improvement the district recognizes that we have solid opportunities for students but needs to continue to evolve to promote career development and look for ways to offer opportunities that allow all students to explore all career pathways.

We are also looking for ways to modernize content of some CTE (Career & Technical Education) classes to better align with high school offerings, workforce and postsecondary trends, and breadth of pathway options for our students. If the district decides to move to the IB MYP, we are prepared to adapt and develop options that fit with that change as well.
There are many challenges in middle school career development and CTE that include “Infusing Habits of Success” in all curricular areas, representing all career pathways appropriately either with courses or embedded activities and most importantly having the ability to develop the programs when the staffing tends to be an add-on of another assignment. Inconsistent staffing for these courses hinders the development of the curriculum.

Summary of action:
Ms. Miller-Nelson is in the process of submitting staff/curriculum development proposals for middle school CTE. Mr. Lauer and Ms. Miller-Nelson continue their efforts in infusing relevance and 21st Century Skills in all curricular areas. We have great courses in place, but continue to look for ways to improve those offerings or add additional options or formats that address the changing world.

Focus Schools Update (to be postponed)
In lieu of attendance and the importance of the topic, the Focus Schools discussion was postponed to the next CaSS Study Committee meeting scheduled for February 19.

However, Jeff Jaster, Principal at Northeast Middle School, shared with the group strategies that the Northeast staff has developed to further address the needs of their students.

Next CaSS meeting: February 19, 1:30-3:00

6. **FINANCE**

   **Study Committee Chair** – Ms. Brandstadt  
   **Staff Resource Person** – Ms. Cline

   **For Information:**

   6.1 The following gifts, which total $1760, have been received and processed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Eastlawn Elementary PTO</td>
<td>Books for the Media Center</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Target Field Trips Scholarship</td>
<td>Plymouth 2nd Grade Field Trip “Wonders of Water...“</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>at the Chippewa Nature Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Psi Iota Xi Sorority</td>
<td>Central Middle School Life Management Class</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Target Field Trips Scholarship</td>
<td>Entrance fee for 9th Grade Dow High Students to attend MCFTA’s performance of Romeo and Juliet</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8 Philip &amp; Lynn Baker Kurt &amp;</td>
<td>Athletic Scholarship Fund in Honor of Retiring Board Members</td>
<td>$210.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Brandstadt Richard &amp; Donna</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolinski John &amp; Dianne Kaminski</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

   The following donation of items has occurred.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Gift donated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) McKay Press</td>
<td>154 web core paper rolls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Appropriate thanks to the donors was recommended.
7. **HUMAN RESOURCES**  

**Study Committee Chair** – Ms. Baker  
**Staff Resource Person** – Mr. Verlinde

**For Information:**

7.1 The following staff member announced her retirement effective as of the date indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

8. **CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**For Information:**

8.1 Letters from the Board of Education or the school system to:
- The Laura Ludington Hollenbeck Foundation
- H. H. Dow High School Athletic Booster Club
- Grand Rapids Building Services, Inc.
- Eastlawn Elementary Office Fund
- Woodcrest Elementary PTO
- Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Youngquist

9. **SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES**

**For Information:**

The following is a listing of scheduled meetings or activities of the Board of Education for 2013:

- February 11, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- February 20, 2013 **5:30 p.m.** Special Meeting of the Board of Education
- February 25, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- March 11, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- March 25, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- April 15, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- April 29, 2013 **3 p.m.** Budget Workshop of the Board of Education
- May 13, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- May 28, 2013 (Tuesday) 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- June 10, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- June 24, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- July 15, 2013 **4 p.m.** Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- August 12, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- August 26, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- September 9, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- September 23, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- October 14, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- October 28, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- November 11, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- November 25, 2013 7 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- December 9, 2013 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.

10.1 Hearing from Board Members: Board members expressed their …

- thanks to Mr. Ellinger for his commitment to MPS, the MPS staff for the donations to the Looking Sharp fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation and the gift from the MCEA, cards from Mrs. Jacobs’ Third Grade students from Plymouth and their lovely framed Certificate of Appreciation.
- congratulations to this year’s Roland M. Gerstacker Distinguished Service Award recipients.
- enthusiasm about the Midland High Taiwan Exchange program as well as their thanks to Ms. Greif, Ms. Hutchinson and Ms. Neff for their presentation. In addition, Board members thanked the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation for their support of this wonderful program and their benevolence for MPS students and programs through the years.
- congratulations and best wishes to the employee whose retirement was announced during this meeting.
- best wishes for student success as they begin the second semester.
- support for the Longview Early Childhood Project, which will create an early childhood center to serve Midland families. Donations are currently being accepted and matched by The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to renovate Longview Elementary and create a full-service early childhood center in the Longview School building. Go to [www.longviewforkids.org](http://www.longviewforkids.org) for more information.
- thanks to MDN for the informative article about MPS’s all-day kindergarten program.
- support for the recent “Pink Out” for Jen Sisco and their respect and admiration for this MPS staff member as she undergoes medical treatment.
- excitement for the literacy skills of so many of our very young elementary students as was personally witnessed by a Board member who is a Dibels assessment volunteer.
- thanks to Ms. VanderKelen for presenting each Board member with a copy of *The One World School House* by Salman Khan

10.2 Announcements from Superintendent Ellinger

- Mr. Wasserman, Mr. Ellinger, Ms. Cline and Mr. Verlinde met with representatives from the Michigan Department of Treasury in Lansing on January 11 to submit initial documentation to explore the possibility of having a technology bond millage on the ballot for a May election. The group was encouraged by the meeting but has not, as yet, received official notification from the State of Michigan for approval. At the next Finance Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Meeting, we will look at long-term capital needs of the District as the Board determines whether to ask voters to support a sinking fund millage election in May 21013.
- Mr. Ellinger attended the annual Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) winter conference last week. State Superintendent of Schools Mike Flanagan, was one of the keynote speakers. Mr. Flanagan shared that Michigan parents are asking for more choice in the education of their children.
- Thank you to Tracy Renfro, Chestnut Hill Principal, who coordinated this year’s District-wide Sharing Tree program; thank you also to the Sharing Tree coordinator in each of our schools. This year MPS handed out 485 Sharing Tree gifts to families. Thank you also to the United Way of Midland County for coordinating this very special program.
• The Columbia Scholastic Press Association has announced the finalists for its 2013 Crown Awards. The Dow High Update is one of only 48 print newspapers to make the list and the only school in the State of Michigan. Congratulations, Update students and advisor!

• Kudos to Dow High’s marketing students who raised $6,294 during this past holiday season for Make-A-Wish and Team Mary. Congratulations also to The Midland High marketing students who raised $1,404 for the American Cancer Society. Great Job!

• Congratulations to the Northeast Middle School 8th grade student, who won this year’s Midland Lions 2012 Peace Poster contest. Her entry will be sent on to the state level competition.

• Congratulations to the Midland High School student who was named Class A Football Player of the Year. He has also received these impressive distinctions: the Associated Press’ Player of the Year in Division 1-2, a member of the Michigan Prep Football All-State Dream Team for the 2012 season by the Detroit Free Press and the Anthony Muñoz Lineman of the Year Award.

• Vikings Inspiring Pioneers (V.I.P. Tutors) has completed its first full tutoring session of the school year. Close to eighty (80) 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Northeast students went to Plymouth to work with Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students. The V.I.P. tutors completed over 320 volunteer hours during the month of November working on reading, counting money, math, word wall words, computer time and many other tasks.

• The MHS Key Club participated in ringing bells for the Salvation Army during the holidays and raised over $3,000. They also participated in the Crop Walk and raised $500.

• Congratulations to MPS Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Scholarship Winners from H. H. Dow High and Midland High who were recognized at a MLK dinner and program on January 16.

• Over 550 students from more than 25 DECA chapters throughout the region participated in the Regional DECA competition at Northwood University on Saturday, January 19. Midland High had 7 out of 10 competitors move on to the State Competition and Dow High had 33 of 38 competitors move on to the State competition. The State competition will be held Grand Rapids in March. Congratulations to all of these dedicated DECA members who accomplished great things at this year’s Regional competition!

• Poetry Outloud is a poetry recitation competition sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Congratulations to the the Dow High building champion who will represent DHS at the State Finals in Lansing in February.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

President: _________________________     Secretary: ________________

Gerald Wasserman                                         John Kaminski

Approved by the Board on:

C. Young       11-February-2013