

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – September 9, 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, September 9, 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

Central staff present: Superintendent Sharrow,
 Assistant Superintendent Verlinde,
 Associate Superintendent Cline,
 Associate Superintendent Cooper

Visitors present: 15 staff, citizens and guests

2. RESIGNATION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

President Gerald Wasserman acknowledged, read and accepted the resignation of Board of Education Trustee, Kimberly VanderKelen, effective September 9, 2013.

McFarland/Brandstadt moved and supported the resignation of Member VanderKelen

A roll call vote was taken and accepted by the members present (6-0).

Board of Education members thanked Mrs. VanderKelen for her months of service.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Brandstandt/Gorton moved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved.

3.1 Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 26, 2013

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Kristen Cronkright	Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary	August 27, 2013
Savannah Finney	Paraprofessional, Transportation	September 4, 2013
Rachel Kent	Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary	August 22, 2013
Kris Kreh	Bus Driver, Transportation	August 22, 2013
Michelle Short	Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary	August 26, 2013
Julie C. Smith	Paraprofessional, Carpenter Elementary	August 27, 2013

3.3 The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2013-14 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Erica J. Barnes	Spanish Teacher (1.0), Midland Public Schools	August 27, 2013
Monica M. Chambers	School Psychologist (1.0), Midland Public Schools	August 27, 2013
Amy L. Denay	Special Education Teacher (1.0), Jefferson Middle	August 27, 2013
Kristi L. Hainstock	School Psychologist (1.0), Midland Public Schools	August 27, 2013
Tricia Jendretzke	Art Teacher (1.0), Midland Public Schools	August 27, 2013
Chelsea N. Jensen	Elementary Teacher (1.0), Carpenter Street	August 27, 2013
Chelsea N. Schmidt	Spanish Teacher (.6), Midland Public Schools	August 27, 2013
Rebecca Stern	Elementary Teacher (1.0), Carpenter Street	August 27, 2013

3.4 Approval of John Kaminski’s travel expenses incurred August 9 and 10 when he attended the MASB CBA conference held at Boyne Mountain. This requested reimbursement is in line with *How Midland Schools Works (HMSW)* policy in Chapter II. B. 7. b. which states, “Board members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in discharging their official duties and in performing functions authorized by the Board.” The requested reimbursement amounts are within the allowable limits as stated in *HMSW*.

3.5 Approval was requested to authorize payment for the following legal bill:

FIRM	DATE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Thrun Law Firm P.C.	7/25/2013	10,063.00	Professional Fees
AMOUNT DUE		\$10,063.00	

Motion carried unanimously.

4. **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

4.1 No hearings were requested.

5. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS**

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

For Information:

5.1 Mr. Jeff Jaster, Principal of Northeast, and Mr. Steve Poole, Principal of Jefferson, introduced Ms. Bev Wenzel, Executive Director of the ROCK Youth Center, and Ms. Lori Pritchard, Northeast Assistant Principal, who presented information about “The ROCK” after school program for MPS middle school students. The program includes mentoring, homework help, games, snacks and more. The goal is to have 50 students involved in the program in each middle school. The Rock is presently fundraising and hopes to eventually be self-sustaining. There is currently a nominal fee for those families who are able to pay. The Rock thanked the administration of both middle schools for their collaboration.

For Action:

- 5.2 Kaminski/McFarland moved to approve the recommendation to appoint Mr. Matt Samocki as the Assistant Principal, Level 2, at H. H. Dow High School effective September 23, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

Brandstadt/Baker moved that the following be approved.

- 5.3 The Transportation handbook, as referenced in *How Midland Schools Work*, currently states, “A regular driver’s allotted and accumulated sick days with pay will be used for absence for personal illness.” The Manager of Transportation recommended the following addition: “If a regular driver has accumulated a minimum of 60 days, the driver may use them for winter break, spring break, snow days and professional development days. Drivers will not be allowed to drop below 45 sick days. A maximum of 7 days may be used within the period of September through May. Continued eligibility for use of sick days in this manner is contingent on maintaining a minimum of 45 sick days.” Administration recommended approval of this addition.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. **FINANCE**

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

For Information:

- 6.1 The “Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Report” was read aloud by Ms. Angela Brandstadt (chair). The meeting was held on September 3, 2013. Members present were: A. Brandstadt (chair), G. Wasserman, J. Kaminski, M. Sharrow, G. Verlinde, L. Cline, C. Laux. Others in attendance: Dave Youngstrom from Yeo & Yeo (4:00 – 5:20)

Mr. Youngstrom reviewed the draft of the Annual Financial Statements and Auditors’ Report of June 30, 2013. The opinion is unmodified with no findings (Audit terminology has changed. What was known as an unqualified opinion in the past is now an unmodified opinion, meaning that the auditors had to make no modifications to the financial statements.) A full report will be made at the September 23, 2013 Board of Education meeting. Following the general presentation, staff excused themselves to provide the Board members present and auditor an opportunity to meet privately.

Mrs. Cline presented information from Thrun Law Firm regarding permissible election dates and deadlines. Mr. Sharrow indicated that the area superintendents recommend holding the MCESA enhancement millage renewal election on Tuesday, February 25. MPS is weighing whether to use this opportunity to also renew its own operating millages as well, all of which expire in May 2015. Doing so would significantly reduce the cost of an election. Legal counsel has suggested that we also consider whether it would be prudent to have a separate request for a tax rate somewhat higher than 18 mills. This would provide protection in the event that local property tax values increased at a greater rate than the rate of inflation, preventing the district from levying the full 18 mills.

The group reviewed the requirements for qualifying for the best practice incentive which has been included in the 2013-14 budget. New this year is a requirement to include additional financial information on a dashboard. MPS hopes to use a state-approved tool called Munetrix to meet these additional requirements.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 1 at 4 p.m.

6.2 The following gifts, which total \$9,357 were received and processed:

	Donor	Purpose	Amount
2	Chestnut Hill PTO	Classroom magazine subscriptions	\$ 2,300.00
3	Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee	Key card reader for Jefferson Middle School	\$ 3,357.00
4	Chestnut Hill Elementary	HP Pro Book laptop with warranty, accessories and charging cart	\$ 3,200.00
5	Aaron & Esther Oberlin Gift Fund	Support for at-risk students Positive Outcomes Program at Midland High School	\$ 500.00

For Action:

McFarland/Brandstadt moved that the following be approved.

6.3 Acceptance of the following gifts totaling \$24,504.50 was recommended:

	Donor	Purpose	Amount
1	Chestnut Hill PTO	Key card readers for Chestnut Hill	\$ 7,300.00
6	Plymouth PTO	Classroom/office supplies, classroom magazines, field trip funding, books for teachers, media center and school office	\$ 17,204.50

An appropriate thanks to the donors was recommended.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. **HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

For Information:

7.1 The Board and staff extended their deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Jean Bobalek, who passed away on August 23, 2013. Mrs. Bobalek began her employment with Midland Public Schools in 1959 as an elementary teacher at State Street School. She retired after 29 years of service with MPS in 1988. Ms. Bobalek was a recipient of the Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Award For Excellence in 1970.

8. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

For Information:

- 8.1 Letters from the Board of Education or the school system to:
Dr. Susan Johnson, Siebert Elementary Office Fund
Midland Area Community Foundation

9. SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

For Information:

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

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

The following is a tentative listing of meetings or activities of the Board of Education for January-June 2014. Action will take place on these meeting dates at the organizational meeting on January 13, 2014.

January 13, 2014	4 p.m.	Organizational Mtg. of the Board of Education
January 27, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
February 10, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
February 24, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
March 10, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
March 24, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
April 14, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
April 28, 2014	3 p.m.	Budget Workshop of the Board of Education
May 12, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
May 27, 2014 (Tuesday)	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
June 9, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
June 23, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

10. CLOSED SESSION

- 10.1 At 7:32 p.m. Kaminski/McFarland moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing a confidential attorney/client privileged issue. Motion carried by those members present (6-0). Discussion relative to confidential attorney/client privilege issue took place.

At 7:34 p.m. McFarland/Gorton moved to end the closed Session and reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education. Motion carried by those members present (6-0).

11. 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.

11.1 Hearing from Board Members

Board members expressed their ...

- enthusiasm to be back and their eagerness looking forward to the new school year
- thanks to the Rock Youth Center for the work they are doing in the middle schools. It is so exciting to hear about this wonderful collaboration.
- welcome to Matt Samocki and congratulations for his administrative appointment at H. H. Dow High.
- welcome to all of the new MPS staff members.
- thanks to gift donors for their generous gifts presented at this evening's meeting.
- congratulations to Mrs. Cline and the business office staff for another outstanding audit.
- thanks to Mrs. VanderKelen for her service and wished her well
- thanks to our community for helping to keep our students safe as they are driving in school zones and where students are walking and getting off busses.
- intent to fill the vacant board seat through a board appointment within 30 days.

11.2 Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow

- The opening staff meeting went very well. We appreciated Mr. Wasserman's opening comments.
- Our Technology staff has been very busy this summer. The vast upgrades to the district technology completed this summer has been astounding.
- The International Baccalaureate Advisory Team (IBAT) met in the past two weeks and discussed their ideas to financially sustain the IB Diploma Programme as well as the progress that is currently underway for the International Baccalaureate Primary Year's Program (IB-PYP) in the MPS elementary schools. The group also discussed the MPS IB Middle Years Program which is potentially moving forward.
- We have been working with the Midland Tomorrow group with regard to new marketing and PR ideas and approaches. The Monday Superintendent Communique reflects some of this work.
- Welcome to Mr. Matt Samocki to the district administrative team. We look forward to getting to know and working with Matt.
- Mr. Sharrow was invited to bring a small group of district leaders to a Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation cabinet meeting to answer questions regarding the IB-PYP program. Ms. LouAnn Bensinger, Dr. Linda Lipsitt, Mr. Bob Cooper attended with Mr. Sharrow and answered many excellent questions from the committee. Mr. Sharrow felt

our group’s answers clarified the overall MPS IB-PYP plan for the committee. We will anxiously await the Foundation’s response.

- MPS will once again host this year’s Leadership Midland group on Friday. The group is sponsored by the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce. What a great opportunity to showcase our schools.
- Mr. Sharrow will be completing the District’s request for \$75,000 from the Dow community Gives Fund to support the IB-PYP program. The deadline is October 31.
- Mr. Verlinde has been tracking class sizes on a daily basis for a number of weeks. By the end of the week all of the “leveling” will be completed. Enrollment and class sizes are what we expected.
- As was reported earlier this evening in the FFO minutes, Dave Youngstrom from Yeo and Yeo attended the September 3 FFO Committee meeting to review the draft of the Annual Financial Statements. A full report will be given at the September 23 Board meeting. Mr. Sharrow reported to the Board that the opinion is unmodified with no findings (the highest opinion). Great job Mrs. Cline, Mrs. Laux and the entire team!

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

President: _____
Gerald Wasserman

Secretary: _____
John Kaminski

Approved by the Board on:

C. Young 23-September-2013