

Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 10, 2014

Midland Public Schools' Board of Education

A Regular Meeting of the Midland Public Schools' Board of Education was held Monday, November 10, 2014, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan. In accordance with the requirements of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1 et. Seq. effective July 1, 1996, and the policies established by the Midland Public Schools' Board of Education.

1. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: President Wasserman, Vice President Brandstadt, Treasurer Kaminski, Member Baker, Member McFarland

Board Members Absent: Secretary Gorton, Member Singer

Central Staff Present: Superintendent Sharrow, Associate Superintendent Cooper, Associate Superintendent Brutyn

Central Staff Absent: Assistant Superintendent Verlinde,

42 audience members were in attendance

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Brandstadt/Kaminski moved for approval of consent agenda items

2. 1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from October 13 and Special Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2014.
2. 2. The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2014-15 school year effective as of these dates:
Jillian M. Seamster, Fifth Grade Teacher (1.0), Eastlawn Elementary, August 26, 2014
Elizabeth Woodward, Special Education Teacher (.4), Dow High, August 26, 2014
2. 3. The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of these dates:
Benjamin Cronkright, Principal, Carpenter Street School, November 7, 2014
Chase Finney, Technician, Transportation Department, October 21, 2014
Lawyer Jones, Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary, October 17, 2014
2. 4. Approval of the payment of school system's bills for the month of September 2014, as listed in the check register prepared by Ms. Laux, in the total amount of \$5,539,977 was recommended. The distribution of obligations, by fund, was included in the documentation.
2. 5. Legal Invoice for Payment
Approval was requested to authorize payment for the following invoice for professional legal fees: Thrun, \$1,420, October 30, 2014

Motion carried unanimously

3. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mr. Mark Marinan congratulated those elected to the Board in last week's election and thanked those who supported him. Mr. Marinan will make an appointment with Mr. Sharrow and Mr. Wasserman to discuss issues raised during his campaign.

4. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS--PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR INFORMATION

4. 1. Mr. Sharrow recognized the two November Shining Star employees. These staff members were recognized for doing an outstanding job and going "above and beyond" to make Midland Public Schools a better place for students.
Ms. Beth Whelan, H. H. Dow High Faculty Manager
Ms. Kim Sheldrake-Formsma, Northeast Special Education Teacher
4. 2. H. H. Dow High Principal Pam Kastl, Assistant Principal Dirk DeBoer, and two Dow High students presented information about their "Microbial Fuel Cell: Generating Electricity from Wastewater" project that earned them the first-ever A.H. Nickless Innovation Award in 2014. The high schools competing for this impressive award were charged with creating a real solution for a problem facing our world today. The DHS students informed the board and audience about their award-winning project and the steps they followed. The group thanked the A.H. Nickless Foundation for the opportunity and the Midland Wastewater Treatment Facility for providing the raw material for their project. Board members asked questions and made comments about this impressive project.

5. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS--PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR ACTION

Brandstadt/Kaminski moved for approval of the following item.

5. 1. The Michigan Court of Appeals on October 21, 1985 issued a major decision interpreting the 1982 summer tax collection statute. In its ruling upholding the constitutionality of the law, the Appellate Court stated that, despite prior practices, school districts must adopt an annual resolution for summer tax collection. An ongoing request is not sufficient. The Court of Appeals held that an annual formal action by the Board is required prior to January 1 of each year for which the Board intends to collect taxes in the summer.

The Midland Public Schools collects summer taxes only on property in the City of Midland. All school taxes in the townships are levied in December.

A copy of the signed Resolution to collect summer taxes on property in the City of Midland has been provided to the City and a copy is attached to the original of these meeting minutes.

Motion passed unanimously.

Kaminski/Baker moved for approval of the following item:

5. 2. At the October 28, 2013 regular meeting, board members approved the entire NEOLA Board Policy Manual recognizing that updates and revisions would be required going forward. Administration sought board approval for updates to the following

policies: 0140, 1400, 1630.01, 1662, 2431.01, 3362, 3430.01, 4162, 4430.01, 5112, 5517.01, 6107, 6420, 6470, 6520, 8142, 8390, 8405, 8510, 9160, 4362, 5517.
Motion passed unanimously.

6. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Study Committee Chair: Mrs. Baker; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Brutyn

6. 1. The “Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Study Committee Report” was read aloud by Mrs. Lynn Baker. The meeting was held on November 3, 2014 at Adams Elementary. Those present: Lynn Baker (chair), Scott McFarland, Pamela Singer, Brian Brutyn, Lou Ann Bensinger (Guest)

Major Change Proposals Timeline:

Brian Brutyn discussed modifications to the Major Change Proposals Timeline. A one month delay is necessary due to ongoing committee work related to legislative changes within the Michigan Merit Curriculum enacted over the summer. The new Major Change Proposal timeline will be as follows:

MMC and World Language Committees Complete Work: 11/11/14

MCP Internal Review Committee: 11/19/14

MCPs Presented to CIA Committee: 11/24/14

MCPs presented for 28-day review period: December Board Meeting (12/8/14)

MCPs acted upon by MPS Board of Education: January Board Meeting (1/12/15)

PYP Preschool:

Lou Ann Bensinger presented a timeline describing the process utilized to implement the PYP Preschool Programme currently in operation at Adams Elementary. Licensure, staffing structure, curriculum, on-going improvements, and possibilities for future expansion were reviewed. The discussion was followed by a visit to the preschool classroom where the CIA Committee was able to interact with students and have questions answered by the Program Director, Kelli Jolly.

7. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Study Committee Chair: Dr. Kaminski; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Cooper

7. 1. The Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Report was read aloud by Dr. John Kaminski. This meeting was held on October 20, 2014. Members present were J. Kaminski (chair), G. Wasserman, A. Brandstadt, M. Sharrow, G. Verlinde, R. Cooper

Mr. Cooper reported that he met with Mrs. Laux, Director of Financial Services and reviewed the September financial reports. No unusual items were noted. The full financial reports will be included on the November 10th Board of Education agenda for approval.

Mr. Cooper discussed the need for a corrected L-4029 2014 Tax Rate Request Form with the committee. With the transition in the position of Associate Superintendent of Finance, Facilities, and Operations, the split between the summer and winter tax rates included on the L-4029 was not consistent with the rates established with the Certification of Summer Taxes for 2014. Therefore, it is necessary to correct the L-4029 to reflect the proper split within the City of Midland between the summer and winter tax collections. This correction does not affect the overall tax rates or any of the collections outside the City of Midland. The full Board will be asked to approve the corrected L-4029 at the October 20th special Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Sharrow presented the Preliminary Qualification Application for the February 2015 Bonding Proposal. Upon the approval by the State Treasurer, the next step will be the calling of the election at the November 24 Special Board of Education meeting.

7. 2. For Information--Gifts totaling \$3,752.
 - \$ 40.00 from Sandra Buza for books for the Siebert media center
 - \$ 812.00 from Woodcrest PTO for teacher wish list items.
 - \$ 1,600.00 from Dow High Music Booster Club for choir expenses
 - \$ 1,000.00 from Chestnut Hill Administrative Acct. for laminating film/copy paper
 - \$ 300.00 from Kiwassee Kiwanis for Eastlawn community school fundBrandstadt/McFarland moved for approval of the following gift of \$5,000.
7. 3. \$ 5,000.00 from the Fabiano Foundation for H. H. Dow High School athletics
Motion carried unanimously.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES

Study Committee Chair: Mr. McFarland; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Verlinde

8. 1. The following staff members announced their retirement effective as of these dates:
 - Troy Champagne, Math Teacher, Midland High School, January 23, 2015
 - Donna Zook, Paraprofessional, ESL Tutor, February 1, 2015

9. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

9. 1. For Information--Letters from the Board of Education or the school system to
 - Midland Area Community Foundation
 - Midland Kiwanis Club
 - Mr. and Mrs. Alan Ott
 - Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation
 - H. H. Dow High School Athletic Booster Club
 - Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Oberlin
 - Memorial Presbyterian Church
 - Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee
 - Jefferson Music Parents Association
 - MEEMIC Foundation for the Future of Education
 - Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wisler
 - Mr. and Mrs. Dana Livingston
 - Mr. and Mrs. Gary McGuire
 - Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Bouck
 - The Ketpner Family
 - The Ungerleider Family
 - The Ludington Family Foundation
 - Bolger and Battle, Inc.
 - Davis & Davis Orthodontics
 - Dr. Leslie K. Schutz/Dr. David T. Bortel
 - Herter Music Center
 - Jones and Jones D.D.S. P.C.
 - Northwood University
 - Roth Cleaners
 - The Bruneau Family
 - The Sloggett Family
 - Mr. and Mrs. Torsten Kraef
 - Greystone Homes

9. 2. For Information--Letters to the Board of Education from:
FOIA request from Griffin Pest Solutions requesting bids for IPM pest control services
FOIA request from Renaye Baker (MEA) and Jimmy Mosca requesting secondary master schedules for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

10. **SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES--FOR INFORMATION**

The following is a listing of scheduled meetings or activities of the Board of Education. All meetings are Regular and Special Meetings of the Board of Education and begin at 7:00 p.m. at the MPS Administration Center (600 East Carpenter, Midland) unless otherwise noted.

November 24, 2014 (Special Meeting)

December 8, 2014

The following is a tentative listing of meetings or activities of the Board of Education for January-June 2015. Action will take place on these meeting dates at the organizational meeting on January 19, 2015.

January 19, 2015

February 16, 2015

March 16, 2015

April 20, 2015 (5:30 budget workshop; 7:00 regular meeting)

May 18, 2015

June 1, 2015

June 15, 2015

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. Board Members expressed their ...

- heartfelt gratitude to the veterans for their service and their sacrifices for our country. We especially think about our MPS graduates who pursue careers in the military and how valuable their service is for our country.
- admiration and thanks for the Dow High students and staff who presented tonight. A true testament to their hard work and innovation.
- appreciation for all of the gifts acknowledged at tonight's board meeting.
- sincere thanks to the voters and taxpayers for their overwhelming support of the renewal of the hold harmless and non-homestead operating millage last week.
- congratulations and best wishes to re-elected board members Lynn Baker, Angela Brandstadt, and Pam Singer; and newly-elected Patrick Frazee.
- appreciation to Mark Marinan for running for the Board of Education.
- congratulations to Beth Whelan and Kim Sheldrake-Formsma for their receipt of the November Shining Star; thank you for all you do for our students.
- appreciation for the IB PYP PreSchool program at Adams. Teacher Kelli Jolly and her staff do a great job with these pre-school children.
- excitement for this year's MASB conference held last week. The conferences and workshops were inspiring and highlighted innovative education. The collegial work by our board members for the good of Midland students is truly appreciated.

- kudos to Dow High girls' swim team for their 9th straight SVL championship win this past Saturday.
- congratulations to the Dow High football team for a great regular and post-season.
- congratulations to the athletics teams for a great fall.
- anticipation for the upcoming drama and music events.

11. 2. Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow

- Since coming to MPS 15 months ago, we've been talking about millage renewals. First the Enhancement Millage last year and this year the renewal of the Operating Millage. We truly appreciate our community's support for our students and our programs.
- We have been asked by our community for a long-term plan for the next ten or more years that will carry the district forward. We knew this was something we would need to pursue because of our aging facilities. We have begun to educate our staff, parents and community on the need and plans for the bond proposal in February. We will seek Treasury approval on November 17 and have a special Board of Education meeting scheduled for November 24 to call for the election. I have started doing the 25-30 scheduled presentations to let everyone know what the proposal includes. Display boards have been developed for each building and are located in each of our schools. The district website includes frequently asked questions, a tri-fold brochure, as well as the ten display boards. If approved, the 2.95 mill proposal would be the lowest millage rate in the county and surrounding area. The proposal doesn't include anything glamorous; the plan includes those projects necessary for aging facilities, energy efficiency and student safety and security. We believe that if this proposal passes, this is the last time we will need to bring a request to our voters for a number of years.
- State bus inspections occur every year. We have a fleet of 52 buses with two buses anticipated to go to auction because of their age and miles. We haven't purchased buses because of our budget constraints for the past two years. We are being fiscally responsible, but we can't do this for too long before it catches up. Even though we have an aging bus fleet, we are proud to report that every one of our buses passed the State inspection just conducted today. Great job by our mechanics--Chris McCaw; Logan Tickle; and Head Mechanic, Jon Patten.
- You will recall students presenting their thoughts about making Martin Luther King Day a student holiday at a board meeting last year. We asked them to present their case to the district's calendar committee. They did a great job. As a result of their presentation, we have an informal agreement that MLK Day will be a student holiday beginning with the 2015-16 school year. We let the students know about the status, and they feel good about the process. If you remember, their proposal included a "service" element. With the delay until the next school year, it will give them a year to work out that portion of the plan. It will be exciting to see it come together.
- Last Friday was the last day at MPS for Ben Cronkright. Ben has taken a new position in the Hawaiian Islands. Jeff Lauer from the Curriculum Office has accepted the temporary assignment to be the Carpenter Principal. We will continue to look at that position and the possibility of restructuring in some capacity as a cost saving measure.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

President: _____
 Gerald Wasserman

Trustee: _____
 Lynn Baker

Approved by the Board of Education on December 8, 2014.

C. Young