

Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 16, 2015

The Board of Education Midland Public Schools

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Midland Public Schools was held Monday, March 16, 2015, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan.

1. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: President Wasserman, Vice President Brandstadt, Treasurer Singer, Member Frazee, Member Gorton, Member McFarland

Board Member Absent: Secretary Baker

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

138 audience members were present for this meeting.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

McFarland/Brandstadt moved for approval of consent agenda items.

2. 1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2015.
2. 2. The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of the dates indicated:
 - ◁ Margo Dowling, Paraprofessional, Northeast Middle, March 27, 2015
 - ◁ Kellie Rabideau, Paraprofessional, Northeast Middle, February 11, 2015
 - ◁ Josh Tousignant, Paraprofessional, H. H. Dow High, February 12, 2015
2. 3. Danielle Rutterbush has asked to resign her administrative position of Special Services Supervisor at the end of the 2014-15 school year. Ms. Rutterbush requested to be reassigned as a teacher with Midland Public Schools for the 2015-16 school year.
2. 4. The Administration recommended the renewal of the food service contract with Chartwells for the 2015-16 school year. This is the first renewal of a five-year contract.
2. 5. Submitted with the board packet was a letter from the Board's auditors, Yeo & Yeo, P.C., outlining the firm's plans and procedures for auditing the district's books for the 2014-15 school year. Yeo & Yeo was selected two years ago following a request for proposal that was issued on behalf of local districts by the Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District. Based on the preliminary figures from Yeo & Yeo, the estimated fee will be \$26,800 including one major program as part of the single audit. Yeo & Yeo has been

the Board's auditors since 1972-73. The total fees for the audits for the last five years have been:

2009-10: \$25,150

2010-11: \$28,775 (Federal recovery programs required additional testing)

2011-12: \$26,660

2012-13: \$25,600

2013-14: \$26,200

2. 6. Approval of the payment of school system's bills for February 2015, as listed in the check registers prepared by Ms. Laux, in the total amount of \$5,766,106 was recommended. The distribution of obligations, by fund, was included in the documentation for this meeting.

2. 7. Approval was requested to authorize payment for Professional Legal Fees by Thrun Law Firm, P.C. for \$336 dated February 26, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously,

3. **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

◁ 98th District State Representative, Gary Glenn, addressed the Board with regard to his contact information, the State of Michigan's current budget process and the 2015-16 funding of public education in the State of Michigan. Mr. Wasserman thanked Mr. Glenn for being here this evening and for his diligence with school funding, welcomed his help and input, and look forward to speaking with Senator Stamas and Representative Glenn at their scheduled meeting later this week.

◁ Mr. Sharrow spoke with the audience about the MPS music program and his understanding that someone has raised concerns with MPS parents about upcoming changes to the 5th grade music program. Mr. Sharrow reviewed historic and current 6th grade student participation numbers and assured audience members that there are no budget cuts anticipated to affect the elementary music program. Administration expects the 2015-16 fifth grade music program to be similar to the current program.

- Ric Shahin read a letter on behalf of Mr. Christopher Charboneau, Music Director at University of Detroit Jesuit High School/Academy and Adjudicator for the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, in support of the Midland Public Schools' music programs.
- Kevin Bouk, President of the H. H. Dow High Music Boosters, spoke on behalf of the 5th grade music program.
- Shannon Krueger, President of the Midland High Music Boosters, spoke on behalf of the 5th grade music program and changes she would like to see implemented.
- Tanisha Frick, Midland High 2014 graduate, spoke about the importance of band and music and the skills and opportunities it gives students.
- Greg Hoffman, Cook, Jefferson and Dow High parent, spoke about the choice between sports and music boys have to make when music is offered after school.
- Mark Turpin, Woodcrest, Jefferson, Dow High parent spoke about the sense of community and family the music programs affords students.
- Randy Swierzbins, Carpenter, Central, Northeast, Midland High parent spoke of the need to implement the music classes during (not outside) the school day.

- Jim Krueger, Adams, Northeast, Midland High parent spoke of lower number of students that participate when music class is held outside the school day.
- Suzanne Rielle, Adams, Northeast, Midland High parent spoke about MPS children having the same opportunities across all elementary schools.
- Mark Marinan, Northeast parent encouraged parents to meet with District Administration to look at these issues.

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

4. 1. Mr. Sharrow recognized the two March 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.
 - ◇ Romona Reid Jones, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher at Northeast
 - ◇ Blake Sobol, District Director of Technology
4. 2. Mr. Jeff Lauer, Principal; Francisca Himmer, Family Intervention Specialist; as well as parent, mentors and students from Carpenter Street School spoke about Carpenter's mentoring program and our community collaboration. They explained that mentoring takes place during the school day, during the lunch hour and after school. Carpenter mentors are from SVSU, Big Brothers/Big Sisters (lunchbox learners), Crusaders for Kids (homework help and sports), and community members who volunteer during their lunch hour.
4. 3. Ms. Carol Lewin, Commercial Art Teacher, and the five students who each created a new MPS logo design, presented and spoke about the logos they submitted.
4. 4. Mr. Chris Sabourin, Media/Instructional Technology Specialist spoke about the future of Midland Public Schools' Online Learning
 - On-line learning is not about taking students out of the classrooms it is about offering more learning opportunities for students. Midland Public Schools has been offering this choice to students for approximately six years to help with schedule challenges or to take classes that are not offered.
 - 21f of the State School Aid Act allows student choice to take up to two classes on line.
 - Blended Learning is a method of instruction where students have a blend of face-to-face instruction with their teacher, as well as some control over the place and pace of their learning.
 - Seat Time Waiver (STW) students take three or more on-line classes in their school day
 - Mr. Sabourin revealed the different options for our students to take on-line classes through Michigan Virtual University, Genesee ISD, and others. He looked at the opportunities available to our students, the costs to the district, and the unknown quality of the classes being offered if not taught by MPS instructors.

- Mr. Sabourin spoke about on-line classes that have been taken by MPS students in the past, such as, American Sign Language, Mandarin and others, as well as the students who have used on-line learning opportunities for credit recovery.
- Mr. Sabourin then spoke about on-line learning as a modern tool of instruction for MPS teachers and students. He quoted that experts predict 50% of classes will be taught on-line by the end of this decade. He talked about the importance of MPS teachers teaching the classes so we know the quality of the classes being offered as MPS diplomas are conferred; as well as the importance of our MPS students having direct connections with MPS teachers.
- MPS developed a staff development proposal for teachers to learn about MPS offering on-line and blended learning opportunities. Through the staff development proposal, teachers are learning how to teach students to be good on-line learners, the challenges of blended/online learning, and more.
- MPS is now exploring the on-line classes we should offer, looking at the core and elective classes being requested/taken by MPS students.
- After much research and exploration, it was determined that MPS should work through JST to bring the content to our teachers so we can build our own MPS classes taught by MPS teachers.

Recommendations:

- Contract with JST for content. Encourage our teachers to explore course content to give the on-line/blended courses the MPS stamp of approval
- Find supports for at-risk and struggling students.
- Get a pilot group of teachers in place for this summer
- Apply for an MPS Seat Time Waiver (STW) to help some of our at-risk population to utilize the STW for credit recovery and so that we can use our own class resources for the STW.
- MPS should have a presence in the State on-line catalog to provide on-line learning opportunities to students from other districts
- Evaluate how MPS future plans for on-line/blended learning will meet our student needs.

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

5. 1. Singer/Brandstadt moved for approval of this Bond Sale Authorization Resolution

Board approval was requested for the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Bonds, Delegation of the Sale and Other Matters Relating Thereto relative to the details of the issue and sale of the bonds for the 2.95 mill bond proposal passed by Midland Public Schools' voters on February 24, 2015.

A complete, signed copy of this resolution is attached to the original minutes of these minutes.

Resolution Declared Adopted

5. 2. McFarland/Gorton moved for adoption of the Best Practices Resolution Section 22f of the State School Aid Act, which provides \$50 per pupil one-time grants to districts that satisfy at least seven (7) of nine (9) best practices criteria not later than June 1, 2015. Approval by a roll call vote of the Board of the attached resolution is required to qualify for the grant. Revenue was included in the original 2014-15 budget in anticipation of qualifying for this incentive.

A complete, signed copy of this resolution is attached to the original minutes of these minutes.

A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Members Wasserman, Brandstadt, Singer, Frazee, Gorton, McFarland

Nays: None

Absent: Member Baker

Resolution Declared Adopted

It was moved by Singer/Frazee to extend this Board meeting to 10:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

5. 3. Singer/McFarland moved for adoption of the mid-year budget adjustments

Mr. Cooper presented several necessary adjustments to the 2014-15 budget. He explained that the 2014-15 budget was developed in June 2014 (the previous school year). Subsequently, enrollment and student needs changed and state revenue changed. The revenue increased by \$2,040,153. Expenses had both reductions and additions. Expenses are reduced by \$937,830 and increased by \$1,030,338. As revenue (General Fund Revenue \$79,477,921) and expenses (General Fund expenditures currently stand at \$82,276,734) are imbalanced, and, with the anticipation of a favorable budget variance, we still expected to take \$2,181,737 from the fund balance, which will leave us with just under \$6.7 million or 8.1% of our annual operating expenditures in our fund balance at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Motion carried unanimously

6. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Study Committee Chair: Pam Singer; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Cooper

6. 1. The "Finance, Facilities and Operations Study Committee Report" was read aloud by Ms. Pam Singer. This meeting was held on March 9, 2015. Members Present were: P. Singer (chair), A. Brandstadt, G. Wasserman, M. Sharrow, R. Cooper, C. Laux

January Financials -- Mrs. Laux presented the January financial reports. No unusual items were noted. The financial reports will be included on the March 16 Board of

Education agenda for approval. February financials were not available at this meeting, but will be shared as soon as they are available.

Food Service Contract Renewal -- The renewal of the 2nd year of a 5-year contract with Chartwells to provide food services to the district was presented. Food service renewals must meet approval of the Michigan Department of Education. Our renewal was approved by the department and awaits Board approval at the March 16 Board of Education meeting.

Yeo & Yeo Audit Renewal -- The annual engagement letter from Yeo & Yeo for the 2014-15 audit was presented to the FFO committee. The engagement letter communicates the auditors' responsibilities in a financial audit and outlines the firm's plans and procedures in performing that audit. The fee for the audit will not exceed \$26,800.

Best Practices Resolution -- Section 22f of the State School Aid Act provides \$50 per pupil one-time grants to districts that satisfy at least 7 of 9 best practices criteria not later than June 1, 2015. Approval by a roll call vote of the Board of the resolution is required to qualify.

March Budget Adjustments -- The March budget adjustments were discussed. The adjustment will be presented at the March 16th Board meeting for approval.
Initial Bond Financials -- Work on the initial bond financials has begun. Planning and design work has also had its kick-off meeting.

6. 2. The following gifts of items have occurred:
- ◊ The Midland High School Robotics Team, using a donation from the FIRST in the Great Lakes Bay Region organization, has purchased an equipment trailer to be used by the Midland High Robotics team.
 - ◊ Mr. Arnold Kolb, scientist and gifted local artist who created stunning artwork by magnifying and exploring what he saw under the microscope, recently donated three framed pieces of his artwork, a QXS computer microscope and various display materials. The three pieces of Mr. Kolb's artwork will be displayed in MPS buildings.
6. 3. For Information--Gifts totaling \$6,877.
- ◊ \$ 637.00 from the Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee for Head to Head Team expenses
 - ◊ \$ 1,000.00 from the Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee for PE equipment
 - ◊ \$ 970.00 from the Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee for volleyball equipment
 - ◊ \$ 3,000.00 for the Midland High Orchestra Chicago trip from the Clela G. Kortge Orchestral Enrichment Endowment Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation
 - ◊ \$ 270.00 for March is Reading Month program materials for Carpenter Street School from the Non-Violence Prevention Group at the Midland Area Community Foundation

Midland County Youth Action Council at the Midland Area Community Foundation has provide the following Midland High teacher mini grants:

- ◇ \$ 500.00 for DNA action model kits
- ◇ \$ 500.00 for ecosystem in a jar supplies for project-based/inquiry-based testing throughout the year

7. HUMAN RESOURCES

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

7. 1. The following staff members announced their retirement effective as of the dates indicated:

- ◇ Sally Barnhart, Paraprofessional, Adams Elementary, June 10, 2015
- ◇ Sally Fein, Teacher, Plymouth Elementary, June 11, 2015
- ◇ Debra Finn, Teacher, Northeast Middle, June 11, 2015
- ◇ Cindy S. Krause, Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary, June 10, 2015
- ◇ Karen Lickfeldt, Paraprofessional, Northeast Middle, June 10, 2015
- ◇ JoAnn M. Pobocik, Teacher, Woodcrest Elementary, June 11, 2015
- ◇ Royleen Van Ever, Paraprofessional, Jefferson Middle, June 10, 2015

7. 2. The Board and Staff extended their sincere sympathy to the family of Mr. O. James Clark who passed away on February 23, 2015. Mr. Clark had a rich Midland Public Schools' career spanning 40 years. Mr. Clark's career began as an economics and speech teacher at Midland High in 1951. He then moved into his administrative career as the assistant principal at Central from 1956-1963; the original principal at Jefferson from 1963-1967; the original principal at H. H. Dow High from 1967-1981; and completed his MPS career as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction from 1981-1991.

8. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

8. 1. For Information--Letters from the Board of Education or the school system to
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Riley
H. H. Dow High School Athletic Booster Club
Midland Rotary Foundation
Midland Area Community Foundation
Jefferson Music Parents Association

9. 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:

- ◇ April 20, 2015 (5:30 budget workshop; 7:00 regular meeting)
- ◇ May 18, 2015
- ◇ June 1, 2015
- ◇ June 15, 2015
- ◇ July 20, 2015
- ◇ August 17, 2015
- ◇ September 21, 2015
- ◇ October 19, 2015

<> November 16, 2015

<> December 14, 2015

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. Board Members expressed their ...

- thanks to Mr. Lauer, Ms. Himmer, the students, parents, and mentors who spoke about the wonderful collaboration and mentoring happening at Carpenter Street School. It is so inspiring to hear about our community members who give of their time to help our students succeed. It is worthwhile to note the percentage of at-risk students at MPS and the commitment and dedication it takes to help these students thrive and be successful. Tonight's Carpenter presentation is one example of our staff and community's commitment to this population.
- excitement for the Midland High basketball team and for the two state swim champions. Last weekend was a great swim weekend.
- appreciation to the Dow High commercial art teacher and students for coming this evening and for sharing their creativity with us through the possible new district logos under consideration.
- anticipation for the FIRST Robotics District Championships this weekend at Dow High
- excitement for Saturday's Pi Day at MHS. The new artwork was amazing; it was a great day spent with enthusiastic math teachers and students.
- anticipation for Friday night's Booster Bash. What an exciting event!
- appreciation for our community's support through the passage of the bond millage and for the music parents' support for our music program and students. We are hopeful that the music parents who spoke felt more at ease when they left tonight's meeting.
- congratulations to Romona Reid Jones and Blake Sobol for being our March Shining Stars.
- thanks to all of our gift donors this evening. We truly appreciate your generosity and kindness.

10. 2. Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow

- Thank you to the City of Midland Engineering Department for working with us for a School Zone designation on Saginaw Road in front of Dow High. Signage will be installed to a lower speed limit during school hours.
- We have been approached by a citizen seeking to make the former Mills Elementary School a possible homeless shelter. We are seeking assurances that the gentleman has the funding necessary as well as legal assurances relative to the future of the building. We have been in communication with the Mills Township Supervisor about this proposal.

We have put the bond project demolition of this building on hold until we see if this comes to fruition. We will keep Board members informed about the progress.

- MPS is currently in negotiations with our bargaining groups. We ask for everyone's patience as we work through this process, especially since we are probably looking at concessionary contracts.
- Bond facility update: We have had meetings with the project management and architectural firms. We anticipate replacement of the middle school boilers this summer for energy savings. We anticipate work on the Central campus to begin Christmas 2015. We will be out of that facility for approximately 18 months. We are currently working on alternate venues to host our performances during this time.

11. CLOSED SESSION

11. 1. At 10:01 p.m. Brandstadt/McFarland moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing Midland City Education Association (MCEA) Negotiations. Motion carried by those members present (6-0). Discussion relative to MCEA Negotiations took place.

At 10:30 p.m. Brandstadt/McFarland moved to end the Closed Session and reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education. Motion carried by those members present (6-0).

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

President: _____
Gerald Wasserman

Vice President: _____
Angela Brandstadt

Approved by the Board on:

C. Young 20-April 2015