Minutes of Regular Meeting  
September 19, 2016  
The Board of Education Midland Public Schools

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Midland Public Schools was held Monday, September 19, 2016, beginning at 7:00 PM at the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan.

1. **CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL**  
   **Board Members Present:** President Brandstadt, Vice President Singer, Treasurer Wasserman, Member Baker, Member Frazee, Member Gorton  
   **Board member Absent:** Secretary McFarland,  
   **Central Staff Present:** Superintendent Sharrow, Associate Superintendent Cooper, Associate Superintendent Brutyn  
   47 audience members were present for this meeting.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**  
   Singer/Gorton moved for approval of the consent agenda items.

2.1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the August 15, 2016 Regular Meeting.

2.2. Bids were accepted and a tabulation provided for the purchase of Twenty (20) EPSON PowerLite 955WH 3200 Lumen Projectors WXGA. Administration recommended issuing a purchase order to the low bidder, Tierney Brothers, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota for $12,040. These projectors will be used to replace those that have failed in the buildings. This expenditure is included in the Technology Bond budget for series one and was reviewed by Barton Malow.

2.3. The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of these dates:  
   <> Vicky Arguello, Office Professional, Maintenance/Grounds, November 4, 2016  
   <> Penny Church, Teacher, Siebert Elementary, August 31, 2016  
   <> Janeen Maday, Paraprofessional, Siebert Elementary, September 4, 2016  
   <> AnnMarie Nagel, Paraprofessional, HH Dow High, August 30, 2016  
   <> Jenica Nordstrom, Paraprofessional, Northeast Middle, September 7, 2016  
   <> Candice Paiva, Art Teacher, Northeast Middle, September 2, 2016  
   <> Julie Viele, Paraprofessional, Siebert Elementary, August 30, 2016

2.4. The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2016-17 school year:  
   <> Kristen Areddy, 1.0 Elementary Teacher  
   <> Laura Birge, 1.0 Elementary Teacher  
   <> Candace Burns, 1.0 Elementary Teacher  
   <> Michael Cantrell, 1.0 Elementary Teacher  
   <> Emily Duso, 1.0 District Art Teacher  
   <> Richard Ebaugh, 1.0 Special Education Teacher  
   <> Andrew Filipek, 1.0 Special Education Teacher  
   <> Kali Lopez, 1.0 Elementary Teacher  
   <> Marina Moretti, 1.0 Elementary Teacher  
   <> Matthew Peterson, .9 Social Studies/PE Teacher  
   <> Kathleen Plouffe, 1.0 Elementary Teacher  
   <> Jacob Scherzer, 1.0 District Art Teacher  
   <> Matthew Schurman, 1.0 Physical Education Teacher  
   <> Geri Stajdl, 1.0 Elementary Teacher  
   <> Amanda Swenber, 1.0 Elementary Teacher  
   <> Kelly Toepfer, .7 Special Education Teacher
2.5. Legal Invoices for Payment
Approval was requested to authorize the following legal payments:
<> Thrun Law Firm, $49.00, August 25, 2016, Professional Legal Fees
<> Lusk Albertson, $980.00, September 2, 2016, Professional Legal Fees
Motion carried unanimously

3. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS--PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR ACTION
Wasserman/Singer moved for approval of the 2015-16 Audit Report.

3.1. Mr. Dave Youngstrom, Principal, Yeo & Yeo, presented the Midland Public Schools’ 2015-16 Audit Report
As of June 30, 2016, the unrestricted fund balance as a percent of expenditures was 11%. Currently, MPS has an equivalent 45 days of general fund balance based on 365 calendar year of cash flow or 22 days based on a 180-day school year of cash flow. For a complete overview of the audit report, please visit the MPS website (www.milandps.org).

The audit process looks at the financial statements to make sure that the District is following the accounting rules that have been developed by the Government Accounting Standards Board, and looks at internal controls so the District is protecting its cash management and makes sure the financial information presented is accurately reported, in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

The following findings were reported:
- Internal Controls: Material Weakness of “Pledges receivable were not recorded” and “No Significant Deficiencies” were noted.
- Compliance: Unmodified Opinion in the Nutrition Major Program was noted and there were no findings under Noncompliance
- Future Challenges: Rising health insurance costs; state funding; pension obligation; contractual obligations; post-retirement health insurance; energy costs

Throughout the district Yeo & Yeo found a culture of excellence demonstrating both honesty and high ethics. In looking at MPS’ financial statements, this year Yeo & Yeo issued the highest level of audit assurance and an unmodified opinion, which means that the district’s financial information was accounted for properly. MPS has, in fact, followed the accounting requirements for Michigan School Districts. Motion carried unanimously.

3.2. Wasserman/Baker moved for approval of the Certification of the 2016-17 Fiscal Year Taxes
On June 13, 2016, the Board established an estimated 2016-17 local tax rate of 5.6523 mills on homestead and qualifying agricultural property and 18.0 mills on non-homestead property. Following a long-established procedure, 50% of both the 5.6523 and 18.0 mill rates were levied by the City of Midland in the summer tax bill. An additional 6.0 mills were levied by the state on city and township property for the State Education Tax (SET).

When the Board approved the 2016-17 budget on June 27, 2016, the estimated millage rates were 18.0 mills for non-homestead property and 1.6814 mills for homestead and qualified agricultural property.

Based on the most recent information with respect to taxable values for 2015 and 2016 and the estimated blended student count for 2016-17, the estimated 2016 millage rates to support 2016-17 general fund expenditures are:
18.0 mills on non-homestead property
7.6814 mills on commercial personal property
1.6814 mills on principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property. The 1.6814 mills were increased by 0.0174 mill as an adjustment for
2015-16 principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property taxes. The adjustment has been determined following a format provided by the Department of Treasury. The total represents an increase of 0.0952 mill from the 2015-16 rate of 1.7766 mills.

On February 24, 2015, the electors of the Midland Public Schools authorized the Board of Education to issue bonds and to assess the taxable property within the district for the purpose of collecting monies to pay the debt service on these bonds and to deposit such monies into the related bond debt retirement fund. Our financial advisor, PFM, has calculated 2.88 mills for the debt retirement millage requirement.

The 2016-17 principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property millage rate is subject to adjustment as more accurate information regarding enrollment and taxable value become available. As specified in Public Act 312 of 1993, if revenues exceed or fall short, the difference shall be made up in the school district's next regular tax levy. The process of adjustments to correct overpayments and underpayments will continue to occur on an annual basis.

It was requested that the Board take action on the recommended millage rate at this meeting.
The tax resolution for the 2016-17 tax collection is filed with these Minutes.
Roll call vote was taken.
Ayes: Brandstadt, Singer, Wasserman, Baker, Frazee, Gorton
Absent: McFarland
Nayes: None
Motion carried by those members present (6-0).

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

4. 1. Principal Shannon Blasy introduced Jen Servoss, Eastlawn PYP Coordinator; Jillian Struble, Eastlawn 3rd Grade Teacher; and students who took part in the Eastlawn Summer Extension: PYP Meets STEM. This exciting summer program with the central idea “Through investigation, people learn how to solve problems in the world” had great outcomes and offered wonderful experiences for the students. The students made STEM connections and experienced math, technology, science and engineering weeks. The students displayed their experiences in a culminating Exhibition Event and luncheon on the last day. Parent feedback was positive and encouraging about future STEM summer extension programs.

4. 2. Mr. Sharrow recognized the two September 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.
<> Tracy Renfro, Principal, Chestnut Hill Elementary
<> Laura Peterson, District Media Center Paraprofessional

4. 3. Mr. Sharrow presented the 2016 Distinguished Service Award recipients:
<> Chuck Dobschensky, Building Manager, Northeast Middle School
<> Vicki Finney, Manager, Transportation Department
<> Chev Gardner, Registrar, Midland High School
<> Cheryl Szymanski, Paraprofessional, HH Dow High School

Congratulations to these very deserving Midland Public Schools’ support staff personnel for being nominated and chosen as the 2016 Distinguished Service Award recipients.

5. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:
No hearings were requested.
6. **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**  
   Study Committee Chair: Yvonne Gorton; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Sharrow

6. 1. Gorton/Wasserman moved for approval of the revision to Board Policy 8500  
   Administration recommended the revision of Board Policy 8500. MPS was recently informed by a Michigan Department of Education resource reviewer that language needed to be added to our current Food Service Policy (8500).  
   Motion carried unanimously

7. **FINANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**  
   Study Committee Chair: Gerald Wasserman; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Cooper

7. 1. Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Minutes from September 12, 2016 were read aloud by Mr. Wasserman Chair.  
   Members Present: A. Brandstadt, P. Frazee, J. Wasserman (chair), M. Sharrow, R. Cooper, L. Holderby; Guests Present: Dave Youngstrom & Jessica Rolfe from Yeo & Yeo  
   Discussion of 2015-2016 Audit: Mr. Youngstrom and Ms. Rolfe reviewed the 2015-16 audit with the FFO Committee. Topics included various sections of the audit report, fund balance of the general fund, net assets, financial statements, the single audit, governance communication, and new and upcoming accounting pronouncements. The public presentation of the audit will take place at the September Board of Education meeting.  
   Appraisals: Recent appraisals of selected school owned properties were shared with the committee for informational purposes.  
   L-4029 Tax Rate Request: The 2016 L-4029 Tax Rate Request (annual State/County requirement) was previewed and will be presented to the full Board for approval at its September meeting.

7. 2. The following donation of an item has occurred: Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Scroggin donated a marching band xylophone bell kit to the District Music Department.

7. 3. Gifts totaling $6,000 were received:  
   <> $3,000 for classroom magazine subscriptions from Chestnut Hill PTO  
   <> $1,000 for classroom supplies, magazines and field trips from Plymouth PTO  
   From the Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee:  
   <> $1,000 for football and basketball equipment  
   <> $1,000 for athletic equipment

8. **HUMAN RESOURCES**  
   Study Committee Chair: Scott McFarland; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Sharrow

8. 1. The following staff members announced their retirement effective as of these dates:  
   <> Linda Kartz, Paraprofessional, Jefferson Middle, August 25, 2016  
   <> Tracy Toskey, Information Systems Analyst Manager, Administration Center, October 14, 2016

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

9. 1. For Information: Letter from the Board of Education to the Plymouth PTO.

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:  
   <> October 17, 2016  
   <> November 21, 2016  
   <> December 19, 2016  
   (The following Meeting dates are tentative until they are adopted at the January Org. Meeting)  
   <> January 16, 2017 (Organizational Meeting)  
   <> February 20, 2017  
   <> March 20, 2017  
   <> April 17, 2017 (Budget Workshop 6:30; Regular Meeting 7:00*)
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 …
- enthusiasm for the new school year, welcome to the new teachers and staff, encouraged for the excellent student attendance on the first day of school and thankful for the safe start to the new school year. We hope our students have a great learning year.
- appreciation that the 2015-16 audit was clean and without question. It is the Board’s obligation and responsibility to uphold the integrity of our school system. A large part of that is the financial system because we are working with and responsible for a lot of money. It is our expectation and also our relief when we receive a ‘clean’ audit report at the end of a school year. We appreciate all of the hard work by our employees who make that happen.
- excitement also for our balanced budget with the 2015-16 audit. We realize and appreciate that the concessions made by our employee groups was one reason the balanced budget was realized. We also appreciate that the cutback decisions compromised educational opportunities for students minimally.
- appreciation for the gifts that were received this evening. Thank you to our gift donors!
- excitement and appreciation for this evening’s Eastlawn presentation about their Summer Extension Program. Great job to the students and staff for a wonderful presentation. It is exciting to see that MPS is going in the right direction. We are looking forward to seeing the skill set MPS students will have a decade from now. Thank you to the staff for all your work and preparation and to the community members who took part in this exciting summer experience.
- interest and excitement about the drone footage and photos of the construction progress of Central Park Elementary regularly posted to the MPS website.
- enthusiasm that the high school computer deployment last week went so smoothly. Great job to our Technology Department.
- enthusiasm for the Great Lakes Bay Region STEM Festival on September 23-24 at Delta College.
- interested in the data released during college application week and college readiness and college enrollment figures. We are looking at outcomes to see how MPS graduates are doing 6 months and 2 years after they graduate. Truly appreciate the numbers that were shared.
- interest in the STEM partnership with MSU and SVSU. It will be exciting to see how it adds to our STEM initiative.
- enthusiasm that the STEM training went well and how impactful it was for our 50+ teachers who were involved in the Project Lead the Way training this past summer.
- congratulations to this month’s Shining Stars Tracy Renfro and Laura Peterson. Well deserved.
- appreciation to the United Way community volunteers in the “Read to Succeed” program who came in and read to MPS Grade 1-3 students Mondays in September.
- congratulations to our recent retirees. We hope you are enjoying your retirement.
- congratulations to the 2016 Distinguished Service Award winners—Chuck Dobschensky, Vicki Finney, Chev Gardner, Cheryl Szymanski.
- interest in today’s Monday Superintendent Communique that included lots of great MPS information including the District’s National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists.

8.2. Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow
- As you know, we currently have a “Most Famous Names in STEM” project underway with the Midland Area Community Foundation for a 2:1 matching funds initiative for the outdoor learning spaces being designed and built for Central Park Elementary School. Mr. Sharrow passed around a brochure recently developed by the MACF.
Jerry, Pam and I attended our first training on the use of the School Advance evaluation tool. We left with many ideas and thoughts but know there is a lot of work left to make this model fit MPS. Our second training is December 14; we should be ready to implement this model in January.

Our Tech Department and our high school administrators deployed over 2700 devices at our two high schools last week with very few issues.

We still need more guidance related to the Transgender Policy Statement from the Michigan Department of Education. We will handle situations on a case-by-case basis and plan to work with NEOLA and our attorneys as this moves through the court system and ultimately to the Supreme Court level.

2016-17 enrollment numbers appear to be stable or slightly elevated from last year. It will be interesting to see how our actual October 5 Count Day numbers stand. Some of our classroom student counts are a little tight in some buildings because of the late enrollments right before the new school year began. We are making adjustments where we can.

Hope you have had a chance to check out the recent drone footage and still photos of Central Park Elementary we have been posting on the website. As you can see, construction is progressing very nicely. Our architects have been very busy preparing plans and designs for our secure entrances at each elementary school, additions and renovations at Plymouth and Woodcrest and the interior of the Central Performing Arts Center. We will do an electronic entrance at Adam for the first year so the architects can take additional time with their building renovation design. We will have documents and bids to review soon. We are slightly ahead of the construction schedule.

The County-Wide CTE Cooperative with the four local county school districts has been going very well.

9. ADJOURNMENT
Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Vice President: _________________________ Treasurer: _____________________________
Pam Singer Gerald Wasserman

Approved by the Board of Education on:

C. Young 17-October-2016