Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 16, 2019
The Board of Education Midland Public Schools

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Midland Public Schools was held Monday, September 16, 2019, 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 Singer, Vice President McFarland, Treasurer Fredell, Member Blasy, Member Lauderbach, Member Rausch
   Board Member Absent: Secretary Baker
   Central Staff Present: Superintendent Sharrow; Associate Superintendents Brutyn, Jaster, Miller-Nelson
   13 audience members were present for this meeting.

2. CONSENT AGENDA
   Lauderbach/McFarland moved for approval of the consent agenda.

   2.1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the August 19, 2019 Regular Meeting.

   2.2. The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2019-20 school year:
   <> Stephanie Parker, 1.0 Elementary Teacher
   <> Alexius Shae, 1.0, Special Education Teacher
   <> Rose Zank, 1.0, Elementary Teacher

   2.3. The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of these dates:
   <> Stephanie Johnston, Paraprofessional, Pre-Primary Center, June 7, 2019
   <> Samantha Kennedy, Paraprofessional, Northeast Middle School, June 7, 2019
   <> Elizabeth Owens, Teacher, Chestnut Hill Elementary, June 10, 2019
   <> Tracy Rinas, Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary, June 7, 2019
   <> Toni Taylor, Paraprofessional, Central Park Elementary, June 7, 2019

   2.4. The July and August financials were not available for approval at the September meeting, however, the current bond executive summary report was included for Board information.

   2.5. Approval was requested to authorize the following legal payments:
   <> Thrun Law Firm, P.C. for $3,931.90, August 29, 2019, Professional Legal Fees
   <> Lusk Albertson PLC for $222.67, September 5, 2019, Professional Legal Fees
   Motion carried 6-0.

3. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS--PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

   3.1. Central Park Elementary Principal, Shannon Blasy, introduced Luna to the Board members. Luna is a bernedoodle and is in her first year as the Central Park Elementary Therapy Dog. Luna’s handler is Central Park Family Intervention Specialist, Danielle Fox. Luna was named by the students of Central Park and has gone through basic obedience and impulsivity training with Great Lakes K-9 Services. Luna especially assists students to de-escalate and de-stress in tenseful situations. Thank you to Laura and Marty Hollenbeck for their generous gift of funding for Luna for Central Park Elementary.

   3.2. MPS schools presented the District 2019 Summer School report to the Board.
   ➔ Julie Villano, Midland High Assistant Principal, presented information about the 2019 Midland High Chemic Challenge that was held July 10-August 3 with a concentration on math, with science and social studies concepts added. 36-38 9th grade students attending each day with 39 students finishing the Challenge and enjoying their day at Michigan Adventures. This year’s Challenge was spearheaded by Connie Steger and Andy Filipek
   ➔ Jen Servoss, Curriculum Specialist for Elementary Instruction, spoke overall about the 2019 elementary summer school program.
   ➔ Shannon Blasy, Central Park Elementary Principal, presented information about their traditional Summer School that had 41-46 students who attended each day with ten students or less in each
class. Free breakfast and lunch through Meet Up and Eat Up program was provided. STEM topics, project-based and hands-on learning were this year’s focus. Two field trips were taken: Dow Gardens/Whiting Forest and Saginaw Children’s Museum. Progress Outcomes focused on ELA and math. This year’s summer camp utilized 31A Title funding.

- Margaret Doan, Plymouth Elementary Principal, spoke about their traditional summer program that utilized Title I funding. This year’s summer school had 26 students who attended for all or part of 12 days with 77% growing or maintaining their reading level. Breakfast and lunch was offered. Transportation was not provided for this program.

- Scott Cochran, Adams Principal, spoke about the summer school tutoring program that was held by Adams, Chestnut Hill, Siebert and Woodcrest Elementary Schools with 110 students involved. The tutoring included both individual and small group tutoring with 94% of the students growing or maintaining their reading level.

3. 3. Fredell/Lauderbach moved for approval of the 2018-19 Audit Report.

Mr. Dave Youngstrom, Principal, Yeo & Yeo, presented the 2018-19 Audit Report

As of June 30, 2019, the unassigned spendable fund balance as a percent of expenditures was 23%. MPS has an equivalent 104 days of general fund balance based on 365-day calendar year of cash flow or 51 days based on a 180-day school year of cash flow.

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 is the “highest level of assurance.” “School's financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented, and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.”

The following findings were reported:

- Internal Controls and Compliance:

Mr. Youngstrom cited the following future challenges: rising health insurance costs, state funding, pension obligation, post-retirement health obligation, energy costs, revenue stream for technology.

Motion carried 6-0.

3. 4. Fredell/Lauderbach moved to confirm approved PO 190650 for $656,780 that included $86,530 for Signage Arches with the Press Box at Midland Community Stadium.

Board members discussed Alternate A3: Signage Arches that were presented as an optional upgrade at a March 4, 2019 special MPS Board of Education meeting. At this special meeting the board voted to rebuild the Press Box at Midland Community Stadium that was destroyed by a lightning strike. In the voting process, some alternates were approved and some were not. A3 was not approved but was listed to be revisited at a later date. Discussion ensued deciding whether Alternate A3: Signage Arches needed to be approved as a standalone item. It was decided that since PO 190650 was approved in the consent agenda by the Board at the June 10, 2019 regular Board meeting and included the $86,530 for Signage Arches, it was not necessary to approve the signage arches separately.

Motion carried 5-1 confirming the approval of PO 190650 for $656,780 including $86,530 for A3: Signage Arches. (Ayes: Singer, McFarland, Fredell, Lauderbach, Rausch; Nay: Blasy; Absent: Baker)

3. 5. Mr. Sharrow presented the 2019 Distinguished Service Award recipients for information:

- Anne McKee, Paraprofessional, Midland High School Media Center
- Joan Douglass, Paraprofessional, Jefferson Middle School
- Sue Boydston, Bus Driver, Transportation Department
- Jodi Spears, Paraprofessional, Central Park Elementary

Congratulations to these 2019 Distinguished Service Award recipients!

4. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

No hearings were requested.
5. **FINANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**
Study Committee Chair: Ms. Fredell; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Brutyn

5. 1. Finance, Facilities & Operations Study Committee Minutes from September 3, 2019 were read aloud by Mrs. Fredell

Members Present: Mary Fredell (chair), Scott McFarland, Pam Singer, Mike Sharrow, Brian Brutyn
 Guests Present: Dave Youngstrom: Yeo & Yeo; Daryl Dombrow & Rick Vanderpoel: Barton Malow

**Discussion of 2018-2019 Audit:** Mr. Youngstrom reviewed the 2018-19 audit with the FFO Committee. Topics included various sections of the audit report such as fund balance, net assets, financial statements, the single audit, bond work, governance communication, and new accounting standards. The public presentation of the audit will take place at the September Board of Education meeting. The audit proclaimed an ‘unmodified’ opinion (clean audit) and a healthy general fund balance.

**Bond Work Review:** Mr. Dombrow and Mr. Vanderpoel reviewed summer project work and presented a Series I synopsis. Points of emphasis included: Project completion updates are posted regularly to the MPS website; a significant amount of additional scope was delivered in every building worked on thus far; MPS has approximately $3,000,000 in bid savings to fund future projects; Series II projects are underway.

**State Budget Status and Enrollment Projections:** The committee was updated on the status of the state budget process. Projections from state organizations lead to the possibility of a continuation budget. Preliminary enrollment numbers are trending positive compared to previous projections. The official count will be certified later in the fall.

**Capitol Projects Planning:** Mr. Brutyn and Mr. Sharrow shared the current financial position of the Capitol Projects fund. A preliminary outline of 2019-20 projects to be completed was shared with the group.

5. 2. For Information: Gift totaling $3,480.00

The following gifts were given in support of Northeast Middle School Robotics Teams:

- $500.00 from Cobblestone Homes LLC
- $250.00 from Jennifer & Rodney Coleman
- $100.00 from Scott MacGregor State Farm
- $250.00 from AGP & Associates
- $50.00 from Anne & Steven Lundsted
- $10.00 from Kristin & Shae Richins
- $50.00 from Terri & Rick Stroecker
- $30.00 from Debra & Fredrich Miller
- $100.00 from Amy & Brian Anderson
- $50.00 from Karen Murphy
- $100.00 from Lucy & Keith Heinz
- $25.00 from Racheal Pegouskie
- $100.00 from Connie & Michael Steger
- $50.00 from Wendy & Norman Kanar
- $100.00 from Nicole & Matthew Sabin

From the Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF) CommunityGives Youth Service Program

- $1,000.00 in support of the Midland High Cross Country Program

5. 3. Gifts for Action Rausch/McFarland moved for action of the following items totaling $17,550.00

- $7,600.00 for fall and winter sports equipment from HH Dow High All Athletic Boosters
- $9,950.00 for Vape sensors at MHS from Arthur C. Frock Endowment Fund at the MACF

Motion carried 6-0.

5. 4. Gift of Items For Information:

- 24 boxes of Browndages latex-free bandages from Dr. Jennifer Vannette
- Riddell 2018 SpeedFlex Helmet from Eric Buschlen for Northeast Middle School

6. **HUMAN RESOURCES**
Study Committee Chair: Mr. McFarland; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Brutyn

6. 1. The Board and Staff extended their deepest sympathy to the families of:

- Mr. Joseph Ramseyer, who passed away on August 21, 2019. Mr. Ramseyer was a Math Teacher and Department Head at Midland High School for 36 years, retiring in 2000. Mr. Ramseyer received the Gerstacker Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1979.
7. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

7.1. For Information: Letters from the Board of Education to:
<> WE Charity <> Ms. Claire Winegardner and Mr. Brian Hayes <> Chestnut Hill Elementary PTO

8. SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES--FOR INFORMATION

The following is a listing of scheduled meetings or activities of the Board of Education for 2019. 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 21, 2019 <> November 18, 2019 <> December 16, 2019
The following dates are tentative until approved at the January 20, 2020 Organizational Meeting.
<> January 20, 2020 (Organizational Meeting) <> February 17, 2020 <> March 16, 2020 <> April 20, 2020 (Budget Workshop--6:30; Regular Meeting directly following) <> May 18, 2020 <> June 8, 2020 <> June 22, 2020

9. 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.

9.1 Hearing from Board Members who expressed their …

- appreciation to Midland High’s Julie Villano and the elementary principals for the summer school presentations tonight. It was great to see our summer school programs working so well and the data that supports them. Am hoping that we have grants and funding to continue this work in the future.
- question regarding rescheduling the evacuation drill that was originally scheduled for Midland High’s first home game but was not held because of the weather delays and the game ending at 1:00 a.m.
  Mr. Sharrow commented that it is still on the Midland High Athletic Director’s radar, but with all of the extra upcoming events (homecoming, hall of fame, etc.) we are still discussing a possible date. There were state entities involved with the originally scheduled event with whom we will need to coordinate.
- appreciation to the Hollenbecks for their financial support for Luna. Great to have Luna at Central Park.
- appreciation to Dave Youngstrom (Yeo & Yeo) for presenting tonight’s audit.
- acknowledgment of Joe Ramseyer who was one of the the most influential teachers a board member ever had. They forged a lifelong friendship for which he was very grateful. Another board member had the privilege of having Mr. Ramseyer after he retired as a substitute teacher. He made a difference for students even as a substitute.
- interest in the possibility of a Pre-Labor Day start date. Since the full-building renovations are behind us, this may be a good time to look at an August start date. May also be a good time to survey the community about a balanced calendar for the District, especially given tonight’s summer school presentation that targeted about 2.5 percent of our total student body. What about the other 97.5 percent who didn’t attend summer school? Now that we have air conditioning in our buildings (with the exception of Northeast) it may be a good time to start the conversation to see if our community would be willing to consider a balanced calendar.
- comment about the approval of the PO (item 3.4). A Board member expressed that the consent agenda is for approval of routine items and thought the approval process in this instance could have been better. When there is a purchase for a significant capital purchase on the consent agenda, asked that Board members know in advance of the meeting. He hopes we can use this as a learning opportunity. With Board approval of the PO in June, Board members didn’t feel it was necessary to reapprove the arches tonight. Mr. Sharrow commented that we have fixes going forward such as videotaping all meetings including special meetings and not including items such as this in the consent agenda.
- appreciation for all of the Inclusion & Diversity items that have been in the Communique. Also excited for the Victory Night being held at Midland High next week. It is impressive and inspiring to see the response by our student body and staff. There is a buzz in the community as a result of our I & D initiative. We have an opportunity to make a shift in our community as well.
- anticipation for the September 25 Behind the Scenes at the Capital Day a Board member is attending. Looking forward to meeting with the legislators, learning more about the process and finding out how to improve collaborative efforts for the future.
• encouragement for Board members to attend the November 8-10 MASB conference in Traverse City. Good event with great speakers.
• comment that State Government has 15 days until the end of fiscal year before the potential of a government shutdown. Some districts are talking about possibly receiving the same amount as last year. Appreciate MPS’s strong financial position and ability to make payroll, even if the government is behind in their payments. Hopefully we will have a budget before October 1.

9.2 Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow
• Mr. Sharrow had the chance to be part of a conference call with the Governor last Friday and learned that she can’t increase or decrease amounts and will likely approve the $120/$240. However, she may use her line-item veto to deal with some other areas. Gov. Whitmer believes the budget will come to her for approval around the 30th of September. Road funding will be a conversation for another day and does not affect school funding at this time.
• CBD and cannabis oil is growing. The 3% is out there and we may find students curious about it. We started doing some research and couldn’t find any State, local or NEOLA policies, but were able to find some policies from other states. Mr. Sharrow got the State Superintendent organization involved. We both called legal firms and believe we will have some guidance quickly. This is an area for us to watch as we go. This question originally came from our CMH intervention specialist Jackie Warner to Jeff Jaster, who noticed some CBD items on retail counters.
• Enrollment looks promising for our budget. We have to hold on to our students and get them all certified in October.
• Bond work was a race to the finish this summer but was wrapped up on time for the most part. Reminder--Adams Elementary won’t be completed until June. Still a lot going on behind the building--December taking over the new additions; this winter converting the old gym into the new library with completion slated for June. The HVAC at Dow High for this year is running both an old system and a new system and trying to balance the two, and then will be replacing the remainder of the old units next year. It will be interesting as we go, especially when we get to the severe temperatures.
• We have received good feedback from staff regarding our opening staff meetings that included Inclusion & Diversity for half a day as well as our Restorative Practice half-day PD.
• We received some news today from the Orchard Valley Committee regarding the Dow High turf project that they will be receiving a gift of $400,000 from a foundation with possibly others to follow. The committee recently changed the scope to include turf only. Looking at the dollar amounts, they may get turf and lighting, which would both be good for the district.
• A recent article by the Mackinac Center written by Ben DeGrow stating that there really isn’t a teacher shortage had some misinformation. His research included a group of 200,000 people in the State with teacher certificates who are retired or have moved into different careers and do not intend to use their teaching certificates in the future. The shortage is we post positions, and we don’t get applicants. I invited Chris Wigent, Executive Director from MASA, to join us. It was a great discussion and an opportunity to build a relationship with the Mackinac Center.
• HALO vaping detection devices are ready to go this week and are being piloted at Midland High.
• There are now about 30% of Michigan Districts with a Pre-Labor Day start. We will look at it further for MPS as well as a poll of our community regarding their opinion about a Balanced Calendar.

10. ADJOURNMENT
Lauderbach/Rausch moved to close the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

President: ____________________________ Secretary: ____________________________

Pam Singer Lynn Baker

Approved by the Board of Education on:

C. Young October 21, 2019