

Meeting Minutes December 21, 2015

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Denise McBride. Present: Denise McBride, Rod Cole, Kari Rojas, Curt Gottschalk, Jane Finnerty, Robert Pasch and Ron Neyer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Bob Pasch read the district belief statements.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Rod Cole to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7/0.

Board recognized the following guests: Jennifer Davis, Kyle Carter, Jessi Spry, Natalie Finnerty, Haley McMullen, Kelsey Pasch, Nick Freeze, Easton Straus, Isabelle Steffke, Ethan Schafer, Ariel Salter, Eric Faber, Jared Gottschalk, and Jay Lyon.

Mrs. Davis, Mr. Carter and the middle school and high school Youth in Government (YIG) students gave a presentation on the YIG program.

Ms. Spry and the FFA students gave a presentation on their trip to the National FFA Conference.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Bob Pasch to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 16, 2015 as presented. Motion carried 7/0.

Denise McBride shared a letter from the Nation Association of Agriculture Educators thanking the board for their support of Jessi Spry to attend the national conference.

Bill Chilman shared the District Administrator magazine with Denise McBride. Bill also shared a letter from the Gratiot-Isabella RESD notifying districts of the cancellation of the trip to Germany this Spring, a newsletter from the Michigan Department of Education detailing the new goals set by the State Board of Education, and a certificate from SET/SEG awarded for no accident claims on our property/casualty insurance for one year.

Jason Wolf reported on the use of new technology in Jennifer Courtright's classroom. She acquired a set of kindle fires through donations and fundraisers. The kindles are proving to be a great tool to increase spelling, reading and math scores. Denise McBride asked Jason about the potential increase to tuition for camp hay-o-wenta due to new labor laws requiring hourly instead of daily pay rates for the camp counselors. Jason reported that the camp has warned us that there may be changes for the 2016/2017 school year but they are still in the process of developing a plan to avoid excess wage issues. Denise also asked about the cost of the time away room and Bill explained the reasoning for separating the room from the elementary office. Denise also asked about the attendance at the 2nd grade arts and crafts night. Jason reported that 29 students attended which is about 70% of our 2nd graders.

Julie Freeze reported that section 25e claims have been made to CEPI totaling 3.82 FTE. Julie also reported that the auditors from Clare-Gladwin RESD were here last week to conduct a field audit of our Fall 2015 count. No adjustments were made to the original Fall 2015 count and the auditors

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complimented both building secretaries on their organization and correctness of the pupil accounting documents.

Jeff Jackson reported that the robotics program has grown from 5 students to 15. They have a competition on January 9th and 10th and will be looking for transportation providers. The M-Step results will be presented to the board in January, preliminary results look good. The secondary school improvement team met with a representative of Mid Michigan Community College to continue work on the implementation of an early college program. They plan to have applications for the program ready for February 2016. There was a panel of Beal City alumni students who talked with seniors today about the process for being accepted to college and the realities of transitioning from a high school student to a college student.

Bill Chilman reported that today was college day at the secondary level. Staff were encouraged to wear their college gear and post signs in their classroom or outside of their office indicating where they attended college and the area of their study. These signs were designed to spark conversations with students about college opportunities. The ELA departments from both buildings have decided on a new textbook series. The secondary is simply upgrading the current textbooks. The elementary will be using a new series with bigger changes. The secondary has already been awarded a tribal grant for the upgrade, the elementary will be submitting a grant request in the Spring. The Chilman's Christmas gift to the board members and administrators is a donation to the BCEF.

Bill reported for Aaron Butkovich that the Fall season is complete. The Winter season is seeing a rough start with limited success at the high school level.

Bill reported for Ben Eggenberger that the wireless project to connect the main building to the alternative education site is nearing completion. Ben continues to work with CMU students to complete various projects. All staff are becoming more proficient with the Powerschool application.

Bill reported for Jason McDonald that the weight room has been totally cleaned and organized. Jason's crew has been working on the time away room in the elementary. New radios will be installed on the busses during Winter break. Today a hole was discovered in the drain at the South West corner of the main parking lot. Jason's crew is working on digging it out and fixing it properly.

Denise McBride read the Financial Report.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Ron Neyer to approve the General Fund payments of \$365,888.35, Hot Lunch payments of \$12,327.20, and Athletic Fund payments of \$11,255.73. Motion carried 7/0.

The Superintendent's self evaluation will be discussed in executive session.

The Beal City Public Schools district wide strategic plan should be ready for approval in February. Board members were again asked to get any suggestions for changes to a member of the Personnel committee.

The Beal City Education Foundation has not met since the last board meeting. Beal City public school staff members will be partnering with members of the BCEF to open the computer lab for SAT and ACT study sessions.

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Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Bob Pasch to approve Jenna Theisen as a voluntary assistant girls basketball coach. Motion carried 7/0.

PCMI employee, Hallie Enderle, has resigned her position as Varsity Volleyball coach.

Teri Cramlet has been hired through PCMI as an Elementary Paraprofessional.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Jane Finnerty to approve the 1st reading of the revised NEOLA grading policy. Motion carried 7/0.

The lease for the Farm land surrounding the sports complex was discussed. Lease will continue with Fox Farms.

School board members will be recognized during the January 19th boy's basketball game.

Board was reminded of the Organizational meeting on January 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. with the regular monthly board meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Rod Cole to go into executive session of the open meetings act under Article 8c – Negotiations and Article 8a – Personnel. Motion carried 7/0.

Motion by Bob Pasch, seconded by Ron Neyer to come out of executive session. Motion carried 7/0.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Ron Neyer to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried 7/0.

Recording Secretary
Julie Freeze

Denise McBride, President

Kari Rojas, Secretary