

Meeting Minutes January 18, 2016

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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.

Kari Rojas read the secure the school district's future integrity goal.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Curt Gottschalk to approve the agenda with the deletion of the Student & Staff presentation due to weather conditions. Motion carried 7/0.

Motion by Bob Pasch, seconded by Ron Neyer to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2015 as presented. Motion carried 7/0.

Bill Chilman shared a letter written to the Michigan Department of Education requesting a waiver of requirement to start school after Labor day. Waivers are being requested by all schools in the Gratiot-Isabella RESD. Bill also shared a letter of agreement with the Beal City Education Association pertaining to the NWEA training that will be taking place on Friday, January 22nd.

Jane Finnerty reported for the District School Improvement Team. Jason Wolf and Jeff Jackson had presented the new language arts textbooks that have been purchased for the elementary and secondary. Jeff also reported on the capability of the Khan Academy system customizing practice tests and instruction to individual students utilizing their PSAT test results.

Jason Wolf reported that the new language arts textbooks in the elementary integrate all language arts together. Spelling, vocabulary and writing are all taught with the textbook. There is also an RTI (Response to Intervention) component included. The committee looked at three options and this text from Houghton Mifflin was the favorite. The cost of the textbooks is \$44,000 for K-6. A tribal grant will be submitted in the Spring for the cost of the textbooks. NWEA testing is going on now. It has been pushed back a couple of days due to weather cancellations but the testing itself is going well. The NWEA testing is proving to be very valuable as it is a consistent, established test that is taken three times per year, and the results are available the day after the test. Jason has been dealing with a couple of discipline issues and will be attending a manifestation hearing for a special education student tomorrow.

Jeff Jackson reported that the secondary received a \$42,000 grant from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for language arts textbooks in the secondary. The secondary looked at three options and decided to upgrade our current language arts books. The new textbooks address common core and offer technology that provides the stories in the textbook at different grade levels so students can all read the same story at their current grade level. Schools have seen improvements of two grade levels in students utilizing this program. NWEA testing starts in the secondary next week after exams. The robotics program is off and running. The team has 6 weeks to make improvements to their robot before competitions begin. Mt. Pleasant schools has been assigned as our mentors. The students involved seem to be enjoying the program.

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Bill Chilman reported that he will be attending the State Superintendent's conference next week. The road commission did a good job of sanding the back roads today so school should be in session tomorrow

Denise McBride read the Financial Report.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Ron Neyer to approve the General Fund payments of \$340,549.60, Hot Lunch payments of \$14,484.42, and Athletic Fund payments of \$2,910.22. 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. Bill will be working with Kari Rojas to put finishing touches on this document.

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 beginning the first week of February.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Jane Finnerty to approve the 2nd reading of the Revised NEOLA policies as presented. Motion carried 7/0.

The following PCMI Winter coaching positions were reported: Brad Henry, Girls Varsity Basketball; Brad Henry, Girls Elementary Basketball; Kyle Gross, Boys Elementary Basketball; Steven Parham, Boys Freshman Basketball; Ashley Brown, Girls JV Basketball; Todd Schafer, Boys JV Basketball; Martha Veihl, Girls Jr. High Basketball; Anna Mcdonald, Girls JR. High Basketball; Ashley Finnerty, Cheer

Resignation of PCMI employee Nicole Kent was reported. Nicole will complete the 2015/2016 school year.

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

Jason Wolf and Jeff Jackson presented the M-STEP results from last year's tests.

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

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

Motion by Bob Pasch, seconded by Rod Cole to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. Motion carried 7/0.

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Recording Secretary
Julie Freeze

Denise McBride, President

Kari Rojas, Secretary