



**TRI COUNTY AREA SCHOOLS**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 09, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Fennessy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with members Powell, Gould, Princer, Ford, and Campbell present. Member Dewey was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Janet Powell served as acting secretary in Member Dewey's absence.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Ford, second by Princer to approve the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED (6-0-1)

**GOOD THINGS:**

**Honoring our Veterans.** The board took this time to honor our veteran's. Superintendent Cumings shared that this is usually a very special day in our district, where our local veterans are honored in a special assembly. The Board joins our nation to honor those who answered the call to protect our freedoms. The price of freedom is high, and we want to say a special thank you to all veterans.

**TCEA Staff Honors.** Wendy Kik, representing the Tri County Education Association (TCEA) read a statement from the TCEA honoring all staff members, administrators, board members, and community partners who went above and beyond their job descriptions and expectations this past spring and summer to end the 2019-2020 school year and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year in the midst of a pandemic. This has truly been a collaborative effort that makes the TCEA very proud to say they were part of.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**2019-2020 Financial Audit Presentation:** Adriane M. Schrauben from Hungerford Nichols CPAs presented the 2019-2020 financial audit summary, sharing that the district received an unmodified opinion, the highest opinion to receive. She reviewed general fund and fund balance information, sharing this district added \$424,000 to its fund balance to total 3.1-million-dollar fund balance as of June 30, 2020, which is 16.86% of the 2021 expenditures. It is recommended that districts keep 10-20% fund balance. Ms. Schrauben also commented that there were no material journal entries. New accounting was implemented this year to include student activity funds in the financial reporting.

Ms. Schrauben also provided information regarding federal funds audited, which includes food service. There were no material weaknesses found. She stated that overall it was a great audit and went really well.

**2020-2021 Financial Update & Proposed General Fund Budget Amendment.**

Superintendent Cumings began this report by offering huge appreciation to Shelley Knox, Taylor Merchant, Kathi Coffin, and Lisa Behrenwald for their help and expertise. He shared that total revenues were up approximately \$2,722,684, which reflects an increase to the foundation allowance of \$65.00 and use of blended enrollment, increased federal funds, and increases in local sources. Expenditures reflect increases as well of approximately \$1,220,171, with the largest variance in instruction, operations and

maintenance. Reported total revenues of \$20,416,681 to total expenditures of \$19,674,866 leaves a fund balance of approximately \$3,853,882 or 19.59%.

**TCAS Extended COVID-19 Continuation of Learning Plan Update:** Superintendent Cumings shared that adjustments to the number of students on remote learning were needed this past month due to Sand Lake Elementary being on remote learning for this plan update. He gave his kudos to staff, students, and parents for the great job they've been doing during this time.

**Policy Reading – Second Reading – Fall Updates (4362.01, 5610, 5611, 7440)**

Member Gould provided the update summaries for the fall update policies as provided by Neola for policies 4362.01-Threatening Behavior Towards a Staff Member, 5610-Emergency Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students, 5611-Due Process Rights, and 7440-Facility Security. This reading constitutes the second reading of updates and the new policy required for adoption.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

Superintendent Cumings began his report by thanking our community for passing the Operating Millage on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This millage is where our local source of funding comes from. He also offered his congratulations to Jill Fennessy and Chad Bice for being elected to the board of education, both for 6-year terms. He shared the Board's thanks to Jan Dewey for her years of service, stating she has served the district as a teacher, counselor, and board of education member. She will be missed.

Mr. Cumings then shared that the bids for the new elementary project are due tomorrow. This is an exciting time in our bond projects, and he looks forward to sharing the results of the bids. He then commented on testing data shared by principals. SAT scores were at the state average for those seniors who chose to take the test. Mr. Cumings then commented on the impact of covid-19 in our county, sharing that superintendents in our ISD are having conversation about what to do, and is very involved in meetings with the department of health and human services. He shared that it's getting tougher to obtain subs for in-person learning. It's all been tough – remote learning, virtual learning, and in-person learning. Mr. Cumings ended his report by thanking our staff for all they continue to do.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:** Member Campbell reported that the committee meeting virtually just prior to tonight's meeting, where they reviewed the financial audit numbers, results, and rating, which is the best rating possible. They also reviewed the budget update and proposed amendment. The next meeting is scheduled for December 14 at 5:30 pm.

**Facilities Committee:** Member Princer shared that the facilities meeting was postponed, and did not meet prior to the board meeting.

**Policy Committee:** Member Gould reported that the committee met virtually on October 26, where they reviewed the fall policy updates, and completed the first reading for them. Their next meeting is scheduled for November 23, at 5:30 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only:** No one spoke to this.

**\*Note: All Action Items were approved with a roll call vote due to the meeting held virtually.**

**ACTION ITEM #1 – Consent Agenda.** Motion by Princer, second by Ford to approve the consent agenda as presented, which included minutes from the October 12, 2020 regular meeting and accounts payable of \$690,619.18. Motion CARRIED (6-0-1)

**ACTION ITEM #2 – 2019-2020 Financial Audit.** Motion by Campbell, second by Gould to approve the 2019-2020 Financial Audit as presented. Motion CARRIED (6-0-1)

**ACTION ITEM #3 – Proposed 2020-2021 General Fund Budget Amendment.** Motion by Ford, second by Princer to approve the 2020-2021 General Fund Budget Amendment as presented. Motion CARRIED (6-0-1)

**ACTION ITEM #4 - TCAS Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan – Update.** Motion by Princer, second by Ford to approve the TCAS Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan Update as presented with minor updates. Motion CARRIED (6-0-1)

**ACTION ITEM #5 – Policy Adoption – Fall Updates.** Motion by Gould, second by Ford to adopt the policy updates as read. Motion CARRIED (6-0-1)

**PUBLIC COMMENT – General Comments: No one spoke to this**

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Members of the Board commented on the past couple of really awesome Friday nights our football team has had, stating that our boys have shown how they can come together, and that we’re all looking forward to Friday night’s game. Other comments included information about the recent MASB conference, giving a shout out to our TC family, Julie Scott, Heidi Nichols, and Kayley DeWitt, who shared their expertise in a HIL Grant workshop, and high school staff who produced a video on the TRAILS program that was shown at the conference. These put a real spotlight on our district. Kudos also went out to Jill Fennessy, who serves as the president of the MASB Board of Directors, on her excellent facilitation of the MASB conference, which had over 600 schools represented in attendance. Member Fennessy commented that TC was a spotlight throughout the state of Michigan and she is proud to be a Viking.

Other comments included kudos for the great collaboration in developing plans and preparing our kids for remote learning. The meetings and dedication that has gone into this has been amazing.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Motion by Powell, second by Campbell to go into Closed Session at 7:59 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations. Roll Call Vote: Ford-Aye, Gould-Aye, Campbell-Aye, Princer-Aye, Dewey-Absent, Powell-Aye, Fennessy-Aye. Motion CARRIED (6-0-1)

The Board return to Open Session at 9:04 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Powell, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Motion CARRIED (6-0-1)

Approved by:

Jill Fennessy, President

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Janet Powell, Acting Secretary

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