

MASON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

April 10, 2017

Harvey Education Center

400 South Cedar Street

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Mason Board of Education was held at the James C. Harvey Education Center on Monday, April 10, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kurt Creamer, President.

Present: Kurt Creamer, Tom Curtis, Laura Cheney, Ralph Beebe, Tim Ayres, Liz Evans and Christopher Mumby

Absent:

Also Present: Ron Drzewicki, Superintendent; Cheryl S. Wald, Chief Financial Officer; Matt Stuard, Curriculum Director; Rick Brooks, Director of Human Resources; Mason staff and community members

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ralph Beebe made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the agenda as printed. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

SPECIAL REPORTS/COMMENTS

EPIC MRA Survey Summary

Superintendent Drzewicki shared a PowerPoint presentation communicating the results of the EPIC MRA district survey. Bernie Porn, President of EPIC MRA shared this information with the School Study Committee on March 28, 2017.

Three hundred community members participated in the survey between March 4, 2017 and March 7, 2017. Of those sampled, 78% voted, 18% did not vote and 4% were unsure if they voted in the May 2016 election.

Participants were questioned on configuration options. The community is in favor of moving kindergarten to the H.E.C. and renovating and expanding existing elementary schools.

Questions related to district technology, HVAC improvements and safety and security were part of the previous proposal and were well received. Technology received 75% support with 19% opposing. HVAC improvements were supported by 74% and opposed by 17%. Total support for school safety was 72% support and 16% opposed. Upgrades to the middle school and high school science labs, wood shop, robotics and STEM labs, art spaces, and athletic multipurpose room was supported at 56% with 29% opposed.

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Seventy two percent of participants gave Mason Public Schools a complimentary A/B letter grade when asked if the district provides a quality education. Superintendent Drzewicki stated, “this grade speaks of great employees working in our district and the type of programming we offer for students.” Only 19% of participants thought Mason taxes are too high. Fifty eight percent provided a positive rating for how the district manages its finances.

The survey was representative of the population in Mason. A large portion (69%) of those that took the survey have lived in Mason more than 20 years.

All information regarding the School Study Committee and EPIC MRA survey is available on the district’s website.

The School Study Committee has three upcoming meetings scheduled on Tuesday, April 18th, Tuesday, April 25th and Wednesday, May 10th. The committee voted, with one descending vote, to direct the construction team to bring a scope of work for kindergarten to move to the H.E.C. and expand/renovate existing elementary schools. This will include improvements to the middle school and high school. The committee voted to set a date for Treasury and that date was scheduled for June 28, 2017. The date can be canceled if the committee doesn’t meet the deadline.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Laura Cheney made and Ralph Beebe supported a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of minutes of the March 13, 2017, regular meeting; March 13, 2017, closed session #1; March 13, 2017, closed session #2; March 13, 2017, closed session #3; Personnel Report No. 22; Financial Report No. 23; including payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,223,212.08, Food Service Fund bills in the amount of \$62,741.58, Student Activities Fund bills in the amount of \$84,710.11, and Sinking Fund bills in the amount of \$7,703.25. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Board of Education members recognized Steele Elementary teacher, Jana Stewart. Mrs. Stewart will retire at the end of this year after 30 years of service to the district.

COMMITTEE AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Finance and Property

Ralph Beebe referred to the April 10th committee meeting. Cheryl S. Wald presented the monthly budget report. The budget remains on track.

The committee discussed bids solicited for replacement of ceiling tiles at the high school. The work will be scheduled for completion after necessary roof repairs. Shively-Bouma was deemed to be the responsible low bidder. Sinking funds will be used for this expenditure.

Ceiling Tile Replacement

Ralph Beebe made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve the ceiling tile replacement bid from Shively-Bouma, Inc., as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

The committee discussed summer lawn maintenance. Bids were received to outsource lawn maintenance for the middle school and a majority of the high school to free up current staff to maintain facilities. The bids were reviewed. Lansing Lawn and Snow was the favorable bid.

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Summer Lawn Maintenance

Ralph Beebe made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the summer lawn maintenance bid from Lansing Lawn and Snow, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Ralph Beebe thanked the Strickland family for their support of the school district.

Financial auditor services were reviewed. Cheryl S. Wald solicited bids and prepared a rubric of both price and qualifications for the committee's consideration. After much discussion, the committee recommended Abraham & Gaffney continue to perform this service. They provided the lowest bid and have been competent to work with in the past three years.

District Auditor

Ralph Beebe made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve Abraham and Gaffney as the district's financial auditor, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

The committee discussed the need for another portable at N. Aurelius Elementary. Kevin Doty was part of the discussion by phone. Mr. Doty solicited bids for a portable classroom that included both leasing, purchasing and various other options.

North Aurelius Portable

Ralph Beebe made and Liz Evans supported a motion to approve a portable at North Aurelius Elementary, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Drzewicki referred to the 2016-17 April Budget Revision (report 24). The first revision occurred in January. There will be one final end of the year revision in June.

Cheryl S. Wald shared projected trends. She explained updates related to bus leases, taxable values, state revenues, incoming transfers, and special education funding. Other items discussed included the 1% staff pay increase, retirements, employee lane changes and grant funding. Changes in utilities were consistent with the previous year. An increase of \$219,105 in revenues over expenditures was noted. Superintendent Drzewicki reminded the board that the \$219,105 increase is only 0.7% of the actual budget.

2016-17 April Budget Revision

Ralph Beebe made and Christopher Mumby supported a motion to approve the 2016-17 April budget revision, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

As required by State law, school districts within an ISD are required to take official action to approve or disapprove the budget presented to them by the ISD for ISD operations. Ingham ISD offered to attend a committee meeting to discuss the proposed budget. Board members agreed to review the budget and timelines on their own.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

The Ingham ISD budget meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. in room 302 of the Thorburn Center.

Community and Staff Relations

Christopher Mumby referred to minutes from the March 20, 2017 meeting. The committee reviewed employee seniority lists, a Best Practice document and the Bulldog Bites staff newsletter. A closed session occurred to discuss negotiations.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Policy and Curriculum

Liz Evans referred to minutes from the meeting held on Monday, March 27, 2017. Teacher, Courtney Ford was present to answer questions regarding the Out of Country field trip request to Costa Rica in June of 2018.

The committee discussed professional development days for Wonders training. A plan is in place to have K-5 teachers trained by the start of year.

A new Secondary Science Committee was formed. The committee is working on ways to adapt the science curriculum to meet the changes of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Student handbooks and Study Sync professional development will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Out-of-State Country – Costa Rica, June 2018

Liz Evans made and Christopher Mumby supported a motion to approve the out-of-country field trip request for high school students to travel to Costa Rica in June of 2018, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Second Reading of ELA 6-12 Program – Study Sync

Liz Evans made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve ELA 6-12 Program – Study Sync, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Tim Ayers shared views regarding increased student enrollment and the use of portables at N. Aurelius Elementary. He shared concern for possible safety issues and asked about school of choice students. The district plans to offer the same amount of school of choice openings as they have in previous years based on enrollment projections.

The district currently has four sections of kindergarten at N. Aurelius and three sections at the Steele and Alaiedon Elementary. A portable at N. Aurelius allows the building to offer four sections of first grade next year. This district commitment lowers class sizes in kindergarten and first grade.

Board members discussed traffic and parking lot concerns. The board agreed that a passed bond in November would expedite updates to safety, parking and overcrowding concerns at each building.

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Drzewicki referenced the Ingham ISD election document. There are five elected members that serve on the Ingham ISD board. The first day our Board of Education can nominate a candidate for election is May 15, 2017. Since there is not a board meeting scheduled that would accommodate our district's nomination, a special board meeting will be held on Monday, May 15,

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2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library. The meeting will be held prior to the Joint Recognition Ceremony.

The Community and Staff Committee meeting scheduled on May 15, 2017 will be rescheduled.

The Mason Promise Scholarship Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the middle school cafeteria.

The Joint Board of Education and Mason City Council Recognition Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

ADJOURNMENT

Ralph Beebe made and Liz Evans supported a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Laura Cheney
Secretary

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