

MASON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

August 8, 2016

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, August 8, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Julie Rogers, Treasurer.

Present: Laura Fenger, Julie Rogers, Laura Cheney, Kurt Creamer, and Tom Curtis

Absent: Ralph Beebe, Becky Brimley

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

Laura Cheney made and Kurt Creamer supported a motion to approve the agenda as printed. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Laurie Schwartz of 3402 Josephine Lane, Mason, MI addressed the Board of Education. Mrs. Schwartz is a substitute teacher and substitute aide. She recommended exit interviews be available to any student expelled from Mason Public Schools. Interviews should contain guidelines and options for the exiting students. Mrs. Schwartz thanked board members, administrators, Lance Delbridge and Nick Toodzio for working with former student, Andrew Pepper.

Andrew Pepper addressed the board members. Mr. Pepper was expelled in 2015 for making poor choices. He stated he did not have guidance to proceed following the expulsion. With parental support and direction from Mrs. Schwartz, Andrew attended Michigan Youth Challenge and is now “on the right track.” He received his GED and is employed full time. Mr. Pepper stated he is “becoming a responsible citizen, has completed his high school degree a year and half early and has shown that hope is out there.”

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Matt Stuard shared a presentation highlighting Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Mr. Stuard, along with 17 staff members attended the Professional Learning Communities at Work conference in Lincolnshire, Illinois on August 3–5, 2016. He updated the Board of Education on the definition of PLCs. Mr. Stuard spoke on meeting the needs of students so all students learn at

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the highest level. The conference presenters recommended one hour blocks of time on a weekly basis to systemize the PLC process and ensure high levels of learning occur for all students. Staff members shared a commitment to the process. Mr. Stuard stated he wants Mason Public Schools to be a great school. He believes PLCs will improve the district and be a legacy we can leave our students and organization.

Conference attendees addressed the board of education regarding their experience.

High School teacher, Jeremy Mills shared that the conference was excellent. Mr. Mills indicated that PLCs will pull everything together. PLCs will give us direction and take our schools to the next level.

Cortney Ford didn't know what to expect from the conference. She stated "it was the most amazing conference she has attended." She said PLCs are the way to go. She is excited about the program and believes that Mason Public Schools will be the best school in this area. PLCs provide an avenue to help the lower students and those that have met the standards. Mrs. Ford believes PLCs will "transform the district by using the many tools we already have."

Ted Berryhill, Middle School Principal, thanked the Board of Education and administration for supporting the conference. He asked those in attendance to "think about what type of school and environment you would like to provide." Ted said, "PLCs focus on learning and we will reach more students than ever."

Dr. Jan Alleman addressed the Board of Education. Dr. Alleman stated, "every day she comes to Mason asking herself how she can add value." This conference was over and above all other conferences she has ever attended. The conference presented a core message, keynotes and every break-out session built on the message. She knows it will present a challenge for educators to reconstruct all the information given and build for the journey ahead. Dr. Alleman said, "to accomplish this we must demonstrate that we are all doers of the work." She spoke about the Mason High School Student Instruction Team and indicated the Middle School will be starting a group to incorporate student voices. Dr. Allman said, "we must be interdependent and in debates ask ourselves what is best for kids." She thanked the Board of Education.

Nick Toodzio, Assistant Principal at the Middle School stated the process of PLCs is about teachers working together to do what is best for kids. PLC teams will discuss the work, measure with common assessments and try interventions to find results. The conference speakers recommended PLC teams collaborate for one hour each week. Mr. Toodzio stated, "we are all great teachers in Mason and we are all here for the students." He asked that the district not hold to the past, but begin to use what is available to us today.

Alaiedon Elementary Principal, Lisa Francisco added that PLCs are about people. She would like to pass on the team's enthusiasm to staff members that were not in attendance. Mrs. Francisco thanked Curriculum Director, Matt Stuard for this direction.

Teacher, Cindy Hyaduck thanked the Board of Education for providing the opportunity. She asked board members to sense the attendees' enthusiasm and know that they came away from the conference as a team. Mrs. Hyaduck stated, "PLC format allows staff to connect the dots and the framework." Mrs. Hyaduck felt that for common language, it would be powerful to send additional staff members to this conference. She stated, "we have a good school district and staff that are willing to put in the work."



Superintendent Drzewicki and Board of Education Treasurer, Julie Rogers thanked the team for sharing their experiences.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Laura Cheney made and Kurt Creamer supported a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of minutes of the July 18, regular meeting; July 18, closed session; Personnel Report No. 3; Financial Report No. 4; including payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,406,257.98, Food Service Fund bills in the amount of \$0.00, Student Activities Fund bills in the amount of \$6,993.91, and Sinking Fund bills in the amount of \$15,039.27. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Executive Committee

Julie Rogers referred to minutes of the Monday, August 1, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. The committee reviewed and discussed new 2016-18 two-year contracts for Chief Financial Officer, Human Resources Director and Executive Director of Curriculum and a new three-year contract for the Superintendent.

The committee reviewed and discussed the superintendent evaluation process for 2015-16 and the new state mandated process for 2016-17.

Superintendent Drzewicki referred to minor adjustments in the Chief Financial Officer, Human Resources Director and Executive Director of Curriculum contracts to include suggested language from Thrun Law Firm.

Approval of Contract for Human Resource Director

Laura Cheney made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the contract for Human Resource Director, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Contract for Executive Director of Curriculum

Laura Cheney made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the contract for Executive Director of Curriculum, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Contract for Chief Financial Officer

Laura Cheney made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the contract for Chief Financial Officer, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Finance and Property

Minutes were not available from the committee meeting.

Winter Tax Certification

Kurt Creamer made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve the 2016 winter tax levy, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Community and Staff Relations

The Community and Staff Relations Committee did not meet in July.

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Policy and Curriculum

The Policy and Curriculum Committee did not meet in July.

Superintendent

Superintendent Drzewicki referred to the Winter Tax Certification and informed the audience that tax rates have decreased because property values have increased.

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Drzewicki referred to report #5, Bread Bids and report #6, Dairy Bids.

Bread Bids

Kurt Creamer made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to award the contract to supply bread products for the 2016-17 school year to Aunt Millie's, Inc. for a contract total of \$11,915.00, as presented in Report No. 5. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Dairy Bids

Kurt Creamer made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to award the contract to supply dairy products for the 2016-17 school year to Prairie Farms, Inc. for a contract total of \$83,687, as presented in Report No. 6. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION - NEGOTIATIONS

Laura Cheney made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of negotiations.

Roll Call Vote: Cheney, Creamer, Curtis, Fenger, Rogers

Absent: Ralph Beebe, Becky Brimley

The Board entered closed session at 8:00 p.m.

The minutes of the closed session are on file in the Superintendent's office as provided by P.A. 167 of the Public Acts of 1976.

The Board returned to open session at 8:26 p.m.

INGHAM CLINTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION – MDMEA TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Mr. Tom Curtis abstained from discussion and voting on the matter. He stated his wife is part of the bargaining unit.

Kurt Creamer made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve the Ingham Clinton Education Association – MDMEA tentative agreement, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 4-0.

MAA – MASON ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Kurt Creamer made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve the MAA-Mason Administrators' Association tentative agreement, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.



TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF MASON TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Kurt Creamer made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve the Transportation Employees Association of Mason tentative agreement, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

IUOE – LOCAL 324 AFL-CIO CUSTODIAL/MAINTENANCE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Kurt Creamer made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve IUOE Custodial/Maintenance tentative agreement, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

IUOE - LOCAL 324 AFL-CIO SECRETARY/OFFICE ASSISTANT UNIT TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Kurt Creamer made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve IUOE Secretary/Office Assistant Unit tentative agreement, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Drzewicki recognized all staff and board members that participated in the bargaining process. He thanked the Board of Education for the generous 1% pay increases and stated, “we have a great team that is recognized for their contributions to Mason Public Schools.”

Julie Rogers thanked Rick Brooks and the negotiation teams for working on each agreement.

PUBLIC REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Leann Garver of 1060 Lone Oak Drive, Mason, MI addressed the Board of Education. Her family moved to Mason because of the school district. She is fond of the community and staff of N. Aurelius Elementary. She voiced her concern regarding poor communication from the Board of Education regarding the late notice and change of calendar that includes delayed starts on Wednesdays.

Stacy Adado of 854 Northbrook Street, Mason, MI shared her concern for the district’s lack of communication regarding before and after school programming on PLC Wednesdays. She stated the parental survey lacked clarification and was distributed after the schedule change. Her programming concerns included: is there a cost for before care on PLC Wednesdays? what will students be doing? and who will be supervising? Ms. Adado stated she is “not against PLCs and thinks they are a good idea, however the lack of notice to parents is unacceptable.”

ADJOURNMENT

Laura Cheney made and Kurt Creamer supported a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Laura Fenger
Secretary

