

**MASON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 14, 2015**  
**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 September 14, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ralph Beebe, President.

Present: Ralph Beebe, Becky Brimley, Laura Fenger, Julie Rogers, Laura Cheney, Kurt Creamer, and Tom Curtis

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**

Julie Rogers made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to approve the agenda as printed. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

**SPECIAL REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Steering Committee Progress Report

Mr. Drzewicki stated that the Steering Committee has been working hard. He introduced Mrs. Chris Waltz, Chair of the Steering Committee, to speak on the scope of work intended for a potential Bond proposal in May of 2016.

Mrs. Waltz shared that a Facilities Steering Committee of eighteen community members was formed following the June 29, 2015 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Waltz introduced the Steering Committee members in attendance.

The Steering Committee has met a total of five times with the first occurring on July 22, 2015. Superintendent Drzewicki provided the committee with relevant background and educational information. Information communicated included facilities audits, staff surveys, enrollment trends, school financing basics, Mason school bond election history, school configuration and size research, and bussing issues.

The committee decided on three configuration options to present for public consideration. The options included building a fourth K-5 elementary school, a 4/5<sup>th</sup> intermediate school on the James

C. Harvey Education site or acquiring another site for a 4/5<sup>th</sup> intermediate school. The options would furthermore include extensive renovations at all existing buildings.

Community surveys, community forums, communications and finance subcommittees were formed to ensure timelines are met.

A community survey was launched on September 2, 2015 and will close on September 20, 2015. To date, a total of 827 surveys have been completed. When asked if respondents would vote for a bond, 68% replied yes while 7% answered no. Similar results existed when community members were asked if they would renew a Sinking Fund. Yes votes totaled 65%, while no votes totaled 8%.

Community Forums are scheduled for September 28 and October 6, 2015. Both events will be held in the middle school cafeteria beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming plans for the Steering Committee include five additionally scheduled meetings, a Board of Education update on October 12, 2015, and a proposal for consideration at the November 9<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting. The proposal will emphasize community input data from community surveys and the Community Forums.

Mr. Beebe thanked the members of the Steering Committee for their hours of commitment and professionalism to the district. He stated that this is a fabulous group of energized community members. Mr. Beebe encouraged everyone to complete the community survey and attend the Community Forums.

Mrs. Waltz stated it is an honor to serve the district.

Mrs. Cheney feels positive about the updates provided by Superintendent Drzewicki and the Steering Committee.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Beebe and Superintendent Drzewicki received a letter from the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Field Services regarding a fiscal compliance plan review.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Julie Rogers made and Becky Brimley supported a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of minutes of the August 10, regular meeting; August 10, closed meeting; Personnel Report No. 7; Financial Report No. 8; including payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,279,508.38, Food Service Fund bills in the amount of \$195.79, Student Activities Fund bills in the amount of \$15,929.34, and Sinking Fund bills in the amount of \$169,965.05. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

## **COMMITTEE AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

### **Finance and Property**

Kurt Creamer referred to minutes from the August 31, 2015 meeting. Skyward financial reports were discussed. Check registers will be posted monthly on the website.

The group discussed completed Sinking Fund projects totaling \$160,768.30. They discussed the need to avoid projects that may be part of future renovations. Security door installation is complete and in operation at the elementary and middle school buildings. A high school update was not available.

A property map of the city was shared. The committee discussed available property within the city limits.

An overpayment to Alaiedon Township was detected and returned to the township having no effect on the current budget.

A credit upgrade from the State of Michigan was reviewed by the committee.

2014-15 final budget numbers have not been completed but some of the expense items are coming in a little lower than expected. Three notable items were utility costs, sub costs and Capital Outlay totaling approximately \$130,000.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015.

Mr. Curtis questioned which property was being considered. Mr. Creamer restated that the committee reviewed available properties within the city limits.

### **Community and Staff Relations**

The committee did not meet on August 17, 2015. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2015.

### **Policy and Curriculum**

Mrs. Cheney reviewed minutes from the August 24, 2015 meeting. The committee received an update regarding the administrator's retreat and opening day professional development.

The group reviewed policy series #9000. Recommended for first reading were Policy #9300, Tobacco Products and Alcohol On/In District Premises and policy #9570, Relations with Law Enforcement and Investigating Authorities. The group will finish policy #9000 series and begin review of policy #8000 series at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2015.

### **INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

Mr. Beebe thanked the community groups for providing breakfast for Mason staff members during the opening day professional development. He also thanked Mr. Creamer and Mr. Curtis for their attendance. Mr. Beebe stated the speakers were good and he was thankful for the invitation to attend.

### **CLOSED SESSION #1 – STUDENT REINSTATEMENT REQUEST [CN-131411]**

Laura Cheney made and Julie Rogers supported a motion to enter into a closed session for the purpose of conducting a student discipline hearing. Roll Call Vote: Yes - Beebe, Brimley, Cheney, Creamer, Curtis, Fenger, Rogers; No – None. Motion carried 7-0.

The Board entered closed session at 7:18 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 8:01 p.m.

**STUDENT REINSTATEMENT REQUEST RESOLUTION [CN-131411]**

Laura Cheney made and Kurt Creamer supported a motion against reinstatement of Student CN-131411 pursuant to Policy #8150. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Beebe informed the family that Mr. Brooks would be providing additional information and stated the Board of Education didn't take the decision lightly.

**CLOSED SESSION #2 - NEGOTIATIONS**

Laura Cheney made and Julie Rogers supported a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of negotiations. Roll Call Vote: Yes - Beebe, Brimley, Cheney, Creamer, Curtis, Fenger, Rogers; No – None. Motion carried 7-0.

The Board entered closed session at 8:02 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 8:47 p.m.

**MASON FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION TENTATIVE AGREEMENT**

Julie Rogers made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the Mason Food Service Employee Association Tentative Agreement, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Julie Rogers made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

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Laura Fenger  
Secretary