

MASON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
January 11, 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, January 11, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the agenda as printed. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS/COMMENTS

President Beebe thanked the audience for their attendance. He recognized staff members and former board of education members present. He stated it is a pleasure to serve the Mason community.

SPECIAL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Superintendent Drzewicki recognized January as School Board Recognition Month. A certificate was presented to each board member. Mr. Drzewicki thanked the members for their commitment, hard work and dedication to the Mason community.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Jerome Brzezinski will chair a technology committee of district teachers and three central office personnel to discuss technology goals and the bond proposal.

Matt Stuard shared that there are 16 members on the committee. Special education, core subjects and all grade levels will be represented.

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The committee will meet on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. to develop a technology vision in agreement with the Strategic Plan. Committee members will collect data from colleagues to formulate a list of technology wants and needs. Jerome Brzezinski will meet with administrators from each building and collect their suggestions.

GMB will sponsor field trips to Steelecase in Grand Rapids to visit a 21st century classroom environment. Elementary members will attend on January 27, 2016 and secondary level committee members will attend in February. Groups will tour corporate headquarters and talk about Mason's vision to later develop a matrix to prioritize needs.

Mark Washington from GMB will provide sample devices for committee members to utilize in the classroom. He has participated in this process several times and will be of great help. The team will reconvene in February to discuss the sample devices and will finalize a priority list.

Following a successful bond election, the committee will continue to implement technology into classrooms.

Jerome Brzezinski said the district has been in a maintenance mode several years and committee members are excited to take technology integration to the next level. They will primarily discuss classroom technology to drive instruction.

The Mason Foundation was recognized for financial donations made for several years to improve technology in our district.

Ralph Beebe asked how the technology committee will work with the bond strategy. Communication will be the key stated Superintendent Drzewicki. Informational meetings are scheduled with district staff departments to share facts about the bond proposal.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ralph Beebe acknowledged thank you letters for Board of Education month.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Julie Rogers made and Becky Brimley supported a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of minutes of the December 14, work session; December 14, regular meeting; December 14, closed session; Personnel Report No. 15; Financial Report No. 16; including payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,397,623.32, Food Service Fund bills in the amount of \$57,626.92, Student Activities Fund bills in the amount of \$66,605.50, and Sinking Fund bills in the amount of \$17,120.96. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Board members and Superintendent Drzewicki expressed gratitude toward Karen Harvey for her 23 years of service and to Diane Ball for her 37 years of service to the district. They will both retire in June of 2016.

COMMITTEE AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

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Finance and Property

Kurt Creamer referred to minutes from the January 4, 2016 meeting. A monthly budget update was provided. The MEA requested monthly financial reports in the old format. Both versions will be provided in board books.

The committee recommends approval of the annual Thrun Law Firm, P.C. retainer. Committee members are happy with the support Thrun Law Firm, P.C. provides.

Superintendent Drzewicki receives a weekly email update from the DEA showing permit requests for drilling.

The committee reviewed policy #3200 and agreed on a potential change in wording. The policy will be reviewed by the Policy and Curriculum Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2016. The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Thrun Law Firm, P.C. Retainer Agreement

Kurt Creamer made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the retainer agreement with Thrun Law Firm, P.C., as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Community and Staff Relations

The committee did not meet in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2016 at 4:15 p.m.

Policy and Curriculum

Laura Cheney referred to the minutes of the December 15, 2016 meeting. A gifts/bequests donor contribution from the North Aurelius PTO was reviewed and recommended to the Board of Education for approval.

The committee discussed the NEOLA, Inc. services proposal. The committee decided to move forward with the recommendation to engage NEOLA, Inc. for bylaw and policy development, administrative guidelines, and online services. The annual cost of services was included in the amended budget approved December 14, 2015 by the Board of Education. The annual fee is approximately \$4,900 per year which includes all updates and guarantees the district is legally up-to-date.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Policy #9730, Relationship with Associated Organizations - 2nd Reading

Laura Cheney made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve Policy #9730, Relationship with Associated Organizations, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Gifts/Bequests Donor Contribution – North Aurelius PTO

Laura Cheney made and Julie Rogers supported a motion to approve the North Aurelius PTO contribution, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

President Beebe thanked the North Aurelius PTO for their contribution.

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NEOLA, Inc. Policy and Guideline Services

Laura Cheney made and Julie Rogers supported a motion to approve the agreement with NEOLA, Inc. for policy, guideline and online services, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent

Superintendent Drzewicki referenced the Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds. The packet was presented to the State Treasury Department on Thursday, January 7, 2016. Enrollment projections and ballot language were provided. The application will be thoroughly reviewed by the Treasury Department once approved by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education will approve the ballot language for the bond and sinking fund at the February 8, 2016 meeting. This will call the election and the board will have no further action until post-election.

The group discussed Public Act 269 that prohibits public entities from using mass communication to distribute information about local ballot proposals 60 days before an election. The district will provide factual information to the community and staff until the March 4, 2016 deadline. Information posted on the website prior to this date can remain. Facebook communications are not considered mass communication. Board of Education members will have no restrictions.

Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds

Julie Rogers made and Becky Brimley supported a motion to approve the application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

The board discussed the sinking fund passed in 2005 which restricts the district from purchasing property. If the district renews the sinking fund, this language would remain. The Finance and Property Committee may propose a new sinking fund that will include the entitlement to purchase property.

A bond and sinking fund proposal will be presented to voters on May 3, 2016.

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The group discussed support for student illness.

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Mason Board of Education and Mason City Council Joint Recognition Ceremony will be held on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at Mason City Hall.

The Mason Public Schools Foundation Red Carpet Gala will occur on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, in Lansing, MI.

The 2015 Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Awards dinner will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Eldorado Golf Course.

Superintendent Drzewicki informed the board that Mason students were not on the Dean Transportation bus involved in an accident on January 8, 2016.

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SUCCEED

The Mason State Bank Centennial Fund was recognized and celebrated for donating \$51,049.40 to the Mason Promise Scholarship. Superintendent Drzewicki stated this is a great program and continues to generate interest. President Beebe added “we live in a wonderful community.”

PUBLIC REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Eric Haynie of 5950 Patriots Way, East Lansing, MI addressed the Board of Education. He stated he was in attendance as a staff member and MDMEA representative. Mr. Haynie is excited about what is in front of the district and stated “this brings hope and promise.” He thanked board members.

Mr. Haynie thanked Superintendent Drzewicki for being visible at the high school. Teachers and students took notice of his presence in the building.

Mr. Haynie again thanked the board members for all they do and their dedication. He said he is “looking forward to the upcoming project.”

ADJOURNMENT

Julie Rogers made and Kurt Creamer supported a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Laura Fenger
Secretary

