

MASON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

July 11, 2017

Harvey Education Center

400 South Cedar Street

7:00p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Mason Board of Education was held at the James C. Harvey Education Center on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. by Kurt Creamer, President.

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

Absent:

Also Present: Ronald Drzewicki, Superintendent; Cheryl S. Wald, Chief Financial Officer; Rick Brooks, Director of Human Resources; Jesse Nelson, HJ Umbaugh Associates; School Study Team members; Mason staff and community members

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Seth Waxman of 226 Y, East Cherry Street, Mason, MI addressed the board. He is a supporter of the past and current bond proposal and has experience in politics. He shared concern for voter turnout at the 2017 election when no candidates are running for office. Mr. Waxman stated he appreciates the 18 months of work that has gone into the proposal.

Amelia Mills of 1303 Berrywood Place, Mason, MI addressed the board. Ms. Mills is in support of hiring an additional band teacher for Mason High School. The band director has over 130 students at the high school and teaches 7th and 8th grade classes at the middle school. The director works endlessly and parent volunteers are not enough. Twenty additional students will be added to the high school program next year. Ms. Mills stated it is necessary to have additional help.

Steve Duane of 4262 Black Cherry Lane, Mason, MI addressed the board. He spoke regarding the June 26, 2017 board meeting. He stated he was expecting more support of the bond presentation. The School Study Committee was not made aware of the board members questions and new requirements previously. Mr. Duane is committed to work on a "Yes" campaign. He requested board members be cohesive so work is not in vain.

INSPIRE



EMPOWER



SUCCEED

Jan Krzesicki, Band Booster President addressed the board. The band has grown to 157 students with two classes at the high school. She requested the district hire a quality middle school band director. Mrs. Krzesicki shared concerns for band room capacity, fire limits and unsupervised students during concerts and marching band practices. Mrs. Krzesicki believes the growth of the band program is due to student contact by the band director. The director is teaching them how to be leaders with music skills. Mrs. Krzesicki asked the board to consider the request for help.

Nick Mills, graduated band member agreed with points made by Amelia Mills and Jan Krzesicki. Mr. Mills worked as a band aide at the middle school when the band size was 139. He stated that one band director for that amount of students is beyond the limits of what one should do. He commended Mrs. Bousfield for doing a fantastic job. Mr. Mills thanked the board for the opportunity to receive more support for the band.

Kally Davies of 2405 Hawley Rd., Mason, MI addressed the board. Mrs. Davies supports the band director and shared a classroom size comparison. High school classrooms have approximately 30 students each, while the band has over 150 students. When the marching band is split into two classrooms, they will contain approximately 66 students per class. Mrs. Davies requested a full time band director for the high school and middle school based on numbers. She stated the band is a great program for students to acquire leadership skills. Mrs. Davies presented a visual of the request.

Susan Parisian of 221 N. Lansing Street, Mason, MI addressed the board. She believes her son may not have graduated without the band program. The program is important, necessary and needed. She stated students are pleased with results from competitions and asked the board to keep this same level of achievement by showing Mrs. Bousfield the respect she deserves. Ms. Parisian challenged the board to find one other teacher that would lead 157 students on their own.

Jan Krzesicki presented the board with a list of districts that have more than one band teacher.

Mary Jo Mills of 1303 Berrywood Place, Mason, MI addressed the board. She stated Mrs. Bousfield influences 1 in 9 students at the high school and provides opportunities for them to perform. In addition to regular classes, Mrs. Bousfield coordinates community parades, band competitions, football games, jazz band, pep band and other performances to showcase talent. Mrs. Mills concurs with educational research indicating that class size directly influences the quality of education. Adding twenty additional students attests to the desirability of the program. She asked the board to work to maintain the quality and vibrancy of the Mason High School Band Program by adding additional staff or reorganizing responsibilities. Increasing the number of students on the band roster with no additional professional support will most likely dilute the quality of the program. Ms. Mills believes it is wise to lend personnel, money and support to keep the program strong.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Laura Cheney made and Ralph Beebe supported a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of minutes of the June 26, 2017, regular meeting; June 26, 2017, closed session; Personnel Report No. 1; Financial Report No. 2; including payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,781,157.53, Food Service Fund bills in the amount of \$45,584.62, Student Activities Fund bills in the amount of \$87,258.00, and Sinking Fund bills in the amount of \$11,268.76.

INSPIRE



EMPOWER



SUCCEED

Minutes of the June 26, 2017 regular meeting were amended to reflect the motion to adjourn was supported by Liz Evans. All yes. Motion canied 7-0.

Tom Curtis and board members commended IT Director, Jerome Brzezinski on his retirement after 17.5 years of service to the district.

Superintendent Drzewicki introduced Mrs. Shana Barnum as the newly hired principal of Alaiedon Elementary School. He stated Mrs. Barnum was highly recommended and the district is happy to have her.

Mrs. Barnum thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity. She stated her goals include review of the district's Strategic Plan and ensuring that Alaiedon is an exemplary learning community.

COMMITTEE AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Executive Committee

The committee met prior to the board meeting. Minutes will be available at the August 14,2017 meeting.

Finance and Property

The committee did not meet in July.

Ralph Beebe described the annual Heartwood-Secondary Learning Center Food Service Agreement which provides food service to students at Heartwood. Chris Salmon, Food Service Director has reviewed the agreement. Heartwood students are charged the same as Mason students.

Heartwood-Secondary Learning Center Food Service Agreement

Ralph Beebe made and Liz Evans supported a motion to approve the Food Service Agreement between Mason Public Schools and Ingham Intermediate School District to provide breakfast and lunch for Heartwood and the Secondary Learning Center, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Ralph Beebe shared the SET/SEG property casualty insurance renewal. The gross decreased and the district continues to receive a rebate.

Property Casualty Insurance

Ralph Beebe made and Christopher Mumby supported a motion to approve the SET/SEG property casualty insurance renewal, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2017 at 5:30p.m.

Community and Staff Relations

The committee did not meet in July.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

INSPIRE



EMPOWER



SUCCEED

Policy and Curriculum

The committee did not meet in July. Minutes from the June 12, 2017 committee meeting were shared at the June 26, 2017 Board of Education meeting.

Gifts/Bequests Donor Contribution - Anonymous

Laura Cheney made and Liz Evans supported a motion to approve an anonymous donation to Alaiedon Elementary, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

2017-18 MHSAA Membership

Laura Cheney made and Liz Evans supported a motion to approve the 2017-18 MHSAA membership, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

There is no fee for the MHSAA membership. The district agrees annually to the bylaws to participate in sporting events and tournaments.

2017-18 High School Handbook

Laura Cheney made and Christopher Mumby supported a motion to approve the changes to the 2017-18 High School Handbook, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Special Education FLEX Curriculum Pilot-Second Reading

Laura Cheney made and Ralph Beebe supported a motion to approve the special education FLEX curriculum pilot, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

NEOLA Updates-Second Reading

Laura Cheney made and Liz Evans supported a motion to approve NEOLA policy updates, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28, 2017 at 5:30p.m.

Superintendent

Board members have reviewed the Application for Preliminary Qualification Bonds as discussed at the June 12th and June 26th Board of Education meeting. An approved application allows the district to use the State bond rating to sell qualified bonds and call an election for November 7, 2017. Jesse Nelson of HJ Umbaugh Associates was present for questions from the board.

Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds

Ralph Beebe made and Liz Evans supported a motion to approve the application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds, as presented.

Ralph Beebe agrees with the community that unity is needed to move Mason forward. The board should come to a consensus and support the School Study Committee.

Laura Cheney appreciates what the community has done. She stated it is a good proposal solving the district's most pressing needs and we can't afford to wait.

Tim Ayres requested the board review both qualified and non-qualified bonds.

Jesse Nelson of HJ Umbaugh Associates reminded members that the application gives the ability to sell qualified bonds. It doesn't lock the district in. Bonds sales would occur in April or May

INSPIRE

EMPOWER

SUCCEED

following an approved bond proposal. He gave a description of qualified and non-qualified bonds. Districts choose the type of bonds based on cost effectiveness. Both qualified and non-qualified bond options are in the budget and may be decided at a later date. HJ Umbaugh Associates will provide information and expect the construction team to assist in the final decision. Board members discussed splitting up the series. It was stated that this can create issues with accountability.

Ralph Beebe thanked the School Study Committee and community for their work on the proposal.

Roll Call Vote: Creamer, yes; Beebe, yes; Ayres, yes; Mumby, yes; Curtis, yes; Cheney, yes; Evans, yes

All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Kurt Creamer thanked everyone involved.

2017-18 August and September Calendar

Board members reviewed the 2017-18 August and September draft calendar. Teacher negotiations are ongoing and a full calendar has not yet been established. Members discussed ways to distribute the calendar to the community. The calendar will be available on the district's website and an Instant Alert will be sent to district families and staff. The district would like to have resources in place for the first few weeks of school and provide notice to families. The draft calendar is similar to last year's calendar. Rick Brooks added a draft calendar may be subject to change during negotiations.

Ralph Beebe made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the 2017-18 August and September calendar, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

District Auditor

Board members approved Abraham and Gaffuey as the district's auditor in April of 2017. The Abraham and Gaffney firm is disbanding with partners going to two separate firms. Neither firm submitted a bid during the bidding process. The board discussed approving the next bidder, Plante Moran for a three year contract. The service was competitively bid and followed board policies. Cheryl S. Wald added that Plante Moran has the depth and knowledge to provide K-12 client resources.

Ralph Beebe made and Tim Ayres supported a motion to approve Plante and Moran as the district's financial auditor, as presented. All Yes. Motion carried 7-0.

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Ralph Beebe recognized School Study Committee members for their efforts.

Tim Ayres requested architects review the playground borders at Alaiedon and N. Aurelius. Kevin Doty, Director of Maintenance and Grounds will review the plan.

INSPIRE



EMPOWER



SUCCEED

Tim Ayres stated he supports the Robotics and band programs. He inquired about sinking fund flexibility to support these projects. The topic may be further discussed at a future Finance and Property Committee meeting.

Kurt Creamer referred to the approved Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds. He stated the Board of Education is unanimous tonight and he supports the proposal 100%.

Tom Curtis stated additional information was gathered in the last few board meetings regarding the bond proposal. He is appreciative of the School Study Committee and believes the board has made the best decision.

Kurt Creamer stated the discussions were all part of the larger process of the proposal. In the end, the scope of work is what moves forward.

PUBLIC REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Seth Waxman of 226 Y, East Cherry Street, Mason, MI addressed the board. He suggested the Board of Education do fundraising and hire someone that knows how to run an election. He suggested Adrien Hemond of Grassroots Midwest.

Steve Duane of 4262 Black Cherry Lane, Mason, MI addressed the board. He invited Mr. Waxman and Board of Education members to attend the first "Yes" campaign meeting scheduled on Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

Ralph Beebe reminded the group that district funds can't be spent on hiring consultants to move forward. This would have to come from a "Yes" committee.

Chris Waltz, School Study Committee Chair thanked the Board of Education for their support, and she was pleased to see a unanimous vote. She stated it is a big proposal and the community needs to hear from board members. It is a very good plan and the community needs to know that those in charge will provide support and stretch dollars to maximize the outcome.

Matt Hall of 760 Hunting Meadows, Mason, MI thanked the Board of Education. He spoke regarding the August/September draft calendar. He said communication is recommended and parents need to recognize this is an ongoing process.

CLOSED SESSION-STUDENT DISCIPLINE HEARING (CN-161707)

Ralph Beebe made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of conducting a student discipline hearing.

Roll Call Vote: Creamer, Ayres, Evans, Beebe, Cheney, Mumby, Curtis

All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

The Board entered closed session at 8:35p.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.

INSPIRE



EMPOWER



SUCCEED

The Board returned to open session at 9:25 p.m.

OPEN SESSION- STUDENT DISCIPLINE RESOLUTION (CN-161707)

The board took no action.

CLOSED SESSION- NEGOTIATIONS AND PROPERTY

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

Roll Call Vote: Beebe, Evans, Mumby, Curtis, Creamer, Cheney, Ayres

All yes. Motion carried 7-0.

The Board entered closed session at 9:29 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 9:52p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Laura Cheney made and Liz Evans supported a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.



Cheney

