

MASON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

June 12, 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, June 12, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Kurt Creamer, President.

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

Absent: Ralph Beebe

Also Present: Ronald Drzewicki, Superintendent; Cheryl S. Wald, Chief Financial Officer; Matt Stuard, Curriculum Director; Rick Brooks, Director of Human Resources; Mike Kenney, The Skillman Corporation; Ted Moore, Moore Trosper Construction; Jeff Hoag, GMB; School Study Committee members; Mason staff and community members

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Laura Cheney made and Christopher Mumby supported a motion to approve the agenda as amended and distributed. All yes. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Kelly Lyon of 5684 Bunker Rd., Mason, MI addressed the Board of Education. She shared her concern for eliminating peanut butter from the cafeteria at N. Aurelius Elementary. She requested additional cafeteria supervision, availability of hand sanitizer, and a peanut free lunch room table.

Rebecca Swartz of 600 N. College Rd., Mason, MI requested Mason Public Schools become the fiscal agent for A+ English Language School. The A+ English Language School provides English communication skills to foreign-born adult learners. The program is fully funded and staffed and serves approximately 205 students ages 18 to 72. The school focuses on English as a second language and looks to expand GED and Adult Basic Education. Other districts that have served as past fiscal agents for the school include East Lansing, Haslett, Okemos and Lansing. Mrs. Swartz requested fiscal support from Mason Public Schools to continue serving Ingham and surrounding counties.

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Anne Devitto of 800 Charrington Court, Mason, MI shared her excitement in support of the music program. Next year, the marching band will have approximately 150 students. Ms. Devitto requested a full-time band director for the middle school.

SPECIAL REPORTS/COMMENTS

School Study Committee

School Study Committee Chair, Chris Waltz shared the committee's recommendation to place a bond proposal on the November 7, 2017 ballot. Several members of the committee were in attendance.

The committee met consecutively for 10 months and volunteered over 1200 hours to achieve the recommendation. Mrs. Waltz stated "the School Study Committee brought a unique prospective and healthy debates when discussing building configurations, facility options and 21st century educational needs." The group studied the previous bond proposal, designed and analyzed an EPIC MRA survey, and invited community members and staff to attend the open meetings. The committee felt that the community would not support a new 4/5th grade building and desires full use of the James C. Harvey Education Center (HEC). The 2017 bond proposal will create a dynamic early learning program. By moving all kindergarten students to the HEC, current overcrowding at each elementary school will be addressed. N. Aurelius, Steele and Alaidon Elementary will receive renovations and additional space to become 1-5 grade buildings. The bond proposal will include improvements to HVAC, mechanical and facility upgrades, technology, and safety and security at all buildings. The proposal also includes \$1.95 million to purchase new buses.

Board of Education members asked questions of the committee. The largest concern of the School Study Committee was elementary overcrowding. The committee studied class sizes and classroom square footage and prefers elementary buildings contain approximately 400 students. The committee had a strong consensus to move kindergarten to the HEC. The committee reviewed many different proposals ranging from 50 million to 80 million. To be responsive to voters, the committee recommended keeping the proposal under 70 million.

School Study Committee members spoke regarding the proposal. One member supports the proposal and would have liked more. She believes the community will support the proposal. Another member stated we have to fix the overcrowding in our schools. A third member asked board members to reach out to the community by being an advocate for the proposal. Another committee member stated that he would have agreed to an 80 million dollar bond. The majority of the School Study Committee agreed to a lower amount.

President Creamer and Board of Education members thanked the School Study Committee for their dedication and hard work.

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Drzewicki discussed the process. The deadline for the preliminary application is June 22, 2017. The application would include numbers and details of the proposal. Any additions or alterations to the bond proposal would need to be complete at that time, depending on the scope of the changes. A meeting would follow with the Department of Treasury on June 28, 2017. Once the application is reviewed by Treasury, the Board of Education will have a formal vote to approve

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the application at the July Board of Education meeting. Ballot language would be approved in August and forwarded to county clerks.

Ted Moore of Moore Trosper Construction stated there is much work to be completed for the application. Jeff Hoag, GMB added that typically there are not many updates from the Department of Treasury prior to the board vote in July. The application is written with flexibility in mind. Teaching stations, enrollment and financial projections are included. Ballot language will identify allowable expenditures in bond dollars. The Department of Treasury will be sure the proposal is in-line with the dollars for the scope identified.

Board of Education members agreed conceptually that they could support moving kindergarten to the HEC. A suggestion was made to add two additional classrooms at N. Aurelius Elementary and one additional classroom at the HEC. It was suggested to offset cost of the classroom additions by a reduction in HVAC scope of work. HVAC updates can be made with Sinking Fund dollars.

Board members continued discussion on bond proposal contents, the recommended additional classrooms and renovation to HEC.

The Board of Education took a five minute break. Board returned to open session at 9:11 p.m.

Board members reviewed, retracted and amended the language of the resolution following discussion of additional classrooms and exploration of demolishing HEC verses facility additions.

Liz Evans made and Laura Cheney supported a motion to authorize the Superintendent to work with GMB Architects-Engineers, The Skillman Corporation, H.J. Umbaugh & Associates, Certified Public Accounts, LLP and Thrun Law Firm, P.C., to prepare a Preliminary Qualification Application for the contemplated bond project as presented and discussed, with an additional \$2.5 million to explore additions at H.E.C. and N. Aurelius Elementary and meet with the Michigan Department of Treasury officials to finalize such Preliminary Qualification Application prior to being submitted to the Board for their approval. Motion carries 4-2.

Board of Education members thanked the School Study Committee members.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Creamer shared a thank you card from Mrs. Linda Pierce regarding staff longevity gifts.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Laura Cheney made and Liz Evans supported a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of minutes of the May 8, 2017, regular meeting; May 8, 2017, closed session; May 15, 2017, special meeting; amended June 5, 2017, work session; Teacher Recommendation's Report No. 27; Personnel Report No. 28; Financial Report No. 29; including payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,803,522.54, Food Service Fund bills in the amount of \$78,040.77, Student Activities Fund bills in the amount of \$91,436.60, and Sinking Fund bills in the amount of \$134,803.50. All yes. Motion carried 6-0.

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COMMITTEE AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Finance and Property

The committee met on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Cheryl S. Wald shared government law requirements for school lunch prices. For compliance, the district was required to add \$.10 to elementary lunch prices. Secondary lunch prices were in compliance.

2017-18 School Lunch Prices

Tom Curtis made and Christopher Mumby supported a motion to approve the 2017-18 school lunch prices, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Cheryl S. Wald defined the collection of operating taxes. In order to levy the requested millage, taxing authorities are required to submit an L-4029 tax rate request form to each township/city in which they have authority.

Summer Operating Tax Certification

Christopher Mumby made and Tom Curtis supported a motion to approve the summer operating tax certification, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Community and Staff Relations

Minutes from April 17, 2017 and the May 17, 2017 were included in board packets. April committee minutes were not available, however, reported out at the May 8, 2017 Board of Education meeting.

Tom Curtis referred to minutes from the May 17, 2017 meeting. Rick Brooks provided a general staffing update. Superintendent Drzewicki shared details about the Dart Foundation "Next Level" Grant application. The committee discussed teacher tenure recommendations and leadership team renewals. An update on the progress of the School Study Committee was heard.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Policy and Curriculum

Laura Cheney referred to minutes from the May 24, 2017 meeting. Deb Disbro presented the Flex program which provides English Language Arts Curriculum for special education classes. The committee discussed curriculum council and teacher leader structure. Members reviewed 2017-18 elementary and middle school handbooks. The handbooks reference NEOLA policies. An update on the Dart Foundation "Next Level" grant was provided. The grant request was submitted on May 15, 2017. A School Study Committee update was heard. Spring NEOLA updates and revisions were reviewed and discussed. Minutes of the Monday, June 12, 2017 meeting will be reported at the June 26, 2017 meeting.

2017-18 Elementary Handbook

Laura Cheney made and Christopher Mumby supported a motion to approve the changes to the 2017-18 Elementary Handbook, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 6-0.

2017-18 Middle School Handbook

Laura Cheney made and Liz Evans supported a motion to approve the changes to the 2017-18 Middle School Handbook, as presented. All yes. Motion carried 6-0.



Special Education FLEX Curriculum Pilot – First Reading

First reading was presented for the special education FLEX curriculum pilot.

NEOLA Updates – First Reading

First reading was presented for Spring NEOLA updates and revisions.

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Tim Ayres responded to the peanut allergy request stating, Mr. Mike Prelesnik, Principal of N. Aurelius Elementary is working with the families. The district is exploring options, working with the school nurse and student’s physician. The district is reviewing legal requirements.

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER MATTERS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Drzewicki noted upcoming Board of Education meetings. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. followed by a meeting on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Michael Kelly of 1021 W. Dansville Road, Mason, MI addressed the Board of Education regarding the bond proposal. He stated School Study Committee members that were uncomfortable with the proposal were not present at the board meeting. He asked the Board of Education to reconsider and ask more of the consultants. Mr. Kelly believes this plan is not much different than the previous plan, growth is misrepresented and there is not enough information to convince the community.

Mr. Matt Hall of 760 Hunting Meadows, Mason, MI stated in the risk of speaking for the committee, it is not the intent of the committee to ask the community for additional funding in 5-6 years.

Ms. Katherine Hicks of 1900 N. Harrison Rd. East Lansing, MI and 7th grade teacher at Mason Middle School addressed board members. She stated that due to lack of respect and the amount of things added to teachers, it is hard to encourage young adults to get into teaching. With more and more responsibilities there is less time for creativity. The position is scripted and enjoyment is disappearing. There is financial concerns when a small percentage raise is engulfed by health insurance costs. During negotiations, Ms. Hicks asked board members and administrators to think about families when talking about a hard cap for insurance and pay raises.

CLOSED SESSION – STUDENT REINSTATEMENT REQUEST [CN-161706]

Tim Ayres made and Liz Evans supported a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of conducting a student reinstatement request. All yes. Motion carried 6-0.

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

The Board entered closed session at 10:10 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.

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The Board returned to open session at 10:15 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION – NEGOTIATIONS

Liz Evans made and Christopher Mumby supported a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of negotiations. All yes. Motion carried 6-0.

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

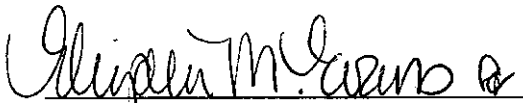
The Board entered closed session at 10:16 p.m.

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 10:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Laura Cheney made and Christopher Mumby supported a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. All yes. Motion carried 6-0.



Laura Cheney
Secretary

