

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – February 13, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Midland Public Schools, Midland, Michigan, was held at the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan, on Monday, February 13, 2012, beginning at 7 p.m. in accordance with the requirements of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1 et.seq. effective July 1, 1996, and the policies established in How Midland Schools Work.

1. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL

Board members present: President Mault,
 Vice President Wasserman,
 Secretary Baker,
 Treasurer Ohle,
 Member Brandstadt,
 Member Kaminski

Board members absent: Member Gorton

Central staff present: Superintendent Ellinger
 Associate Superintendent Cline
 Associate Superintendent Ellison

Central staff absent: Assistant Superintendent Verlinde

Visitors present: 11 staff, citizens and guests

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Ohle/Wasserman moved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved.

- 2.1 Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of Monday, January 23, 2012.
- 2.2 The following staff members have announced their resignation effective as of the date indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Scott Warren	District Systems Analyst	February 3, 2012
Judith Richards	District Speech Pathologist	February 9, 2012

- 2.3 Approval was requested to authorize payment for the following legal bills:

FIRM	DATE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Thrun Law Firm, P.C.	1/26/2012	\$11,097.07	Professional Services
AMOUNT DUE		\$11,097.07	

Motion passed unanimously.

3. **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

- 3.1 Ms. Betty Chenoweth, 4403 Dyckman Street, addressed the Board of Education as Co-President of the Midland Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) regarding sexual harassment in schools and resources promoted by the AAUW for combating it.

4. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS**

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

For Information:

- 4.1 Superintendent's Report from Mr. Ellinger
- On Wednesday, February 15, MPS is taking a 23-member group to visit a New Tech program in Pinckney Public Schools. Those participating in the visit are the curriculum division, high school principals, four staff members from each high school, Mr. David Dziedzic, Mr. Joe Asiala from MiTech+ and Mr. Ellinger. The cost of the trip is being paid by MiTech+; we appreciate their support of our investigation into this programming area.
 - On February 7th, Dr. Ellison and Mr. Ellinger had lunch with a representative of the Dow Chemical Company's Governmental Affairs Division who is actively soliciting educators' input on educational curricula. The company has offered summer training opportunities to MPS teachers, along with teachers across the country, and is actively looking to create educational partnerships with public schools.
 - The district has completed our kindergarten orientation meetings at each elementary building.
 - On Friday, February 10, 2012, the district hosted our monthly District Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meeting. The topic, presented by Dr. Ellison, Mr. Bob Cooper and Mr. Ellinger was K-12 district testing and assessment: why we do it, when we do it and how the district, state and colleges use the collected data.
 - Mr. Ellinger has attended MiTech+, Midland Tomorrow, Chamber of Commerce and the Mid-Michigan Medical Center Board meetings and subcommittee meetings this past month representing a voice from MPS on each community group.
 - Mr. Ellinger also attended the Michigan Association of School Administrators' Winter Conference in early February.
 - On January 27th Mr. Ellinger attended a 2011-2012 MDE Accountability Tour: Important Updates on Accountability Topics by the Michigan Department of Education's Bureau of Assessment & Accountability. This interesting day in Ingham County made clear that our future funding will be tied to District student growth, even at the building and teacher level.
 - The district has conducted first-line interviews for our District Technology Director (a management not administrative position).

- Update on teacher negotiations: both the Board of Education & the Midland City Education Association have filed their final “Fact Finding” briefs with the Fact Finder. We are hopeful to have a determination by mid-March with the Fact Finder’s report.
- The MPS Curriculum Division has been very busy this past month planning for the 21st Century Learning Community Panel, planning two full days of professional development for District School Improvement Plan work in combination with the Great Lakes Bay Educational Consortium, and working with the International Baccalaureate study committee examining potential expansion of our IB programming options and providing support for our principals in their curriculum and orientation meetings for next year’s incoming students.
- On January 26, Midland Public Schools received the second payment of \$340,000 for a total for a total commitment of \$680,000 in support of the International Baccalaureate Programme by The Dow Chemical Company Foundation. We thank the foundation for this very generous gift.
- Later this week, the Michigan Legislature could be voting on the Cyber School Bill, which will uncap the future expansion of cyber schools in the State of Michigan. The proposed senate bill, which goes to the House for potential action in the near future, provides no restriction on out-of-state cyber school companies making huge profits from the State school aid fund tax dollars. Cyber schools receive the same funding per student as charter schools, but do not build or operate buildings, have no transportation costs and can have student to teacher ratios as high as 270 to 1. When cyber schools were created in Michigan, the intent was for the MDE to issue a report on the progress made after the first two years of operation. Now before a report can be issued, this legislation seeks to lift the cap. I urge our Board, community and staff to contact your legislator to oppose this risky legislation.

Mr. Mault expressed his concern about the proposed cyber schools legislation and reiterated the importance of board members contacting their legislator to voice their opposition to this bill.

Recommended For Action:

Ohle/Wasserman moved to approve the Sinking Fund Abatement Monitoring Service.

- 4.2 Bids have been accepted for air monitoring services associated with the upcoming asbestos abatement projects. The project involves preparing bid documents identifying scope of work, onsite air monitoring during abatement activities as well as post abatement clearance sampling. The administration recommended issuing a purchase order to the low bidder, Sierra Technical Services of Freeland, LLC., at a total cost of \$8,640. This project was previously approved by the Board of Education and funding is included in the 2012 Sinking Fund projects budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

Wasserman/Kaminski moved for the adoption of the Best Practices Incentive Resolution.

- 4.3 Section 22f of the State School Aid Act provides \$100 per pupil one-time grants to districts that satisfy at least 4 of 5 best practices criteria not later than June 1, 2012. Approval of the attached resolution is required to qualify for the grant. \$822,033 has been included in the mid-year budget adjustment to reflect this additional one-time revenue.

WHEREAS, Section 22f of the State School Aid Act provides \$100 per pupil one-time grants to districts that satisfy at least 4 of 5 best practices criteria not later than June 1, 2012 [MCL 388.1622f].

WHEREAS, the board of education of Midland Public Schools desires to receive the \$100 per pupil incentive payment.

WHEREAS, the Midland Public Schools has satisfied at least 4 of 5 best practices criteria.

WHEREAS, eligibility for the incentive payment is contingent upon adopting a resolution that states the district has complied with at least 4 of 5 of the best practice criteria.

Now, therefore, be it resolved as follows:

1. *The board of education of Midland Public Schools certifies that the district has complied with the following requirements:*
 - *The district is the designated policy holder for medical benefit plan(s) pursuant to Section 22f(1)(b).*
 - *The district will develop a Service Consolidation Plan pursuant to Section 22f(1)(c). A copy of the school board signed resolution agreeing to develop a service consolidation plan was sent to MDE on January 24, 2012. We agree to send MDE a status report on the development/implementation of the plan by February 1st each year.*
 - *The district has obtained a competitive bid on non-instructional services pursuant to Section 22f(1)(d).*
 - *The district will provide a link on the district's home page to the url for the MI School Data Portal which will contain the required dashboard indicators pursuant to Section 22f(1)(e). If certain data elements for our district are unavailable from State data collections, we agree to provide those data in the form and manner determined by MDE.*
2. *The board of education of Midland Public Schools authorizes and directs its secretary to file this resolution with the State Aid and School Finance Office of the Michigan Department of Education.*

3. *All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.*

Resolved this 13th day of February, 2012.

Roll Call Vote: Passed: 6 Failed: 0

Resolution declared adopted.

*/s/ Lynn Baker
Lynn Baker, Secretary, Board of Education*

Ohle/Wasserman moved that the following Mid Year Budget Adjustment be approved at the recommendation of Mr. Ellinger.

- 4.4 Ms. Cline presented several necessary adjustments to the 2011-12 budget. She explained that the 2011-12 budget was developed in June 2011 (the previous school year) and then enrollment and student needs changed and state revenue changed. The revenue increased by \$2,666,731 and expenses increased by \$224,658. As revenue (General Fund Revenue \$78,606,000) and expenses (General Fund expenditures \$83,159,618) stand now, \$4,553,618 will be needed from the Fund Balance. Expenses are projected to be 98% of the budget. Ms. Cline also discussed preliminary 2012-13 budget forecasts. The 2011-12 final budget revision will be presented to the Board on June 25.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Study Committee Chair – Mr. Mault
Staff Resource Person – Mr. Ellinger**

For Information:

- 5.1 The “Administrative Services Study Committee Report” was read aloud by Mr. Mault (Chair). The meeting was held on January 26, 2012. Members present were Mr. Ken Mault (chair), Mrs. Lynn Baker, Mrs. Angela Brandstadt and Mr. Carl Ellinger. Also present was Mrs. Cindy Young.

The Administrative Services Study Committee reviewed the 1000 ADMINISTRATION as well as 3000 PROFESSIONAL STAFF Policies 3110 and 3111. The sections will be presented to the full Board for adoption at a future Board of Education meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 8, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., beginning with Policy 3112.

6. CURRICULUM and INSTRUCTION**Study Committee Chair – Dr. Kaminski**
Staff Resource Person – Dr. Ellison**For Information:**

6.1 The following book was presented for the 28-day period of examination. This book is available for review at the office of Curriculum and Instruction.

This book will be used in English 7th Grade.

Title: Touching Spirit Bear
Author: Ben Mikaelson
Publisher: Harper Trophy
Copyright: 2001

7. FINANCE**Study Committee Chair – Mr. Ohle**
Staff Resource Person – Ms. Cline**For Information:**

7.1 The “Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Report” was read aloud by Mr. Ohle (chair). The meeting was held on Monday, January 30, 2011. Members present were Mr. Rick Ohle (chair), Mr. Jerry Wasserman, Mr. Carl Ellinger, Mr. Gary Verlinde, Mrs. Carol Laux. Also present, Mr. Chris Sabourin.

Mrs. Laux reviewed the November and December financial reports.

Mrs. Laux reviewed the 2011/12 budget adjustments which will be on the February 13th agenda. The highlights of the discussion included:

- *Revenue is up an assumed ONE TIME TOTAL of \$2.6 million versus budgeted expectations last June. There were 4 major contributors to these one time increases:*
 - *\$822,033 due to one-time incentive grant of \$100 per pupil for meeting four of the five best financial practices as determined by MDE.*
 - *\$408,841 due to enrollment exceeding budget expectations by approximately 50 students, the majority of which are at the high school level.*
 - *\$253,250 from a grant to cover the cost for ICT facilitators that was received AFTER the June budget process.*
 - *\$1,076,000 for tax appeal refund of sinking fund monies. This refund is due to subtleties in the state funding rules for hold-harmless districts. Midland Public received \$1,076,000 as a result of the MCV tax appeal for tax years 2008 and 2009. The taxpayers also received a reduction in their winter 2011 tax bill as a result of this tax appeal relating to tax years 2010 and 2011.*
 - *At the time of the FFO meeting it is assumed all these items are ONE TIME occurrences and the vast majority will likely NOT be repeated next year (this may change pending the Governor’s Budget announcements on February 9, 2012).*

- *Changes on the expense side of the budget relate to the elimination of teacher steps and related costs since a teacher's contract has not yet been settled. Should a contract be settled yet this fiscal year, the budget would be increased to allow for the payment of steps remaining for the balance of the budget year. There was savings from changes made in insurance carriers after the beginning of the fiscal year. Also, administration advised the purchase of nine (9) buses out of this year's budget since the district received additional one-time revenues. There were no bus purchases in the beginning budget for 2011-12 pending an ESA examination of the merits of coordinated countywide transportation services for interested local districts. Enhancement Millage dollars will be used for this purchase as promised to the voters during the County Enhancement election.*

Mr. Sabourin highlighted the 2012-2015 Technology Plan, reviewing the history and accomplishments of the technology department and goals for the future.

Mr. Ellinger led a discussion on the district's long-term financial needs. Items discussed included the potential renewal of the sinking fund millage, potential of a technology bond millage and the consideration of a new tech high school concept.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28 at 5:00.

7.2 The following gifts, which total \$1,310 have been received and processed:

	Donor	Purpose	Amount
	Eldon D. Enger (co-author)	Science books and lab manuals	
(3)	Chestnut Hill PTO	Bus Transportation for Chestnut Hill 5th Grade trip to Crossroads Village	\$ 1,310.00

Acceptance of the following gift totaling \$20,000.00 was recommended:

Wasserman/Ohle moved that the following item be approved:

	Donor	Purpose	Amount
(2)	C. B. & Anita Branch Trust	Scholarship to the top Midland High and Dow High science graduates pursuing a major in science	\$20,000.00

An appropriate thanks to the donors is recommended.

Motion carried unanimously

8. HUMAN RESOURCES**Study Committee Chair – Mr. Wasserman**
Staff Resource Person – Mr. Verlinde**For Information:**

8.1 The Board and staff extended their deepest sympathy to the family of Ms. Venida Burch who passed away on January 27, 2012. She worked in the cafeteria at Midland High School and Central Intermediate School, retiring in 1988.

8.2 The following staff member has announced his retirement effective as of the date indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
D. Paul Stimers	Art Teacher, H. H. Dow High School	February 16, 2012

9. TECHNOLOGY**For Action:**

Kaminski/Ohle moved to adopt the 2012-2015 Technology Plan.

9.1 The current Midland Public Schools technology plan will expire in June of 2012. In accordance with State guidelines, an updated plan has been developed. The technology plan for the years 2012-2015 incorporates each area required by the State of Michigan and covers: vision and goals, curriculum integration, student achievement, professional development, technical support, infrastructure and budget. An extensive appendix contains: technology standards and benchmarks, technology assessment results, staff development survey results, Acceptable Use of Telecommunications and Technology Guidelines, and Copyright Guidelines. Administration requested Board approval of the plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**For Information:**

10.1 Letters from the Board of Education or the school system to:
Midland Rotary Foundation
Siebert Elementary School
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Trombka
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Ohle
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wasserman
Mr. and Mrs. Edmund LaCross
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Baker
H. H. Dow High Music Parents
Eastlawn Elementary P.T.O.

H. H. Dow High Athletic Booster Club
The Dow Chemical Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Paul White

11. SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

For Information:

The following is a listing of scheduled meetings or activities of the Board of Education for 2012:

February 27, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
March 12, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
March 26, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
April 16, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
April 30, 2012	3 p.m.	Budget Workshop of the Board of Education
May 14, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
May 29, 2012 (Tuesday)	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
June 11, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
June 25, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
July 16, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
August 13, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
August 27, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
September 10, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
September 24, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
October 8, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
October 22, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
November 12, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
November 26, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
December 10, 2012	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

12. STUDY-DISCUSSION SESSION

This portion of the agenda is utilized by the Board to introduce topics for future study, to discuss school district-related matters, to complete professional association business and to relate items of interest. No action is taken during this time. Occasionally closed sessions are scheduled to discuss confidential personnel, negotiations or property matters.

12.1 Hearing from Board Members: Thank you to the C. B. & Anita Branch Trust for their very generous gift and to all of our donors for their support of our students. Thank you to the Dow Chemical Company Foundation for their extremely generous monetary support for the MPS International Baccalaureate Programme. Thank you also to MiTech+ for their willingness to provide the financial support to send a team to Pinckney Public Schools to look at the New Tech High School program. Thank you to Ms. Chenoweth for the information presented this evening. Thank you to the teachers for a very successful exam period at the end of the first semester. One board member experienced a very enjoyable visit to Mrs. Jacobs' third grade class at Plymouth Elementary. The board enjoyed the Midland High's *Quilters* one-act play; the group did very well at districts and will be heading to State competition very soon. We are

looking forward to Dow High's Ren Fair coming on February 24. This past weekend, both of our high school Pompon teams competed in State competition and did a great job. Thank you to MPS parents, friends and supporters for your expressions of pride and pleasure with having their children attend Midland Public Schools and for recognizing the great school district we have. We would like to thank Ms. Cline for the mid-year budget presentation this evening and doing a great job of summarizing the budget and laying it out very clearly for us as well as staying on top of the changing economic picture from the State. We are not happy about the incremental expenses imposed on us by the state. Thank you to Mr. Sabourin for presenting the 2012-15 MPS Technology Plan. Reminder that nominations are now open for the 2012 Gerstacker Proficiency Teaching Award; nominations will be accepted until March 16, 2012. Go to the MPS website for more information with regard to the Teaching Award. We encourage the Board and community to support the March 23rd Booster Bash at Dow Diamond, 6:30 p.m., for a combined fund raising activity for both high schools. We are pleased to see the ICT grant renewed for three years. We are unsure why public schools are held to certain standards and cyber schools are not held to the same level of accountability. We hope that Ms. Gorton who couldn't be with us this evening is feeling better. The Midland Area Community Foundation has more than 100 scholarships available for students and they are accepting applications until March 2.

12.2 Announcements from Superintendent Ellinger:

- We are in the planning stages of setting up a trip to the Dallas, Texas area and hope to have three Board members and some community members join us to look at a New Tech High School as well as a more technical S.T.E.M.-type high school. Please let Mr. Mault or Mr. Ellinger know if you are interested in being part of this trip so we can start to look at possible dates.
- I am pleased to announce that Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed this week--February 13-17--as Michigan School Principals' Week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Building Principals and Assistant Principals for their professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm for the staff, students and families in our twelve MPS buildings.
- Congratulations to the Midland High DECA student members who qualified for the state DECA conference
- A special congratulation goes out to the Midland High wrestler for being selected as this month's ESPN 100.9 scholar athlete as well as the Saginaw SVL wrestling MVP.
- Congratulations to Dow High Varsity and JV Pompon teams who competed in the Mid-American Pompon Regional competition on Saturday, January 28. Both teams received scores in the highest performance bracket, advancing them to the Class A/Division I State Championship.
- Congratulations to the Midland High Choral students that participated in this year's District Solo and Ensemble Festival held at CMU, Saturday, February 4. Midland High had an outstanding showing with almost all events being selected to move on to the State level.
- On Saturday, February 4th, fifty choir students from Jefferson performed at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival at CMU. It was a great day for Jefferson Huskie singers. Congratulations!



- Congratulations to the cast, crews, and pit orchestra of "Quilters" on their 1st place finish at the Saturday, January 28, One-Act District Theatre Festival. The production then competed in the Holland Regional competition this past Saturday where they qualified for States.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

President: _____
Kenneth D. Mault

Secretary: _____
Lynn M. Baker

Approved by the Board on:

C. Young 27-Feb-2012