

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES – March 12, 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, March 12, 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 Gorton,  
  Member Kaminski

Central staff present:            Superintendent Ellinger,  
  Assistant Superintendent Verlinde,  
  Associate Superintendent Cline,  
  Associate Superintendent Ellison

Visitors present:                 32 staff, citizens and guests

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ohle/Kaminski moved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved

- 2.1 Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of Monday, February 27, 2012.
- 2.2 The following book was presented for the 28-day period of examination on February 13. This book will be used in English 7<sup>th</sup> Grade.

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

The administration recommended approval of this book.

- 2.3 The following staff member has announced his resignation effective as of the date indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jared McCarty	Paraprofessional, Siebert Elementary	March 16, 2012

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

FIRM	DATE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Thrun Law Firm, P.C.	2/24/2012	\$634.64	Professional Services
<b>AMOUNT DUE</b>		<b>\$634.64</b>	

Motion carried unanimously.

**3. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

3.1 Ms. Frances Martinez, 2903 Lambros, Counselor at Central and Northeast Middle Schools, addressed the Board of Education with regard to added counselor responsibilities and potential salary cuts.

Christine Swan, 360 West Gordonville Road, Teacher at Central Middle School, addressed the Board of Education with regard to teacher responsibilities, potential salary cuts and teacher contract negotiations.

Ms. Nancy Bussineau, 5301 Plainfield, Counselor at Midland High School, addressed the Board of Education with regard to overloaded classrooms, increased counselor load and potential salary cuts.

Mr. Thomas Deitsch, 5315 Dale, retired MPS employee, addressed the Board of Education with regard to building cleanliness, potential salary cuts and teacher cuts.

Mary Ann DeRosia, 3600 Leonard Lane, Bay County Social Worker, spoke with regard to potential teacher salary cuts.

John Mulvaney, 725 Ireland Lane, Teacher at Midland High School, spoke with regard to potential salary cuts and teacher contract negotiations.

Patricia Clancy, 1910 Westbury Court, Teacher at Eastlawn Elementary, spoke to the Board of Education with regard to added teacher responsibilities and teacher contract negotiations.

Mark Camilleri, 1299 South 9 Mile Road, Teacher at Midland High, spoke to the Board of Education with regard to potential teacher salary cuts and teacher contract negotiations.

**4. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS**

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

**For Information:**

4.1 Superintendent's Report from Mr. Ellinger

- On Friday, February 17, the District provided a training session to inform MPS teachers of the most popular drugs found in schools. This event was the result of a summer Midland Partnership for Drug Free Youth coalition meeting. Many MPS teachers and administrators attended the meeting in addition to out-county school staff members and community members. The event was informative with two recent MPS graduates speaking from personal experience.
- Mr. Verlindé attended the Michigan Institute for Educational Management conference on February 29 entitled “Educator Evaluations: Integrating Student Growth Data.”
- On February 29 at Midland High, Mrs. Marlene Searles held an informational night for all MPS 2012-13 Juniors and Seniors interested in obtaining information about the Great Lakes Bay Early College option.
- Last week, a group of 21 MPS administrators and teachers including Mr. Verlindé, Dr. Ellison, Mr. Sabourin, Mr. Cochran and Mr. Paris attended the MACUL (Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning) Conference in Grand Rapids entitled “Empowering Innovation.”
- Ms. Cline attended a Health Care Reform Compliance Conference in Southeast Michigan on March 8.
- Mr. Ellinger attended the monthly Board meeting of the Legacy Center for Community Success.
- Today was a non-attendance day for MPS students; staff members met for professional development.
- Northeast Middle School update: two rooms had significant damage as a result of the recent fire. It will be a number of weeks before we can hold classes in those two rooms. The other three affected rooms will be ready for classes beginning tomorrow morning. There is still a slight smoke smell in the building; the clean up crew did a wonderful job however. We will keep you informed about the progress of the arson investigation by the Midland Police Department.
- Late Thursday afternoon we blew a transformer at the Administration Center that created problems for our in-house technology services throughout the evening. Some of our technical service employees worked 36 hours straight.

## 5. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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

### For Information:

- 5.1 Administrative Services Study Committee Minutes were read aloud by Mr. Ken Mault. The meeting was held on Thursday, March 8, 2012. Members present were Ken Mault (chair), Lynn Baker, Angela Brandstadt and Carl Ellinger. Others in Attendance: Cindy Young.

*The Administrative Services Study Committee continued reviewing the 3000 PROFESSIONAL STAFF Policies. The sections will be presented to the full Board for adoption at a future Board of Education meeting.*

*Next meeting: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 5:00 p.m., beginning with Policy 3122.02.*

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

- 6.1 Curriculum and Special Services (CaSS) Study Committee Minutes were read aloud by Dr. John Kaminski. The meeting was held on Monday, February 27, 2012. Members Present were John Kaminski (chair), Lynn Baker, Carl Ellinger, Kathy Ellison and Gary Verlinde

***Instructional Consultation Team (ICT)***

*ICT Facilitators Bob Paris, Gaye Beebe, Carol Brown and Lisa Hohman provided a presentation that explained the current Response to Intervention process used by Midland Public Schools. The IC facilitators are currently funded through a grant by the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation. The grant has covered the first three years of implementation and will continue for two more years to provide support to develop a systematic problem-solving process in the district to help support at-risk learners and reduce the number of students identified with a Learning Disability. The facilitators presented a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the process for identifying students that need assistance.*

*The facilitators outlined the IC process and the process for teachers requesting assistance from a case manager to collaboratively problem solve on issues related to student academic and behavioral difficulties. The ICT process allows for a focus on what children can do and what instructional conditions we need to create for students to have academic success. There were teacher testimonies from Beth Quimby, Deb Kaiser, Mary Smith and Amanda VanHoey. The teachers also answered follow-up questions that were asked by the committee members.*

***EXPLORE / PLAN***

*Bob Cooper, Mathematics and Testing Coordinator, provided a brief overview of MPS's participation in EXPLORE / PLAN testing.*

*Next CaSS meeting: April 16, 2012*

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

- 7.1 Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Minutes were read aloud by Mr. Rick Ohle. The meeting was held on February 29, 2012. Members present were: Rick Ohle (chair), Gerald Wasserman, John Kaminski, Carl Ellinger, Gary Verlinde, Linda Cline, and Carol Laux. Also in attendance was Dave Kostus.

*Mr. Kostus joined the committee at the beginning of the meeting to review where we are with this summer's sinking fund projects. He also provided a list of capital projects*

*that should be considered for the next 10 years. The group discussed the pros and cons of postponing this summer's projects until a decision has been made regarding a future sinking fund.*

*Mrs. Laux reviewed the January financial reports. They were included on the consent agenda for the February 27 meeting. Mr. Wasserman provided information on an account at a local credit union paying higher interest rates than we currently receive. (Following the meeting Mrs. Laux contacted the credit union; they indicated that they don't handle business or government accounts.)*

*Upcoming agenda items will include recommendations of bids for classroom projectors for Adams Elementary and for providing wireless access in all instructional areas throughout the district. These will complete the projects funded by the multi-year technology grant.*

*Mrs. Cline shared a draft of the service consolidation plan that the district agreed to develop as one of the financial best practices that qualifies us to receive \$100 per pupil this year. She noted that in addition to collaborative arrangements with other districts, we have many productive partnerships with the city and county as well as with private entities such as the Midland Community Center.*

*Following up on comments made during the mid-year budget revision, Mrs. Cline provided examples of the effects of delaying steps and the MPSERS offset payments on future budget increases. Both reduce expenses in the current year but require larger increases than usually budgeted in future years.*

*Mrs. Cline clarified the Governor's proposal to provide incentives for best practices and achievement. Although the amount for best practices has been estimated at \$75 per pupil, the actual amount will depend on how much of the money is needed to fund the achievement incentive. Since the achievement incentive depends in part on a test that won't be taken until March, we may not know when we adopt the budget whether we qualify or how much will be available to fund the best practices incentive. Committee members advised Mrs. Cline to be very cautious about the amounts included in the 2012-2013 budget for these items.*

*Mr. Ellinger engaged the group in a lively and lengthy discussion on capital needs, technology and future millage requests. Mrs. Cline provided a chart showing the current mill rates, the amounts raised by each, and the years of expiration. During the discussion, the following questions were raised:*

- 1. What was the levy for the Plant, Repair, Maintenance, and Equipment millage that the district was permitted to have until the passage of Proposal A? Answer: 0.63 mills. At current taxable values, it would raise \$1.6 million each year. This is less than 1% of the replacement cost of our buildings.*

2. *Are there time limits on bonds for technology (i.e. can the bond duration exceed the useful life of the purchase)? Answer: It appears that time restrictions apply only if qualifying for the school bond loan fund. We would need to get a definitive answer from bond counsel before proceeding with a technology bond.*

*Additional discussion will take place at a Board of Education meeting.*

*Due to schedule conflicts, the March meeting has been cancelled. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, April 24, 2012.*

- 7.2 The following gifts, which total \$4,721.96 have been received and processed:

	Donor	Purpose	Amount
(1)	Adams PTO	Adams Teachers' Wish List Items	\$ 1,698.28
(2)	Eastlawn Elementary Student Supplemental Educational Endowment Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation	Family Science Night at Eastlawn	\$ 350.00
(3)	Max Melchi Memorial	Labor, Material and Equipment to Complete Plumbing Work for Northeast Art Room Sink	\$ 1,682.00
(4)	Charles Thornton in Memory of Sherry Thornton	Memorial for Media Center Books at Siebert Elementary	\$ 30.00
(5)	Midland High School Athletic Booster Club	Trainer Supplies at Midland High School	\$ 811.68
(6)	Eastlawn Elementary Student Supplemental Educational Endowment Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation	Eastlawn Kindergarten Trip to Dow Gardens as a Wrap Up to a Year Long Science Unit	\$ 150.00

Appropriate thanks to the donors was recommended.

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 Mr. Lester Dankert who passed away on February 27, 2012. Mr. Dankert served as a member of the Midland Public Schools' Board of Education for 12 years, from 1955 through 1967.
- 8.2 The following staff members have announced their retirement effective as of the dates indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Beth L. Boyer	Teacher, Physical Education	June 8, 2012
James Ferency	Teacher, H. H. Dow High	June 8, 2012
Michael J. McKenna	Teacher, Physical Education	June 8, 2012
Joseph Pockocke	Teacher, Industrial Arts	June 8, 2012
Theodore L. Zook	Emergency Medical Technician, MPS	June 30, 2012
Clifton Holsinger	Grounds	June 30, 2012
Ruth Ann Dow	Driver, Transportation	June 7, 2012
Cathy Bloomfield	Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary	June 7, 2012
Helen M. Henley	Paraprofessional, Woodcrest Elementary	June 7, 2012
Rebecca A. Malkin	Paraprofessional, Central Middle School	June 7, 2012
Cheryl A. Wehrly	Paraprofessional, Woodcrest Elementary	June 7, 2012
Diane Woodcock	Paraprofessional, Post-Secondary	June 7, 2012

**9. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**For Information:**

- 9.1 Letters from the Board of Education or the school system to:
  - H. H. Dow High Athletic Booster Club
  - Plymouth Elementary P.T.O.
  - Woodcrest Elementary P.T.O.
  - Woodcrest Elementary School
  - Mr. Thomas Small
  - Mr. Richard Kuznicki, Jr.

**10. SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES**

**For Information:**

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

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	4 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

## 11. 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.

11.1 Hearing from Board Members: Thank you to everyone who spoke this evening and shared their heartfelt, sincere thoughts and concerns with us. We are listening and often have sleepless nights regarding the tough decisions that we make. Thank you to our teachers for all they do as we look at the success of our students and the positive test scores that were recently reported. You truly are appreciated. Congratulations to the Midland High girls' varsity basketball team and their coach for a great season. Congratulations to our DHS swim team for their success and for those who are state champions. Congratulations also to Coach Elaine Mahabir and Coach Gary Strickler for being named SVL coaches of the year. Congratulations also to all of the winter sports teams for a great season and exciting post-season play. Thank you to Dow High's Symphonic Band for the CD you gave to us at the last Board meeting. Congratulations again to Director Steve DeRees and the Symphonic Band members for their great accomplishment. Congratulations to the Girl Scouts organization for celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Girl Scouting. Thank you to the building staffs as they reserve and help set up for Girls Scouts and many other community organization meetings in the buildings. Thank you to Mrs. Melchi for your generous gift in Mr. Melchi's memory that paid the labor and materials for the new sink in the Northeast art room. Thank you, as well, to all of our other very generous gift donors this evening. It is exciting to hear about the community getting behind the combined efforts of the Midland and Dow High Athletic Booster Clubs for the March 23rd Booster Bash. We encourage everyone to come out and support MPS athletics at this fun event. Thank you to everyone who has helped on the road to recovery after the recent Northeast fire.

### 11.2 Announcements from Superintendent Ellinger

- Congratulations to the Midland High Varsity Hockey Team for being Saginaw Valley League Champions and undefeated in league season play!!
- Congratulations to the Jefferson Middle School 8th grade band on their outstanding performance on Saturday, March 3, at District Festival. They were one of three groups all weekend to receive straight Division One ratings.
- Congratulations to the Midland High Varsity Girls' Basketball team for being Saginaw Valley League Champions. They were undefeated in league season play, winning their third district title in school history and advancing to the regional finals for the second year in a row.





**12. CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:10 p.m. Ohle/Wasserman moved that the Board go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations matters. A roll call vote was taken to go into closed session. Motion carried by those members present (7-0). Discussions relative to negotiations took place.

At 9:25 p.m. the Board went back to Open Session for the purpose of extending the meeting. Ohle/Wasserman moved that the meeting be extended until 10:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

At 9:59 p.m. Ohle/Kaminski moved to end the Closed Session and reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education. Motion carried by those members present (7-0).

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

President: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth D. Mault

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn M. Baker

Approved by the Board on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Young            26-March-2012