

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – October 14, 2013**

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, October 14, 2013, beginning at 7:00 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 Wasserman, Vice President Baker, Secretary Kaminski, Treasurer Brandstadt, Member McFarland, Member Singer
Board members absent:	Member Gorton
Central staff present:	Superintendent Sharrow, Associate Superintendent Cooper
Central staff absent:	Assistant Superintendent Verlinde, Associate Superintendent Cline
Visitors present:	14 staff, citizens and guests

2. OATH OF OFFICE

President Wasserman bestowed the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board Trustee, Pamela Singer.

Brandstadt/Kaminski moved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3.1 Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2013 and Special Meeting Minutes from October 7, 2013
- 3.2 Administration recommended approval of three Letters of Agreement between the district and the Midland City Education Association. One LOA revised current contract language to stipulate American Arbitration Association rules for selection of an arbitrator, when needed. Additionally, there was agreement on extra-compensation stipends for winter competitive cheerleading coaches and the timeline for teachers seeking approval of additional coursework through the Human Resources office. All three LOAs have been ratified by the MCEA.

- 3.3 The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of the dates indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Sarah Angus	Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary	October 11, 2013
Katie M. Ardouin	Paraprofessional, Northeast Middle	October 4, 2013
Nathaniel P. Schwarzbek	Paraprofessional, Jefferson Middle	October 17, 2013
Kathleen M. Stevenson	Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary	October 3, 2013
Jean Tinsley	Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary	September 27, 2013

- 3.4 The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2013-14 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Sarah Ann Haskett	Music Teacher (.4), Jefferson/Northeast/Woodcrest	August 26, 2013
Angela H. Johnson	Kindergarten Teacher (1.0), Chestnut Hill	August 26, 2013
Julia E. Jones	Special Education Teacher (.6), Jefferson	September 3, 2013
Jennifer L. Williamson	School Social Worker (1.0), Special Services	August 26, 2013

- 3.5 Approval was requested to authorize payment for the following legal bill:

FIRM	DATE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Thrun Law Firm P.C.	9/26/2013	4,676.50	Professional Fees
Secret Wardle	9/23/2013	1,271.41	Professional Fees
Dearborn Public Schools	10/4/2013	2,289.40	Equity for Excellence Expense Allocation
AMOUNT DUE		\$8,237.31	

Motion carried unanimously.

4. **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

- 4.1 No hearings were requested.

5. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS**

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

For Information:

- 5.1 Mrs. Melissa DeBoer, H. H. Dow High School Business Education Teacher, presented information from her Advanced Sales Management class entitled, "Here's to you Dow High!" Mrs. DeBoer spoke about her class's partnering with the Midland Club of Toastmasters International to offer the Toastmaster's Youth Program. This wonderful program will assist students to fine tune their communication skills as they become the leaders of tomorrow. Four seniors from the class spoke about their experiences and opportunities in the Sales Management Class and were especially appreciative of the skills they are gaining as they prepare for their college entrance procedures.

- 5.2 Mr. Sharrow presented the February 2013 Enhancement Millage Ballot Language.

REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the proposed millage will be collected by the intermediate school district and distributed to local public school districts based on pupil membership count.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Midland County Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 5 years, 2014 to 2018, inclusive, to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2014 is approximately \$5,203,495 (this is a renewal of millage which expired with the 2013 tax levy).

6. CURRICULUM and INSTRUCTION

Study Committee Chair – Ms. Baker
Staff Resource Person – Mr. Cooper

For Information:

- 6.1 The “Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment (CIA) Study Committee Report” was read aloud by Mrs. Lynn Baker (chair). The meeting was held on September 30, 2013. Members present were L. Baker (chair), R. Cooper, M. Sharrow and G. Verlinde. Others in attendance: B. Cronkright and J. Jaster

Accountability Score Cards

Bob Cooper shared with the committee members how the accountability scorecard is determined for each school. The accountability scorecard replaces the old EDYes! letter grades that schools received in previous years. Colors are being used in place of letter grades. Each building is assigned a color with green being the highest followed by lime, yellow, orange, and red, the lowest. The color is determined by the percentage of possible points achieved on the scorecard based on progress towards the goal of 85% in 2022 for all students and all subgroups in all subject areas along with various “audit checks”. Of the 11 schools in MPS, 10 received yellow and 1 received orange. Statewide 2.8% were green, 0% lime, 76.7% yellow, 5.4% orange, and 15% red.

Top to Bottom

Released at the same time was the accountability scorecards, Bob Cooper also reviewed the annual Top to Bottom rankings for each building. Top to Bottom rankings are determined by three factors at each school. Fifty percent of the score is determined by the achievement level, twenty-five percent is determined by the improvement rate, and twenty-five percent is determined by the size of the achievement gap between the performance of top and bottom 30% in each subject area. Midland Public Schools had 5 schools above the 90th percentile, 2 between the 80th and 90th percentile, 2 between the 70th and 80th percentile, 1 between the 60th and 50th percentile, and 1 between the 30th and 40th percentile.

Focus Schools

This is the second year of the State determining and labeling schools as Reward, Focus, and Priority schools. For the 2013-14 school year Chestnut Hill Elementary School has been identified as a Reward school for scoring in the top 5%. No Midland schools were named as Priority schools. Carpenter Street School, H. H. Dow High School, Midland High School, and Northeast Middle Schools were determined to be Focus Schools. Focus schools are determined by having large achievement gaps between the performance levels of their top and bottom 30% scoring students compared to the state-wide achievement gap. The State has certain requirements that Focus schools must follow. Jeff Jaster and Ben Cronkright shared various activities and strategies that their buildings were using to reduce their achievement gaps. Schools remain Focus schools for 4 years but they can have the requirements suspended if they make enough progress in closing their achievement gap. Four of our 2012-13 Focus schools, Chestnut Hill, Jefferson, Siebert, and Woodcrest, were able to do that for the 2013-14 year.

Topic Ideas and Places to See

The committee brainstormed possible topics and places to visit for future committee meetings.

Next meeting: October 28, 2013

7. FINANCE

Study Committee Chair – Ms. Brandstadt
Staff Resource Person – Ms. Cline

For Information:

7.1 The “Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Report” was read aloud by Ms. Angela Brandstadt (chair). The meeting was held on October 1, 2013. Members present were: A. Brandstadt (chair), G. Wasserman, J. Kaminski, M. Sharrow, G. Verlinde, L. Cline.

Mrs. Cline reviewed the new format of the July and August financial reports. She and Mrs. Laux will continue to refine the format to make the reports more useful.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, adult meals may not be subsidized with federal funds, therefore teachers and other staff members must be charged a higher price than students even if the meal is exactly the same. Schools have the option of charging all a la carte prices or setting an adult unit price for the whole meal. Since we have the option of pricing adult lunches per building or district wide, it makes sense to tie the pricing to quantity and use building level pricing. Following the formula provided by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of School Support, School Nutrition Programs, our adult prices will be as follows:

Current Student Pricing

Elementary Lunch	\$	2.30
Elementary Breakfast	\$	1.40

Proposed MDE Adult Pricing

\$3.00 Special of the day in Elementary only
Packaged lunch meals \$4.55
\$1.90

Secondary Lunch	\$ 3.75	\$4.55 Packaged Meals & Café Meals
Secondary Breakfast	\$ 1.65	\$2.05

Mrs. Cline reported on the following facilities issues:

- *MPS is currently soliciting bids from energy service providers to assist with the purchase of natural gas. We believe that we may be able to save tens of thousands of dollars by changing our purchasing methods. A recommendation will be made at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.*
- *The required monitoring equipment for the underground storage tanks is reaching the end of its useful life. The transportation and maintenance departments are exploring options for dealing with this.*
- *The custom designed aisle lighting in the ends of seats in the Central Auditorium is beginning to fail. Since replacement is likely to be quite costly, our architect is going to recommend alternatives for consideration.*
- *While checking buildings before the opening of school, Mrs. Cline took pictures of areas that are likely to require significant capital or maintenance expenditures in the near future. Mr. Sharrow shared his perspective on the overall condition of our buildings and grounds.*

Although precise data will not be available for another few weeks, preliminary estimates are that enrollment is less than the 7,919 that was budgeted. Administration is identifying cost saving measures to pursue to avoid increasing the anticipated use of fund balance.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 5 at 4 p.m.

7.2 The following gifts, which total \$21,811, were received and processed:

	Donor	Purpose	Amount
1	H. H. Dow High School Music Parents	Supplies, supplemental equipment and Michigan Music Conference expenses	\$ 4,000.00
2	Walmart	Grant to purchase school supplies for MPS secondary buildings and Title I elementary buildings	\$ 2,000.00
3	Woodcrest PTO	Teacher wish list items	\$ 8,111.00
4	Alan W. and Jean M. Ott	H. H. Dow High Debate Program monetary support	\$ 1,000.00
5	Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation	Matching Grant for H. H. Dow High Debate Program	\$ 1,000.00
6	H. H. Dow High School Athletic Booster Club	Cheerleading uniforms	\$ 4,000.00
7	Chestnut Hill Elementary School Administrative Account	Teacher Apps from Scholastic Storia for 5th grade teachers to set up bookshelves on iPads for students use	\$ 700.00

10	H. H. Dow High School Music Parents	Accompanist fees and miscellaneous choir supplies and equipment	\$ 1,000.00
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The following item donation has occurred.

	Donor	Gift donated
(1)	Midland Amateur Radio Club	61-foot tall communications tower at Midland High School for use by the MHS Amateur Radio Club

For Action:

McFarland/Brandstadt moved that the following be approved.

7.3 Acceptance of the following gifts totaling \$185,000 was recommended:

	Donor	Purpose	Amount
8	Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation	Midland Public Schools' International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (first installment of two-year commitment)	\$180,000.00
9	H. H. Dow High School Music Parents	Dow High Orchestra equipment and supplies	\$ 5,000.00

An appropriate thanks to the donors was recommended.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Study Committee Chair – Ms. Baker
Staff Resource Person – Mr. Verlinde

For Information:

8.1 The Board and staff extended their deepest sympathy to the family of Robert E. Campbell, who passed away on September 25, 2013. Mr. Campbell began his employment with Midland Public Schools in 1950. He spent most of his MPS career at Central Intermediate School teaching History and English. He retired after 32 years of service to Midland Public Schools in 1982.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
JoAnn Varner	Administrative Assistant, Payroll	October 1, 2013

9. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

For Information:

9.1 Letters from the Board of Education or the school system to:

Adams Elementary School PTO
Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee
Midland Area Community Foundation
H. H. Dow High Music Boosters
Woodcrest Elementary School PTO

9.2 Letters to the Board of Education or the school system from:

FOIA request from Ms. Karin Bartling, requesting Woodcrest Elementary air quality compliance reports.

10. SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

For Information:

The following is a listing of scheduled meetings or activities of the Board of Education for 2013:

October 28, 2013	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
November 11, 2013	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
November 25, 2013	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
December 9, 2013	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

The following is a tentative listing of meetings or activities of the Board of Education for January-June 2014. Action will take place on these meeting dates at the organizational meeting on January 13, 2014.

January 13, 2014	4 p.m.	Organizational Mtg. of the Board of Education
January 27, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
February 10, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
February 24, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
March 10, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
March 24, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
April 14, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
April 28, 2014	3 p.m.	Budget Workshop of the Board of Education
May 12, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
May 27, 2014 (Tuesday)	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
June 9, 2014	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
June 23, 2014	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

Board members expressed their ...

- welcome to Mrs. Singer and thanks for her willingness to serve as a member of the Midland Public Schools' Board of Education.
- thanks to Mrs. DeBoer and the H. H. Dow High students who presented this evening. It was wonderful to hear how they are learning and growing in their Sales Management class at H. H. Dow High School.
- enthusiasm about the recent Dow Chemical Science and Engineering Festival at Delta College. It was extremely well done and had STEM activities for all students.
- heartfelt thanks to all of our gift donors for their generous gifts this evening and most especially to all of our very generous foundation partners. This evening we especially thank the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation for their financial support of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.
- congratulations to Eastlawn Elementary staff, students and parents and Judge Dorene Allen for all of the progress that has made toward significantly improving student attendance through the Community School Model.
- support through their wearing of the ALL IN pink t-shirts this evening to remember all of our staff, parents, students, friends, family who are struggling with intense health issues.
- kudos to the Dow High Volleyball program for their recent hosting of another very successful "Volley for a Cure" event.
- kudos to the Dow High football program that has raised more than \$10,000 over the past four seasons in support of the Wounded Warrior Project.
- appreciation for the recent Mitech+ STEM Summit held at SVSU. It was exciting to hear Gov. Snyder and the other speakers and look forward to seeing future strides in learning for STEM education.
- congratulations to the Midland High students and computer science teacher, Robert Fox, for their recognition by the State of Michigan for their development of mobile apps to assist people to understand different aspects of State Government.
- congratulations to Midland High students and advisors with their recent production of "Almost Maine."
- congratulations to the DHS equestrian team for their recent success at Regionals.
- invitation to all for this year's Band Showcase being held Wednesday, August 16.
- excitement about our community growing students that are caring, growing and reaching out to others.

11.2 Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow

- Mr. Sharrow was a recent guest speaker at the League of Women Voters. Mr. Wasserman and Mrs. Baker attended the meeting as well. The group of approximately 35-40 citizens allowed for a very comfortable setting and an open discussion about Midland Public Schools.

- Mr. Sharrow stated that Administration will review the budget and present operating structures to find budget reductions that could be made this fiscal year. While doing this review, Administration will also look for savings for 2014-15.
- Lapeer High School will be joining the Saginaw Valley High School Association athletic league for the 2014-15 school year. Lapeer will be an excellent addition to the League.
- The MCESA will be asking County voters to pass a renewal of the enhancement millage in February 2014. We will bring more information to the Board of Education in future meetings about this millage renewal.
- Mr. Sharrow spoke with Carolyn Wierda, the Interim Associate Dean/Executive in Residence for the College of Education at SVSU in regard to a possible partnership with SVSU to have Chinese students study at MPS. SVSU has a working relationship with several schools in China. The cultural experience and the possible increase in enrollment could benefit our school district. Mr. Sharrow will keep the Board informed of the progress of this possible partnership.
- We recently received official notice from the Michigan Department of Education of Chestnut Hill's Reward School status. This status was received because of their performance in the Top 95% of schools in the State. Chestnut Hill will be recognized at the October 28 Board meeting. Congratulations Chestnut Hill!

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

President: _____
Gerald Wasserman

Secretary: _____
John Kaminski

Approved by the Board on:

C. Young 28-October-2013