

Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 8, 2014

Midland Public Schools' Board of Education

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Midland Public Schools, Midland, Michigan was held Monday, September 8, 2014, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan, 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 of Education:

- ___ President Wasserman
- ___ Vice President Brandstadt
- ___ Secretary Gorton
- ___ Treasurer Kaminski
- ___ Member Baker
- ___ Member McFarland
- ___ Member Singer

Central Staff:

- Mr. Sharrow, Superintendent
- Mr. Verlinde, Assistant Superintendent
- Mr. Cooper, Associate Superintendent: Finance/Facilities/Operations
- Mr. Brutyn, Associate Superintendent: Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment

Visitors present: 20 guests/citizens

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Singer/Baker moved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved.

2. 1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2014
2. 2. The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2014-15 school year:
 - <> Michael Donovan, .9 Physical Education Teacher, Midland Public Schools
 - <> Anthony Gates, 1.0 Special Education Teacher, Midland High School
 - <> Dominique Lacina, 1.0 First Grade Teacher, Woodcrest Elementary School
 - <> Chelsea Manasian, 1.0 School Psychologist, Special Services
 - <> Lelah Sellers, 1.0 Kindergarten Teacher, Siebert Elementary School
 - <> John Streeter, 1.0 Physical Education Teacher, H. H. Dow High School
 - <> Benjamin Younkin, 1.0 Math Teacher, Midland High School
2. 3. The following tenure teacher requested a Leave of Absence for the 2014-15 School year:
 - <> Elizabeth Christiansen

2. 4. The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of the dates indicated:

- ◇ Lucy Candela, Paraprofessional, August 18, 2014
- ◇ Monica Chambers, School Psychologist, August 12, 2014
- ◇ Kristin Eddy, Bus Driver, August 6, 2014
- ◇ Jennifer Edmonds, Teacher, August 13, 2014
- ◇ Karen Fenske, Paraprofessional, August 19, 2014
- ◇ Christine Fogus, Paraprofessional, August 7, 2014
- ◇ Ann Hoerauf, Paraprofessional, August 14, 2014
- ◇ Karen Morrison, Paraprofessional, August 20, 2014
- ◇ Patricia Schnurr, ESL Tutor, June 12, 2014
- ◇ Deni Sue Schramm, Paraprofessional, August 19, 2014
- ◇ Robert Wellman, Teacher/Athletic Director, August 22, 2014
- ◇ Lisa White, Paraprofessional, August 25, 2014

2. 5. Legal Invoice for Payment

Approval was requested to authorize payment for the following invoice for professional legal fees

- ◇ Thrun Law Firm P.C., \$1,172.00, August 28, 2014

Motion carried unanimously.

3. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

- President Wasserman read a letter submitted by City of Midland Manager, Mr. Jon Lynch, acknowledging and supporting the need for Midland Public Schools to “actively pursue options that bring the physical assets of Midland Public education up to par with the excellence taking place in our classrooms each day.”
- Mr. Dave Marsh, Mr. Bob Stafford, Dr. Richard Dolinski, Ms. Linda Owen, Mr. Scott Walker, Mr. Craig McDonald, Mr. Rich Juday, Ms.Carolynn Porritt addressed the Board and audience regarding their support of the facilities study and the need for Midland Public Schools to pursue a bond that would provide the funds needed to bring MPS facilities up to date so they provide student learning environments that are healthy, safe and secure.
- Betty Chenoweth addressed the Board and audience regarding the MPS Board of Education Candidate Forum on Wednesday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the MPS Administration Center Board Room. This event is being co-sponsored by the Midland Branch of AAUW and the Midland Area League of Women Voters.

4. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS--PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR ACTION

Brandstadt/Kaminski moved for approval of the 2013-14 Audit Report:

4. 1. Mr. Dave Youngstrom, Principal, Yeo & Yeo, and Mr. Bob Cooper presented the Midland Public Schools' 2013-14 Audit Report for Midland Public Schools.

As of June 30, 2014, the unrestricted fund balance as a percent of expenditures was 9%. Currently, MPS has an equivalent 40 days of general fund balance based on 365-day calendar year of cash flow or, 19 days based on a 174-day school year of cash flow. For

a complete overview of the audit report, please visit the MPS website at www.midlandps.org.

The audit process looks at the financial statements to make sure that the District is following the accounting rules that have been developed by the Government Accounting Standards Board, and looks at internal controls so the District is protecting its cash management and makes sure the financial information presented is accurately reported, in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

Throughout the district Yeo & Yeo found a culture of excellence demonstrating both honesty and high ethics. In looking at MPS' financial statement, this year Yeo & Yeo issued the highest level of audit assurance and an unmodified opinion. It means that the District's financial information was accounted for properly. MPS, in fact, has followed the accounting requirements for Michigan School Districts.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. 2. McFarland/Brandstadt moved for approval of the Certification of 2014-15 Fiscal Year Taxes.

On May 12, 2014, the Board established an estimated 2014-15 local tax rate of 5.6523 mills on homestead and qualifying agricultural property and 18.0 mills on non-homestead property. Following a long-established procedure, 50% of both the 5.6523 and 18.0 mill rates were levied by the City of Midland in the summer tax bill. An additional 6.0 mills were levied by the state on city and township property for the State Education Tax (SET).

When the Board approved the 2014-15 budget on June 23, 2014, the estimated millage rates were 18.0 mills for non-homestead property and 1.7698 mills for homestead and qualified agricultural property.

Based on the most recent information with respect to taxable values for 2013 and 2014 and the estimated blended student count for 2014-15, the estimated 2014 millage rates to support 2014-15 general fund expenditures are:

18.0 mills on non-homestead property

7.7400 mills on commercial personal property

1.7400 mills on principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property. The 1.7400 mills were decreased by 0.0298 mill as an adjustment for 2013-14 principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property taxes. The adjustment has been determined following a format provided by the Department of Treasury. The total represents a decrease of 0.0514 mill from the 2013-14 rate of 1.7914 mills.

The 2014-15 principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest and industrial personal property millage rate is subject to adjustment as more accurate information regarding enrollment and taxable value become available. As specified in Public Act

312 of 1993, if revenues exceed or fall short, the difference shall be made up in the school district's next regular tax levy. The process of adjustments to correct overpayments and underpayments will continue to occur on an annual basis.

It was requested that the Board take action on the recommended millage rate at tonight's meeting.

The tax resolution for the 2014-15 tax collection is filed with these Minutes.

Roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Wasserman, Brandstadt, Kaminski, Gorton, Baker, McFarland, Singer

Nays: None

Motion carried by all present (7-0).

Singer/Kaminski moved for approval of the following item:

4. 3. Neola Policy 5330.01

Sections 1178, 1179 and 1179a of the Michigan Revised School Code, and corresponding provisions in the Public Health Act, have been amended to require and facilitate adoption of emergency anaphylaxis policy language and procedures.

Administration recommended Board approval of the Epinephrine Auto-Injectors policy (5330.01).

Motion carried unanimously.

Singer/Brandstadt moved for approval of the following item:

4. 4. Administration sought Board Authorization for Superintendent Sharrow to proceed with the process for a Bond Proposal on the February 24, 2015 ballot to upgrade and update MPS facilities.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS--PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR INFORMATION

5. 1. Eastlawn Principal, Shannon Blasy, and Eastlawn Elementary School staff, Nicki Colman, Katrina Spry, Kelly Kraatz, Sarah Dupuis, Kevin Sprague and Jen Servoss informed the Board and audience members about the wonderful Eastlawn Summer Extension Program 75 students took advantage of this past summer. This exciting summer program highlighted student engagement through science-based field trips, activities and thematic units. This extension program was funded using Title 1 funds.

5. 2. Mr. Sharrow presented the 2014 Distinguished Service Awards recipients:

◇ Beth Chapman, Media Center Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary

◇ Joanne Coates, Administrative Assistant, Chestnut Hill Elementary

◇ Michele Hintz, Bus Driver, Transportation

◇ Tracy Toskey, Information Systems Analyst, Administration Center

Congratulations to these very deserving Midland Public Schools' support staff personnel for being nominated and chosen the 2014 Distinguished Service Award recipients.

6. FINANCE

Study Committee Chair: Dr. Kaminski; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Cooper

6. 1. The “Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Reports” were read aloud by Dr. John Kaminski (chair)

August 26, 2014 FFO Minutes: Members Present: J. Kaminski (chair), G. Wasserman, A. Brandstadt, M. Sharrow, G. Verlinde, R. Cooper, M. Moeggenberg; Others in Attendance: Bill Banach (via phone), representatives from French Associates and Barton Malow
Bill Banach presented feedback gained from the three public sessions as well as input from the Talk to us button on the MPS website. Extensive discussion took place about the feedback, cost summary information from Barton Malow and bonding information provided by financial consultant--Stauder, Barch and Associates. It was determined that administration will seek board approval on September 8 for Superintendent Sharrow to proceed in the planning to place a bond proposal on the February 2015 ballot. Board action is anticipated in October for the final resolution to place the bond proposal on the February 24 ballot following the District's Department of Treasury meeting.

September 3, 2014 FFO Minutes: Members Present: J. Kaminski (chair), G. Wasserman, A. Brandstadt, M. Sharrow, G. Verlinde, R. Cooper, C. Laux; Others in Attendance: Dave Youngstrom from Yeo & Yeo
Mr. Youngstrom reviewed the draft of the Annual Financial Statements and Auditors' Report of June 30, 2014. The opinion is unmodified with no findings, meaning that the auditors had to make no modifications to the financial statements. A full report will be made at the September 8, 2014 Board of Education meeting. Following the general presentation, staff excused themselves to provide the Board members present and auditor an opportunity to meet privately. Mr. Cooper presented information about the tax certification resolution for the levy of 2014 property taxes on property within the Midland Public Schools district. This tax certification resolution will be included on the September 8 Board of Education agenda.

6. 2. For Information--Gifts totaling \$8,422.23

\$ 740.00 to H. H. Dow High by H. H. Dow High School Athletic Booster Club for soccer
\$ 400.00 to Chestnut Hill Elementary by the Chestnut Hill PTO for professional development/supplies for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) Coordinator
\$ 500.00 to Eastlawn Elementary by Kiwassee Kiwanis for attendance incentives
\$ 547.00 for Woodcrest Elementary from their building checking account for technology
\$ 235.23 to Chestnut Hill Elementary by the Chestnut Hill PTO for classroom magazines
\$1,000.00 to Midland High for the Dow Chemical communityGives Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation for physical education
\$1,000.00 to H. H. Dow High for the Dow Chemical communityGives Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation for cheerleader camp fees
\$1,000.00 to H. H. Dow High for the Dow Chemical communityGives Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation for DECA
\$1,000.00 to H. H. Dow High for the Dow Chemical communityGives Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation for tennis
\$1,000.00 to Midland High for the Dow Chemical communityGives Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation for hockey
\$1,000.00 to Midland High for the Dow Chemical communityGives Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation for football pink out jerseys to support cancer research

7. HUMAN RESOURCES

Study Committee Chair: Mr. McFarland; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Verlinde

7. 1. The following staff member announced her retirement effective as of the date indicated:
◊ Patricia Campbell, Paraprofessional, September 1, 2014

8. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

8. 1. For Information--Letters from the Board of Education or the school system to
Midland Area Community Foundation
Midland Kiwanis Foundation
Woodcrest Elementary School PTO
Chestnut Hill Elementary School PTO
8. 2. FOIA Request regarding mailing, folding, inserting machines leased or purchased.

9. SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES--FOR INFORMATION

The following is a listing of scheduled meetings or activities of the Board of Education. All meetings are Regular Meetings of the Board of Education and begin at 7:00 p.m. at the MPS Administration Center (600 East Carpenter, Midland) unless otherwise noted.

October 13, 2014

November 10, 2014

December 8, 2014

Tentative Meetings for January-June 2015

(Action will take place on these meeting dates at the January 12 Organizational Meeting)

January 12 (Organizational Meeting)

February 9

March 9

March 23

April 13

April 27 (Budget Workshop)

May 11

June 8

June 22

10. 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.

10.1 Hearing from Board Members

Board members expressed their ...

- sincere thanks to our very generous gift donors this evening for their support.
- appreciation for the outcome of the audit. The findings are a tribute to our staff for their hard work, thoroughness and attention to detail.

- enthusiasm for the wonderful support of those who came and spoke tonight expressing their support for the February bond proposal which will enable MPS to update/upgrade our facilities so they are comfortable, safe and secure. The speakers' passion and encouragement for the District to move forward with this vital bond proposal is very appreciated. This is an exciting time to do great things for kids. Mr. Sharrow: go forward, give us good numbers
- excitement for the successful start of the school year and anticipation for all of the fall events and activities.
- welcome to the new teachers and hope that they have had a great start to the school year.
- appreciation to the Eastlawn staff for their presentation this evening and for their successful 2014 summer extension camp. MPS has the best teachers.
- admiration for the H. H. Dow High coach, Jason Watkins, and football team, Bay City Western Coach, Jeff Rahl, and football team who together visited the traveling Viet Nam War Memorial in Auburn before Friday's football game. The students' reverence and respect showed our community and our veterans how much these young athletes care and support our veterans, their families and our nation.

10.2 Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow

- We had a good first week with students. The only negative was the extremely warm end to the week. We are looking forward to cooler weather for the students and staff this week.
- Administrators are closely monitoring student enrollment numbers. As we look forward to the October count day, we expect our official count to be very close to our anticipated enrollment.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

President: _____ Secretary: _____
 Gerald Wasserman Yvonne Gorton

Approved by the Board of Education on:

 C. Young October 13, 2014