

Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 21, 2015

The Board of Education Midland Public Schools

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Midland Public Schools was held Monday, September 21, 2015, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan.

1. **Board Members Present:** Vice President Brandstadt, Treasurer Singer, Secretary Baker, Member Frazee, Member Gorton, Member McFarland

Board Member Absent: President Wasserman

Central Staff Present: Superintendent Sharrow, Associate Superintendent Cooper, Associate Superintendent Brutyn

17 audience members were present for this meeting.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Gorton/Singer moved for approval of consent agenda items.

2. 1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the August 17, 2015 Regular Meeting.
2. 2. The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2015-16 school year:
 - ◇ Kristi Dinnan, 1.0 School Psychologist, Special Services Department
 - ◇ Tyler Hubbard, 1.0 Industrial Education/CAD Teacher, Dow High/Jefferson
 - ◇ Jennifer Lewis, 1.0 Speech Language Pathologist, Special Services Dept.
 - ◇ Kari Schloff, .4 Resource Room Teacher, Carpenter Street School
 - ◇ Aspen Stanton, 1.0 Grade 3 Teacher, Woodcrest Elementary School
 - ◇ Annie Welsh, 1.0 Kindergarten Teacher, Plymouth Elementary School
2. 3. The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of the dates indicated:
 - ◇ Nathan Adolphson, Art Teacher, Jefferson and Northeast, June 11, 2015
 - ◇ Linda K. Fowler, Paraprofessional, Transportation Dept., August 27, 2015
 - ◇ Francisca Himmer, Family Intervention Specialist, Carpenter, June 11, 2015
 - ◇ Elizabeth Kegg, Paraprofessional, Carpenter Street, September 19, 2015
 - ◇ Elizabeth Lower, Teacher, Siebert Elementary, June 11, 2015
 - ◇ James A. Moore, Bus Driver, Transportation Department, September 2, 2015
 - ◇ Jacob Novak, District Webmaster, Technology Dept., September 11, 2015
 - ◇ Shauna Owens, Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary, August 27, 2015
 - ◇ Alyssa Rintz, Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary, August 18, 2015
 - ◇ Chloe Slabaugh, Paraprofessional, Post Secondary Program, August 12, 2015
 - ◇ Mary Ann Tolly, Paraprofessional, Carpenter Street, August 19, 2015
 - ◇ Malissa Wagner, Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary, August 24, 2015

2. 4. Bids were accepted and a tabulation provided for asbestos abatement work as part of the renovation/demolition activities at Central, Cook, Parkdale and Mills. The proposed projects involve the removal of pipe and pipe fitting insulation, boilers, tank insulation, breeching insulation, windows and doors, flooring, plaster, caulks and other materials. Administration recommended issuing a purchase order to the low bidder, Quality Environmental Services, Inc. out of Gladwin, Michigan, for \$636,148. This work is part of the Bond Projects utilizing Series 1 Bonds.
2. 5. Approval of the payment of school system's bills for the months of July and August 2015, as listed in the check registers prepared by Ms. Laux, in the total amount of \$10,988,889 was recommended. The distribution of obligations by fund, was included in the documentation.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

3. 1. Mr. Dave Youngstrom, Principal, Yeo & Yeo, presented the Midland Public Schools' 2014-15 Audit Report Draft. *[The reason for the "draft" status is due to requirements related to GASB 68 for which we are waiting for information from the State of MI retirement system (note: all school districts are waiting for this information and no school district audit reports state wide have been finalized).]*

Singer/Fraze moved for approval of the 2014-15 Audit Report:

As of June 30, 2015, the unrestricted fund balance as a percent of expenditures was 10%. Currently, MPS has an equivalent 38 days of general fund balance based on 365 calendar year of cash flow or 18 days based on a 174-day school year of cash flow. For a complete overview of the audit report, please visit the MPS website (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 statements, 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.

3. 2. Singer/Baker moved for approval of the Certification of 2015-16 Fiscal Year Taxes
On June 8, 2015, the Board established an estimated 2015-16 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 2015-16 budget on June 22, 2015, the estimated

millage rates were 18.0 mills for non-homestead property and 1.7767 mills for homestead and qualified agricultural property.

Based on the most recent information with respect to taxable values for 2014 and 2015 and the estimated blended student count for 2015-16, the estimated 2015 millage rates to support 2015-16 general fund expenditures are:

18.0 mills on non-homestead property

7.7766 mills on commercial personal property

1.7766 mills on principal residence, qualified agricultural, qualified forest, and industrial personal property.

The 1.7766 mills were increased by 0.0145 mills as an adjustment for 2014-15 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 an increase of 0.0366 mills from the 2014-15 rate of 1.7400 mills.

On February 24, 2015, the electors of the Midland Public Schools authorized the Board of Education to issue bonds and to assess the taxable property within the district for the purpose of collecting monies to pay the debt service on these bonds and to deposit such monies into the related bond debt retirement fund. Our financial advisor, PFM, has calculated 2.95 mills for the debt retirement millage requirement.

The 2015-16 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 is requested that the Board take action on the recommended millage rate at tonight's meeting.

The tax resolution for the 2015-16 tax collection is filed with these Minutes.

Roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Brandstadt, Baker, Singer, Frazee, Gorton, McFarland

Absent: Wasserman

Nays: None

Motion carried by those members present (6-0).

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

4. 1. Midland High School's Kiva Club and their advisor, John Mulvaney, presented information about their philanthropic group that provides small loans to entrepreneurs in the United States and in developing countries in order to help them start their own business. For more information on this philanthropic MHS club, visit www.kivaclub.org and look up Midland High.
4. 2. Mr. Sharrow recognized the two September Shining Star employees. These staff members were recognized for doing an outstanding job and going above and beyond to make Midland Public Schools a better place for students.
 - ◇ Billie Dumont-Oliver, MPS-TV Specialist, Administration Center
 - ◇ Jason Merry, 6th Grade Teacher, Northeast Middle School

4. 3. Mr. Sharrow presented the 2015 Distinguished Service Award recipients:
◊ Dave Dziejdzic, Interim Director of Technology, Administration Center
◊ Deborah Morgenstern, Paraprofessional, H. H. Dow High School
◊ Cindy Young, Administrative Assistant, Administration Center
Congratulations to these very deserving Midland Public Schools' support staff personnel for being nominated and chosen the 2015 Distinguished Service Award recipients.

5. **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** No hearings were requested.

6. **FINANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

Study Committee Chair: Pam Singer; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Cooper

6. 1. Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Minutes from September 14, 2015 were read aloud by Ms. Singer, Chair
Members Present: P. Singer (chair), A. Brandstadt, G. Wasserman, M. Sharrow, R. Cooper, C. Laux; Guests Present: Dave Youngstrom-Yeo & Yeo, Daryl Dombrow-Barton Malow, Dale Jerome-French Associates
L 4029 Tax Resolution for 2015-16: Mr. Cooper presented information about the tax certification resolution for the levy of 2015 property taxes on property within the Midland Public Schools district. This tax certification resolution will be included on the September 21st Board of Education agenda.
2014-15 Audit: Mr. Youngstrom reviewed the draft of the Annual Financial Statements and Auditors' Report of June 30, 2015. 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 21, 2015 Board of Education meeting. Following the general presentation, staff excused themselves to provide the Board members present and auditor an opportunity to meet privately.
Bond Update: Daryl Dombrow from Barton Malow reviewed the concept of general conditions in bond projects and some of the chosen vendors. Dale Jerome from French Associates gave an update on the new elementary school design process and discussed possible exterior design concepts and elements.
6. 2. ◊ Backpacks and school supplies and were assembled, donated and delivered to four MPS elementary schools from the St. John Lutheran Church Youth Group.
◊ School supplies were donated to Plymouth Elementary School from the employees of AVI-SPL, an audio-video service provider on-site at The Dow Chemical Company.
The following gifts were for H. H. Dow High School:
6. 3. ◊ \$ 200.00 for hockey from Mrs. Barbara Gehring
◊ \$ 822.50 for hockey from H. H. Dow High School Athletic Booster Club
◊ \$ 1,000.00 for football from MPS Sports Boosters
◊ \$ 1,550.00 for a science laboratory balance from the Kiwassee Kiwanis Foundation in memory and honor of Mr. Jack Mills
◊ \$ 2,000.00 for varsity and junior varsity cheer clinics from the Dow Chemical community Gives Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation
6. 4. McFarland/Gorton moved for approval of the following gifts totaling \$15,000
◊ \$10,000.00 for District elementary STEM programs from Verizon
◊ \$ 5,000.00 H. H. Dow High School athletics from the Fabiano Foundation
Motion carried unanimously.

7. HUMAN RESOURCES

Study Committee Chair: Scott McFarland; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Sharrow

7. 1. For Information:

The Board and staff extended their deepest sympathy to the families of:

- ◇ Beverly Aeschliman who passed away on August 21. Mrs. Aeschliman was the secretary at Jefferson Intermediate for 18 years until she retired in 1992.
- ◇ Myrtha Carter who passed away on September 12. Mrs. Carter taught Kindergarten at Siebert Elementary School for 15 years, retiring in 1987.
- ◇ Grace M. Wiggins who passed away on August 16. Mrs. Wiggins was a librarian at Mapleton and Jefferson and was awarded a Gerstacker award in 1976. She retired in 1979 after 11 years of service.

7. 2. The following staff members announced their retirement effective as of the dates indicated:

- ◇ Ms. Louann Sherwood, Bus Driver, Transportation Dept., November 1, 2015
- ◇ Ms. Viola Collin, Former Teacher, MCEA President, October 31, 2015

8. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

8. 1. For Information: Letter from the Board of Education to Plymouth Elementary PTO.
8. 2. FOIA Request regarding purchase order information from Nadine Weeden, SmartProcure.

9. SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES--FOR INFORMATION

The following is a listing of scheduled meetings or activities of the Board of Education. All meetings are Regular and Special 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 19, 2015
- ◇ November 16, 2015
- ◇ December 14, 2015

Tentative Meetings for January-June 2016

(Action will take place on these meeting dates at the January 18 Organizational Meeting)

- ◇ January 18, 2016 (Organizational meeting)
- ◇ February 15, 2016
- ◇ March 21, 2016
- ◇ April 18, 2016 (Budget Workshop)
- ◇ May 16, 2016
- ◇ June 13, 2016
- ◇ June 27, 2016

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. Board Members expressed their ...

- thanks to our very generous gift donors whose gifts were presented at this evening's meeting.
- excitement for the MHS KIVA Club for their presentation this evening. What amazing opportunities for our students to impact others locally as well as internationally. Thank you to Mr. Mulvaney for leading this impressive, globally-minded group of students.
- excitement for the teachers from China visiting for a 2-week exchange. From September 20 through October 2, Midland Public Schools, in partnership with Saginaw Valley State University, hosted eight educators from Chongqing China. Five high school teachers and three elementary teachers visited classrooms, talked with teachers and administrators, and took in local cultural sites. Other members of the Chongqing delegation visited Bay City Public Schools, Bay Arenac Career Center and Frankenmuth Public Schools. This exchange was funded by the Gerstacker Family Foundation. It was fascinating to meet with these teachers and hear their questions translated through their interpreter. It is exciting to anticipate our teachers who will be traveling to China in a couple of months.
- watchful anticipation for legislation relative to 3rd grade reading and the changes in store.
- appreciation for this year's DSA winners—Deborah Morgenstern, David Dzedzic and Cindy Young--and our September Shining Stars--Billie Dumont-Oliver and Jason Merry. Thank you for all you do.
- thanks to Mr. Youngstrom for his presentation and making it easy for us and our audience to understand. It is wonderful to see our fund balance stabilize. Thank you to Mike and the entire MPS staff for making the tough choices and decisions that made the budget stabilization possible.
- excitement for the great student attendance as the new school year got underway. Thank you to our parents for their support and help to get our students to school on time.
- anticipation for the upcoming razing of the Parkdale, Mills, Cook buildings. Even though it may be tough to see, it will result in progress and will be exciting to see the STEM elementary school come to life in the future.
- excitement that the new school year is off to a great start. It is fun and exciting to see the fall music and sports programs in full swing.

10. 2. Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow

- MPS has asked area foundation partners for support for the district's STEM strategic plan. We have already heard back favorably from the Gerstacker Family Foundation, and we anticipate receiving word from our other area foundation partners this fall.
- We are happy to announce an exciting partnership with SVSU who has volunteered to be trained in Project Lead the Way (PLW). This is the curriculum MPS will use as we launch the STEM elementary initiative. SVSU will then provide our elementary staff with PLW training.
- Demolition projects are moving forward. We met with city/utility engineers to look at beginning projects anticipated for November/December. Auditorium work will begin after the 2015 holiday performance season.

