

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 21, 2016
The Board of Education Midland Public Schools**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Midland Public Schools was held Monday, November 21, 2016, beginning at 7:00 PM at the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan.

1. **CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: President Brandstadt, Vice President Singer, Secretary McFarland, Treasurer Wasserman, Member Baker, Member Gorton

Board member Absent: Member Frazee

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

36 audience members were present for this meeting.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Singer/Wasserman moved for approval of the consent agenda items.

2. 1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the October 17, 2016 Regular Meeting.
2. 2. The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of these dates:
 - ◇ Teri Alcott, Paraprofessional, Siebert Elementary, November 4, 2016
 - ◇ Midge R. Bartow, Paraprofessional, Science Resources Center, November 8, 2016
 - ◇ Ulanda Fields, Administrative Assistant, Siebert Elementary, October 14, 2016
 - ◇ Ashley (Taylor) Salter, Preschool Assistant, Adams Elementary, November 11, 2016
2. 3. The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2016-17 school year:
 - ◇ Erin Deal, 1.0 Elementary Teacher
 - ◇ Barbara Kosick, 1.0, Middle School Art Teacher
 - ◇ Kerry Limron, 1.0, Middle School Special Education Teacher
 - ◇ Jacqueline Majestic, 1.0, High School, Business Education Teacher
 - ◇ Jodi Remacle, 1.0, Elementary Teacher
 - ◇ Connie Steger, 1.0, High School, Learning Coach
2. 4. Administration sought approval to deliver a purchase order to LinkedIn of Mountain View, CA for \$28,500.00 to renew the District subscription for the online learning and professional development platform Lynda.com. The renewal contract is for 18 months instead of the usual 12 months so that we can align the subscription with our fiscal year in the future. This site provides self-paced training for topics ranging from Technology and Photography to Classroom Management and Becoming a Good Mentor. It is available to all Midland Public Schools' staff and students. Over the past year, 573 staff and students have actively used the service to complete 663 hours of instruction through the viewing of 9009 videos and exercises. Many times the learning involves a 5-15 minute segment on a particular problem or topic, whereas other times, it involves a whole course. The cost of the subscription for the last year for those that used the service was \$34.90 per person. As we continue to see more people using the service, the cost per person will continue to decrease. LinkedIn is the sole source for this service and the expenditure is part of the Technology budget.
2. 5. Approval of the payment of the school system's bills for the month of September 2016, as listed in the check registers prepared by Ms. Holderby, in the total amount of \$12,001,414 was recommended. The distribution of obligations by fund was included in the documentation.
2. 6. Approval was requested to authorize the following legal payments:
 - ◇ Thrun Law Firm, \$196.00, October 27, 2016, Professional Legal Fees
 - ◇ Lusk Albertson, \$171.50, November 4, 2016, Professional Legal Fees
 - ◇ Poznak Dyer Kanar, \$270.00, October 31, 2016, Professional Legal Fees

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- 3. 1. Mr. Sharrow recognized the two November 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.
 - ◇ Jen Servoss, IB Primary Years Programme Coordinator, Carpenter and Eastlawn Elementary
 - ◇ Norm Retzloff, Building Manager, Midland High School
- 3. 2. Dr. Steve Poole introduced Mr. Lance Ransom, Auto Technology Program Teacher and several students in the HH Dow High Auto Tech Program. This team presented program highlights about Car Care (1 semester prerequisite to Auto Tech) and Year 1 & 2 of Automotive Technology (2-hour block). Students shared why they like the program and their plans after they graduate from high school. The 2-year Auto Tech program articulates with Delta College and provides 24 credits for students. In addition, the program is accredited for the 4th year of Math. The students have opportunities to compete in automotive competitions each year. At the MITES competition, students have the opportunity to compete for scholarships from various colleges.

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

- 4. 1. McFarland/Wasserman moved for approval of the following item:
 The Michigan Court of Appeals on October 21, 1985 issued a major decision interpreting the 1982 summer tax collection statute. In its ruling upholding the constitutionality of the law, the Appellate Court stated that, despite prior practices, school districts must adopt an annual resolution for summer tax collection. An ongoing request is not sufficient. The Court of Appeals held that an annual formal action by the Board is required prior to January 1 of each year for which the Board intends to collect taxes in the summer.

The Midland Public Schools collects summer taxes only on property in the City of Midland. All school taxes in the townships are levied in December.

As approved, a copy of the signed Resolution to collect summer taxes on property in the City of Midland has been provided to the City and a copy is attached to the original of these minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. 2. Singer/McFarland moved for approval of the following item:
 Bids were accepted and a tabulation was provided for the purchase of property and casualty insurance for the 2016-17 school year. The Midland Public Schools protects its real and personal property with an all-risk replacement cost policy. The value of the District properties and contents is now listed at \$201,081,571. Central Park Elementary is not included in this amount as it is currently covered by a builder's risk policy which is in place and paid. The low price quotation was received from our local insurance agent, Jeuter Insurance Group of Midland, Michigan, for coverage for the 2016-2017 school year.

This is a one-year renewal of the current policy which expires on November 17, 2016. The principal coverage and deductibles are:

	<u>Coverage Limit</u>	<u>Deductible</u>
<u>Buildings and Contents:</u>	\$201,081,571	\$ 25,000
Equipment Breakdown (including boilers)	Included	
Video Equipment	\$ 20,000	\$ 250
Violent Event Response	\$ 300,000	None
School Leaders Errors and Omissions	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 5,000
Liability	\$1,000,000/2,000,000	None
Umbrella	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 25,000
<u>Fleet Coverage:</u>		
Vehicles	Actual Cash Value	
Collison Deductible		\$ 1,000
Comprehensive		
Deductible	\$ 1,000	

Administration recommended the purchase of insurance coverage from the low bidder, Leuter Insurance Group of Midland, Michigan, for a total cost of \$188,996.25.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. 3. Wasserman/Singer moved for approval of the following item.

Due to changes in Federal and State law, government regulations and school practices, Administration sought board approval for revisions to the following Board policies: 1619, 1619.01, 1619.02, 1619.03, 2628, 3142, 3419, 3419.01, 3419.02, 3419.03, 4419, 4419.01, 4419.02, 4419.03, 5830, 6424, 6605, 8321, 9700.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Matt Vannette, 603 Coolidge Drive, addressed the board with regard to sending information home with MPS students as well as the recipients of truancy information sent to MPS families.

6. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Study Committee Chair: Lynn Baker; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Brutyn

6. 1. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment (CIA) Study Committee Minutes from October 17, 2016 were read aloud by Mrs. Baker.

Members Present: Patrick Frazee (substitute for Lynn Baker), Pamela Singer, Mike Sharrow, and Brian Brutyn; Guests Present: Lou Ann Bensinger, Connie Beson-Steger, Jeff Jaster and Penny Miller-Nelson

3rd Grade Reading Legislation: *Lou Ann Bensinger provided an overview of the new 3rd Grade Reading legislation. The new law calls for retention of 3rd grade students that are not reading at grade level. The law will affect students that are currently in Kindergarten.*

Lou Ann also discussed preliminary MPS plans to provide deeper interventions for Kindergarten through 3rd grade students in need of reading assistance. A recent grant authored by Lou Ann will bring approximately \$80,000 to MPS to provide literacy assessment resources, classroom library enhancements, and individual tutoring time for struggling readers provided by MPS instructors.

Midland High School Math Performance Initiative: *Midland High School has implemented a multi-faceted plan aimed at reducing the achievement gap and increasing overall proficiency in mathematics. Measures include scheduling all 9th grade students in at least .2 Algebra courses, providing a Learning Coach for math teachers, and enhanced professional development supports. Connie Beson-Steger and Jeff Jaster presented details on achievement data, internal support structures, and intended outcomes of the initiative.*

7. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Study Committee Chair: Gerald Wasserman; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Cooper

7. 1. For Information: Gifts totaling \$23,078.92.

◇ \$ 1,000.00 for sponsorship of Jefferson Robotics Team from FIRST--Great Lakes Bay Region

◇ \$ 250.00 Instructional Materials to support STEM learning at Adams by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Baczewski

◇ \$ (TBD) for Northeast transportation costs to Chippewa Nature Center from Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources (approximately \$200)

◇ \$ 225.00 for Plymouth Elementary in support of their Title 1 program from the Midland Optimist Club

◇ \$ 1,705.00 supplies/materials for classrooms from Siebert PTO

◇ \$ 350.00 for microphones for Northeast Drama from Northeast Booster Club

◇ \$ 1,833.92 for mounted water coolers from Chestnut Hill PTO

◇ \$ 2,500.00 for art supplies from Woodcrest administrative account

◇ \$ 1,200.00 for the swim program from Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee

◇ \$ 500.00 for Siebert classroom supplies from Scott and Carla McFarland

◇ \$ 2,000.00 for Woodcrest ELA materials from Mr. and Mrs. John Duff and Family

◇ \$ 100.00 for Jefferson Reading Club from Garber Management Group

From the Midland Area Community Foundation--

- ◇ \$ 250.00 for Eastlawn week of non-violence activities
- ◇ \$ 250.00 for Siebert week of non-violence activities
- ◇ \$ 250.00 for Jefferson week of non-violence activities
- ◇ \$ 250.00 for Chestnut Hill week of non-violence activities
- ◇ \$ 250.00 for Adams week of non-violence activities

CommunityGives Youth Services Program:

- ◇ \$ 1,000.00 for Midland High women's volleyball program
- ◇ \$ 1,000.00 for Midland High Varsity equestrian team
- ◇ \$ 1,000.00 for Midland High Junior Varsity soccer program
- ◇ \$ 1,000.00 for Midland High Varsity soccer program
- ◇ \$ 2,000.00 for Midland High men's and women's cross country teams
- ◇ \$ 1,000.00 for HH Dow High women's basketball program

From the H. H. Dow High All Sports Boosters:

- ◇ \$ 2,990.00 for wrestling uniforms
- ◇ \$ 175.00 for wrestling program

7. 2. The following donation of items has occurred:

- ◇ Great Lakes Safety Training Center has donated power tools and supplies to the Midland Public Schools' Building Trades Program. Items donated were a power saw and table, four platform ladders, several extension cords, student work gloves and safety glasses.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES

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

8. 1. Human Resources Study Committee Minutes from October 5, 2016 were read aloud by Mr. McFarland, Chair.

Members Present: Scott McFarland (chair), Patrick Frazee, Pamela Singer, Mike Sharrow, and Cynthia Marchese

Legal Update: *Ms. Marchese informed the committee on a pending law suit.*

Grievances: *Ms. Marchese updated the committee on a MCEA grievance that was advanced to arbitration.*

Staffing: *Ms. Marchese gave an update of our new hires after the teacher retirements and vacancies that the District had.*

8. 2. For Information: The Board and Staff extended their deepest sympathies to the families of:

- ◇ Ms. Virginia Sears, who passed away on October 19. Ms. Sears was a teacher at Sugnet School for 20 years, retiring in 1980. Ms. Sears was a recipient of the Gerstacker Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1968.
- ◇ Ms. Mary Louise Trumbell, who passed away on October 19. Ms. Trumbell was an MPS paraprofessional for ten years working with special education students at Adams and Longview. Ms. Trumbell retired in 2008.
- ◇ Ms. Jill Short who passed away on October 22. Ms. Short was a paraprofessional at Chippewassee and Midland High for 20 years, retiring in 2007.
- ◇ Ms. Margaret Graves, who passed away on October 25. Ms. Graves was a teacher at Central for 23 years, retiring in 1989.
- ◇ Ms. Gwendolyn Phillips, who passed away on November 11. Ms. Phillips was an elementary teacher for 33 years at Siebert and Woodcrest Elementary Schools. Ms. Phillips retired in 2002.

8. 3. The following staff members announced their retirement effective as of the dates indicated:

- ◇ Rosemary DuBay, Paraprofessional, HH Dow High, November 30, 2016*
*(*This is a correction to Ms. DuBay's retirement date on the published Board meeting agenda)*
- ◇ Susan Storey, Office Professional, Northeast, April 1, 2017

9. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

8. 1. For Information: Letter from the Board of Education to:

- ◇ Midland Federation of Paraprofessionals
- ◇ Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee
- ◇ Midland Area Community Foundation
- ◇ Woodcrest Elementary PTO
- ◇ H. H. Dow High All Sports Boosters
- ◇ Mr. and Mrs. Alan Ott
- ◇ Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation
- ◇ Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ungerleider
- ◇ Mr. and Mrs. Dave Brandt and Family
- ◇ Ms. Elizabeth DeWyse

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:

◇ December 19, 2016

(The following Meeting dates are tentative until they are adopted at the January Org. Meeting)

◇ January 16, 2017 (Organizational Meeting)

◇ February 20, 2017

◇ March 20, 2017

◇ April 17, 2017 (Budget Workshop 6:30; Regular Meeting 7:00 or immediately following Budget Workshop)

◇ May 15, 2017

◇ June 12, 2017

◇ June 26, 2017

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.

10. 1. Board of Education members appointed to the Officer Nominating Committee: President Brandstadt, Vice President Singer, Trustee Baker

11. 1. Board Members expressed their ...

- appreciation for this evening's Dow High Auto Tech presentation by Mr. Ransom and the students. It is wonderful to hear the students' passion, see them taking advantage of/enjoying learning such great life skills, and hearing about their future plans. It was exciting to hear about this successful hands-on learning program and anticipating the future implementation of Project Lead the Way in our District. The Auto Tech program is a great example of STEM education and opportunities for our students. Board Members also appreciated the student sentiments about the ChromeBooks that are now being used by our high school students.
- congratulations to the Dow High and Midland High drama programs for their recent great productions.
- enthusiasm for all of the service projects our students are doing for the community to make the world a better place and help those around us who may need a helping hand.
- congratulations to this month's Shining Stars, Jen Servoss and Norm Retzloff. Such great candidates for this month's Shining Star awards.
- thanks for the gifts that came in this past month. MPS donors are astounding. Thank you to our very generous donors.
- exciting to realize that Central Park Elementary's construction progress now has the building completely closed in so interior work can continue without damage from inclement weather.
- anticipation for the creation of safe entrances at all of our schools as we look ahead to projects starting this year using the bond funds.

- appreciation for all of our stellar MPS educators personified by Mr. Ransom's dedication so visible in tonight's presentation.
- congratulations to Mary Fredell and Brad Blasy for their election to the MPS Board of Education. We wish you all the best in your future as Board members and look forward to getting to know you and working with you.
- congratulations to all of our fall athletes for a great season
- appreciation that the annual DHS vs. MHS swim meet is so special for the swimmers and families as they honor the senior swimmers of both teams.
- appreciation that today's Superintendent Communique was filled with thankful messages.
- sentiments for a safe and Happy Thanksgiving for our students, staff and families.

8. 2. Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow

- The State of Michigan Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is reviewing school district websites across the State to ensure ADA compliance. Dave Dziedzic and our MPS Technology Team is in the process of reviewing District websites. The District may incur some costs should we need to purchase software or other tools to make sure we are in full compliance. We are also looking into possibly working with an outside contractor to assist us in our compliance efforts.
- Bond Update: Board members will receive a list of construction timelines in the near future. We are finishing up the design phases for all of our elementary secure entrances. Bids will be going out in December for Plymouth and Woodcrest's full renovation projects. The Board will be asked to take action in January to award those bids. We anticipate work to begin in April.
- Central Park Elementary is now completely closed in, thankfully before the inclement weather begins. Approximately 95% of the cement flooring is in place. On November 29, we have scheduled a group of community leaders to tour Central Park. The MPS Administrative Staff toured Central Park a week or so ago.
- MDE has released the Accountability Scorecards which shows assessment scores for each of our buildings. At this time the results are for district staff review only (currently embargoed for public release). Mr. Brutyn will share the results at next month's Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Board Study Committee. Our gap scores (difference between achievement of the top 30% scoring students and our bottom 30% scoring students) indicate that this is an area that continues to need our attention. We will make closing the gap our number one priority. We will explore the shifting some, if not most, of our energy and resources to closing the gap.
- We have a pre-negotiation session tomorrow with MCEA leadership. We will share with them our projected two years of budget forecasts, enrollment trends and more.
- As you know we are now in the "Lame Duck" legislative period. If the recent past is any indication of what may occur, we will see a lot of discussion and some hastily acted-upon legislation when it comes to schools. The main target appears to be the closing of MPSERS. Closing MPSERS appears to be a bad decision at this time for a number of reasons.
- Over the last few years, the number of volunteers that we need to run through the BRAVO process has increased dramatically. Human Resources has not been able to keep up and process the applicants as quick as the buildings would like. We also know that we will be calling on a number of volunteers to assist us in Project Lead the Way and STEM lessons at Central Park Elementary next school year and our five other elementary schools the following school year. Ann Fillmore of United Way of Midland was brainstorming how they may assist us with volunteers and the brainstorming evolved into the BRAVO process and how to best organize our volunteers. Ms. Fillmore approached the Dow Chemical Company who has pledged \$10,000 of matching assistance. We will now attempt to develop steps to improve our process.
- Newly elected board members, Mary Fredell and Brad Blasy, have signed their acceptance of office, taken their oath of office and have gone through a brief orientation with us. We have encouraged them to sign up for MASB classes and have included them in all communication to Board members.
- We are about half way there with our "Join Great Names in STEM" fund-raising effort. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 with 2-to-1 matching funds provided by the Midland Area Community Foundation for STEM playgrounds/outdoor learning spaces at Central Park Elementary School. We hope you will join us in this great cause.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

President: _____
Angela Brandstadt

Secretary: _____
Scott McFarland

Approved by the Board of Education on:

C. Young 19-December-2016