

Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 18, 2017

The Board of Education Midland Public Schools

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Midland Public Schools was held Monday, September 18, 2017, beginning at 7:00 PM in 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, Member Baker, Member Blasy, Member Fredell

Board Member Absent: Treasurer Frazee

Central Staff Present: Superintendent Sharrow; Associate Superintendents Cooper, Brutyn, Greif
9 audience members were present for this meeting.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Fredell/McFarland moved for approval of the consent agenda

2. 1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2017.
2. 2. The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2017-18 school year:
 - ◇ Bailey Bryant, .5 Speech-Language Therapist
 - ◇ Lindsey Diment, 1.0 Elementary Teacher
 - ◇ Hollie Hulst, 1.0 Art Teacher
 - ◇ Katie McClure, 1.0 Elementary Teacher
 - ◇ Brandee L. Meadows, 1.0 Elementary Teacher
 - ◇ Henry Muller, 1.0 Psychology Teacher
 - ◇ Mistine Nasrey, 1.0 Special Education Teacher
 - ◇ Erica Nikolai, 1.0 Elementary Teacher
 - ◇ Sara Robles, 1.0 Elementary Spanish Teacher
 - ◇ Michael Servinski, 1.0 High School Science Teacher
 - ◇ Kara Stark, 1.0 Elementary Teacher
 - ◇ Jake Will, 1.0 Music Teacher
 - ◇ Mandie Wrozek, .6 Special Education Teacher
2. 3. The following staff members announced their resignations effective as follows:
 - ◇ Ameer Hughes, Manager, Business Office, November 3, 2017
 - ◇ Stacey Latoski, Paraprofessional, HH Dow High, June 15, 2017
 - ◇ Nicole Lloyd, Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary, June 15, 2017
 - ◇ Marina Moretti, Teacher, Chestnut Hill Elementary, June 16, 2017
 - ◇ Michelle Rabadue, Paraprofessional, Carpenter Elementary, June 15, 2017
 - ◇ Jennifer Rubenacker, Office Professional, Curriculum Department, Sept. 15, 2017
 - ◇ Nichole K. Watkins, Paraprofessional, Chestnut Hill Elementary, June 15, 2017
 - ◇ Angie Weaver, Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary, June 15, 2017
2. 4. Administration recommended the renewal of the Adult Ed Cooperative Agreement between Bullock Creek School District, Coleman Community Schools, Meridian Public Schools and Midland Public Schools for the 2017-18 school year.
2. 5. Administration sought approval to deliver a purchase order to Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC of Reston, VA for \$33,720 to provide additional student enhanced access computers at the elementary schools from the 2015 Bond. The pricing is for 120 Dell 3189 Chromebook 11-Touch convertible computers and management licenses for them. Due to an increase in elementary enrollment, we have used the 100 spare computers that we purchased this summer. These 120 computers are spare computers for times when student computers are out for service and also to provide machines as new students enter the district. The pricing provided is from the State of Michigan Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) SPOT (Statewide

Purchasing Online Tool) bid and follows Board purchasing policy. This expenditure is included in the Technology Bond budget for series one.

2. 6. Approval of the payment of the school system's bills for the months of July and August 2017, as listed in the check registers prepared by Ms. Holderby in the amount of \$15,761,487 was recommended. The distribution of obligations by fund was included in the documentation.

2. 7. Legal Invoices for Payment

Approval was requested to authorize the following legal payments:

◇ Thrun Law Firm, \$759.50, August 24, 2017, Professional Legal Fees

◇ Lusk Albertson, \$171.50, September 7, 2017, Professional Legal Fees

Motion carried unanimously.

3. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS--PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

3. 1. McFarland/Baker moved for approval of the 2016-17 Audit Report.

Mr. Dave Youngstrom, Principal, Yeo & Yeo, presented the Midland Public Schools' 2016-17 Audit Report

As of June 30, 2017, the unrestricted fund balance as a percent of expenditures was 16%. Currently, MPS has an equivalent 66 days of general fund balance based on 365 calendar year of cash flow or 33 days based on a 180-day school year of cash flow. [A complete overview of the audit report is on the MPS website].

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.

The following findings were reported:

- Internal Controls: "No Material Weakness" and "No Significant Deficiencies" were noted.
- Compliance: Unmodified Opinion in the Nutrition Major Program was noted and there were no findings under Noncompliance
- Future Challenges: Rising health insurance costs; state funding; pension obligation; contractual obligations; post-retirement health insurance; energy costs

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, which means that the district's financial information was accounted for properly. MPS has, in fact, followed the accounting requirements for Michigan School Districts.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. 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 MPS a better place for students.

◇ Connie Steger, Learning Coach and Social Studies Lead Teacher, Midland High School

◇ Anthony Gates, Special Education Teacher, Midland High School

3. 3. Midland High School's Principal, Jeff Jaster; Learning Coach/Social Studies Lead Teacher, Connie Steger; and Special Education Teacher, Anthony Gates presented information on the *Chemic Challenge*, the four-week/16-day summer program focused on STEM and Math. They addressed the incoming freshmen students and Chemic staff who participated, the schedule, selling/marketing/incentives of the programs for the students, the Chemic Challenge pre- and post-tests, and more. 40 incoming freshmen completed the Chemic Challenge. Board members asked questions of the presenters.

3. 4. Mr. Sharrow presented the 2017 Distinguished Service Awards recipients:

◇ Julie Buda, Bus Driver, Transportation Department

◇ Jolene Laetz, Office Professional, Curriculum Department

◇ Chris McCaw, Mechanic, Transportation Department

◇ Jeanine Steinbrunner, Paraprofessional, Chestnut Hill Elementary

Congratulations to these 2017 Distinguished Service Award recipients!

3. 5. Singer/McFarland moved for approval of the Certification Resolution of the 2017-18 Fiscal Year Taxes
- The Board actually approved these 2017-18 tax rates when they approved the 2017-18 MPS Budget. The action taken at this meeting is for the official Resolution which we will take a roll call vote on tonight. The vote is for 18.0 mills on non-homestead; 7.7100 mills on commercial personal property (because our hold harmless is 1.7100); our bond was calculated at 2.72 mills by our financial advisor. As you know the bond changes from year to year, depending on what the taxable value is. What we've paid off, what we've spent out, etc. The hold harmless millage was a three-tab spreadsheet from the Treasury Department in Board members' packets that explained the hold harmless millage, which allows us to raise \$415.31 per student and changes the most. When we are determining what it is right now, we are guessing at how many students we have, somewhat guessing on the taxable value because it will change as the year goes on, as well as the personal property tax that goes into the calculation. When it goes in, the state takes some things out. We do our best calculation each year. If we collect too much for hold harmless, we lower next year's millage rate slightly; if we don't collect enough, we raise next year's millage rate slightly so that we raised the \$415.31 per student that we are allowed.
- Board members had in their packet the resolution, the L-4029, which we will send out to all of the entities around the townships, city, county, state for the formal declaration of what the millage rates are. Ours is a little more complicated because the city collects twice and the county & townships collect once per year.
- It was requested that the Board take action on the recommended millage rate at tonight's meeting. The tax resolution for the 2017-18 tax collection is filed with these Minutes.
- Roll call vote was taken.
- Ayes: Brandstadt, Singer, McFarland, Baker, Blasy, Fredell
 Absent: Frazee
 Nays: None
 Motion carried by those members present (6-0).
4. **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** No hearings were requested.
5. **FINANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**
 Study Committee Chair: Patrick Frazee; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Cooper
5. 1. Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Minutes from September 11, 2017 were read aloud by Vice President Singer.
- Members Present: A. Brandstadt, P. Frazee (chair), P. Singer, M. Sharrow, R. Cooper, L. Holderby*
Guests Present: Dave Youngstrom & Jessica Rolfe from Yeo & Yeo
- Discussion of 2016-2017 Audit: Mr. Youngstrom and Ms. Rolfe reviewed the 2016-17 audit with the FFO Committee. Topics included various sections of the audit report, fund balance of the general fund, net assets, financial statements, the single audit, governance communication, and new and upcoming accounting pronouncements. The public presentation of the audit will take place at the September Board of Education meeting.*
- Purchasing Policy Limits: The committee continued its discussion on the current district policy for purchasing. Most districts use the State statute and limit as a basis for competitive bids and board approval. Data was shared regarding purchases during the 2016-17 school year and how a change would affect what the board is asked to approved based on the State statute. NEOLA will be consulted regarding a policy change.*
- Additional Chromebook Purchase: The purchase of 120 additional Chromebooks due to increased elementary enrollment was discussed. This purchase for a total of \$33,720 will be on September Board agenda for approval.*
- District Vacant Land: The status of selected school owned properties were shared with the committee. The committee directed administration to look into selling two of the properties through a bid process.*
- L-4029 Tax Rate Request: The 2017 L-4029 Tax Rate Request (annual State/County requirement) and tax resolution was previewed and will be presented to the full Board for approval at its September meeting.*
- Bond Work Review: Mr. Cooper, Mr. Sharrow and the committee reviewed the current status of the summer bond project work.*
5. 2. For Information: Gifts totaling \$700.
- ◇ \$ 150.00 for Northeast Middle School Robotics from Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Pelletier

- excitement that the school year is off to a good start. Had the chance to visit a couple of schools and check out the new entrances. Applaud everyone who worked so hard to get everything done for the start of the school year.
- enthusiasm for a fun event earlier today for 1500 students in the great lakes bay region at the Midland Center for the Arts. Audience members heard two great speakers sponsored by The Dow Chemical Company. Students from MPS high schools were among the students who heard the speakers talk about giving back to the community and the importance of giving back for life. There may be a possibility for future partnering opportunities for our elementary PYP teachers and students.
- appreciation for the wonderful Chemic Challenge presentation this evening. Students' ability to apply what they learned in just 16 days is remarkable given the program results. It was exciting to hear that many of the students earned their pay to play fees by being part of this Chemic Challenge. It was important that math was highlighted as well as the practical applications of CTE. It would be great for other MPS schools to develop similar summer programs to help our students close the achievement gap.
- congratulations to the Shining Stars, Connie Steger and Anthony Gates, for their work with the Chemic Challenge and all they do for students throughout the year.
- caution to Midland drivers as you are going to and from work. Please allow a little extra travel time, obey the traffic signals and watch for students who may dart out in front of traffic. Please help keep our kids safe.

9. 2. Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow

- Enrollment can quickly change based on local jobs, for instance The Dow Chemical Company and Chemical Bank's recent announcements. Keeping our fund balance to between 16 and 19% is our goal. We are so thankful for our 2.95 mills bond that will raise \$121 million, but it could have been higher given the continuous work needed to be done in our older buildings. We are behind; our buildings have many needs.
- Opening school year went well especially given that all of our schools received some kind of construction, some larger than others. Construction went well. Plymouth and Woodcrest are about 50 to 60 percent finished. Still lots going on. On all of the construction projects, there are punch lists to be completed. Architects and construction managers are looking at the sites to see what still needs to be done. The construction manager created a site that the teachers can go on and add to the punch list items. There are ongoing projects using both bond funds and capital dollars. There have been some rumors that we didn't purchase furniture with bond funds. Please know we have purchased furniture; probably about 30% of the furniture will be new. There will be more furniture purchased at the end of the bond.
- optimism with enrollment numbers but we won't know for sure until we get to count day. Our elementary numbers are up from last spring. Families are choosing Midland Public Schools.
- Positive State Assessment Data: MPS is in the top 3-6% of the State, which is impressive. Today at CIA Brian shared the results related to our at-risk group. We are beginning to move the at-risk group (our gap kids) which is very positive.
- The MPS graduation rate is currently at 95.6% today, which is among the top in the State; but, of course, we want to be at 100%. We are anticipating that programs like PATHS and Chemic Challenge will help us reach our 100% graduation rate goal.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

President: _____
Angela Brandstadt

Vice President: _____
Pam Singer

Approved by the Board of Education on:

C. Young October 16, 2017