

Proposed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
October 10, 2011

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President Van Sickler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school classroom #2113.

Members present: Drumm, Freeman, Palmer, Van Sickler, McNerney arr. at 7:01 p.m., Keyes arr. at 7:42 p.m.

Members absent: Ryckman

Administrators present: Beal, Hubbard, Weaver

Administrators absent: none

Visitors present: Brian Zinn, Karen Nickerson, Matt Walderzak, Bonnie Walker, Charlie Borton, Larry Koutz, Dianne Mitchell, Connie Marshall, Dan Palmer, Valorie Palmer, Lori Scott, Ruthann Fairchild, Angie Mortensen, Ric McClellan, Lucas McClellan

Approval of Agenda

Van Sicker amended the agenda as follows:

Add:

IX. Consent Agenda

C. Resignation of Janell Kilmer – 7th grade girls' basketball

Add:

VI. Communications

D. Letter from Sharle Wilmot

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Recognition of Guests

Angela Mortensen, 2511 Douglas Rd., Riverdale. Concerned about the large classroom size in Mrs. Vissman's 4th grade class. She and her husband have discussed taking their children out of public school where they could be in a smaller class size with more one-on-one attention.

Lori Scott, 6727 Crystal Rd., Vestaburg. Concerned about the large classroom size. Her child has always received good grades and now her grades are slipping because of all of the distractions with so many students in one classroom.

Dan Palmer 8953 2nd St., Vestaburg, Dan and his wife both attended Vestaburg, when their daughter started school they were living in the Montabella district but decided to send her to Vestaburg. They have always been pleased with the teachers and staff but this year they are disappointed with the large class size and

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lack of attention and one on one instruction. The Palmers would like to see the district look into a way to fix this problem.

Brian Zinn 4324 N Pine Grove Rd., Edmore. Concerned about the large class size. Their daughter is struggling this year and has always excelled.

Ruthann Fairchild 10121 Deaner Lake Rd., Riverdale. Same concern as the other parents. She does not want any of the children to slip through the cracks and struggle the rest of their school years.

Colleen Nickerson 8987 E. Schmeid Rd., Vestaburg. Asked about the composite pictures that used to hang up in the lobby. Beal stated that some of the hangers are damaged or broken. Mr. Beal stated that the district is working on a digital system with a LD screen display. She also asked about the PA system in the gym. Could someone look into the cost of improving this? She would be willing to look for donations to pay for the upgrade.

Questions on Building Reports

Freeman questioned that with the pupil count up; the district would be receiving extra money. Can that be used to fund a 2nd teacher in 4th grade? Beal stated that he and Mrs. Weaver are working on that. They are looking at two parapro's to help with the high class sizes. Beal stated that the district is looking at putting a parapro in to help with language arts or math. McNerney asked why is the 4th grade the only one with parents here voicing concerns. McNerney stated that the students are our highest priority. Why are we just hearing about this now?

Van Sickler stated that there was good communication for the school district on the upcoming MEAP testing starting tomorrow.

Communications

Public Land Auction – Thursday October 20th, 2011

The old doctor's office is up for auction at no minimum bid. Beal asked the board if they would like the school district to purchase this.

McNerney stated that with our financial needs right now we do not need to spend money on that building.

Palmer stated we already know that we have a fuel storage tank problem hanging over our heads.

Beal stated the fuel storage tank is going to cost at a minimum of 10,000.00.

PAC Update

Beal stated that we appointed a representative last month. She wanted to make everyone is aware of a Downs Syndrome conference in Grand Rapids coming up.

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MEA letter concerning upcoming legislation.

Van Sickler stated to read over the new legislation coming from the state.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Freeman, support by Palmer to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held September 12, 2011.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Motion by Freeman, support by Palmer to approve the minutes of the Executive Session I held during the Regular meeting held September 12, 2011.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to approve the minutes of the Executive Session II held during the Regular meeting held September 12, 2011.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to approve the minutes of the Executive Session III held during the Regular meeting held September 12, 2011.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Treasurer's Report- October

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to approve the bills as monies become available.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Consent Agenda

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to regretfully accept the resignations of Charlie Borton (transportation), Kathy Russell (food service) and Janell Kilmer (7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach).

Motion CARRIED 5-0

New Business

Athletic Budget presentation (Matt Walderzak)

Beal stated that in August the board voted to approve a reduction of 5000.00 to individual team budgets. Walderzak explained to the board how the budget is split. The money saved in schedule b will save the school district money.

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to restore the 5000.00 to the individual team budgets.

Palmer questioned how much money we earned from charging at baseball and softball games. Is it worth the headache?

Freeman stated any money coming into the district is good. Walderzak stated that baseball and softball is one of the most expensive sports to run. The officials are the most expensive.

Motion CARRIED 6-0

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Foreign Language Trip 2012

The board was given a packet of information.

Motion by McNerney, support by Palmer to endorse the trip for the foreign language group.

Motion CARRIED 6-0

CIPA Compliance and Protecting Children in the 21st Century

Beal stated this is to help protect our children on the internet. This has blossomed because of the increased use of handheld devices. The administration will draw up a skeleton policy; call a special board meeting to take input from the community members and board members.

Beal said his recommendation would be to have this special board meeting on November 14th before the regular board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Best Practices Presentation and Resolution

Beal has met with different representatives of the state and lawyers. In order to qualify for the grant you need to qualify for 4 out of the 5 recommendations. Right now our district meets 5 out of 5 of the recommendations. The grant would give the district \$100.00 per pupil which would be about \$70,000.00 onetime money.

Motion by Keyes, support by McNerney to approve the resolution for the Best Practices Grant.

District will pay no more then 90% of the employees insurance.

The District is the policy holder of the medical plan.

The district has contracted out for non-instructional staff

The district shares service with Montabella/ISD for Technology.

Dashboard on our school website to the state.

Roll call: Drumm – yes, Freeman – yes, Keyes – yes, McNerney – yes,

Palmer – yes, Van Sickler - yes

Motion CARRIED 6-0

Neola Policy Revision 25.2 & 26.1 – First Reading

This is the first reading. Please read these over.

Other Business: None

Old Business: None

Items for Discussion:

Sub Bus Driver Pay

McNerney stated that right now our current drivers are picking up the trips because we cannot get subs to pick them up. The district is not able to get subs because they can go work at another district for \$5.00 more an hour.

Motion by McNerney, support by Keyes to raise the sub driver pay to \$12.00 an hour.

Roll call: Drumm – yes, Freeman – yes, Keyes – yes, McNerney – yes, Palmer – yes, Van Sickler - yes

Motion CARRIED 6-0

Athletic Director Salary

Beal explained how Walderzak's salary is split. Last year he taught half the day and athletics the other half of the day. Beal would like the board to think about what do we do if the district asks him to teach more then half of the day.

McNerney stated we are between a rock and a hard place. McNerney would like to know how the union feels about this. Beal stated that Matt is not making this a union issue, he is working for the best interest of the district.

Legal Updates (PPT)

Beal stated that you are going to be hearing a lot on eliminating PPT. The school district cannot afford that. If our local property taxes go down then the school district might be obligated to raise taxes in order to pay our debt back for the mileage that the district just passed.

Purchase Bus from ISD

The ISD purchased new buses through ARRA funds. The ISD would like to sell the district a bus for \$1.00. Beal stated that it would cost the district about \$7000.00 to \$8000.00 to put seats on the bus. The last new bus the district purchased was 85,000.00. The board would like Mr. Walker to come to the next meeting with more information.

Work in Progress

Beal stated that the district received a request from Audra Kuhn to participate in a grant for bike lanes on Crystal Road from M46 to the school. Mr. Hubbard will be working with Mrs. Kuhn on this.

Recognition of Guests

Mrs. Scott stated that she is not saying the teacher is at fault, there is just such a large class and so many distractions.

Mrs. Nickerson asked if there are special needs kids in the classroom that need to be pulled to the resource room for extra help.

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Mrs. Palmer has concerns about parapro's teaching the kids. Her son who is on the higher end of the class was pulled out and taught by a parapro last year. Luckily the district was able to hire a teacher as a papapro. Mrs. Palmer does not want to see the same thing happen this year.

Bonnie Walker – 181 Michigan Ave., Vestaburg. Next Tuesday the Junior Varsity/Varsity Volleyball teams will have a pink out. Come support the teams and wear your pink.

Items for next Board Meeting November 14, 2011

Motion by Freeman, support by Keyes to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.
Motion CARRIED 6-0

Mr. Beal invited any parents that have concerns about the classroom size to come in and meet with him.

Karen S. Grover
Recording Secretary