

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting  
August 19, 2011

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President Van Sickler called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

Members Present: Drumm, Keyes, McNerney, Palmer, Van Sickler

Member Absent: Freeman, Ryckman

Administrators Present: Beal

Administrators Absent: Hubbard, Weaver

Visitors Present: None

Guest Recognition: None

Approval of Agenda

VanSickler amended the agenda by adding to New Business

A. Individual Season Pass increase

Then moving everything else down

Motion by Keyes, support by Palmer to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Consent Agenda

A. Employ

1. Rosie Davis – Preschool Paraprofessional

2. Charlie Borton – Bus Driver

Beal thanked Charlie for retiring and then coming back saving the school district money on retirement.

Beal stated that you have to meet certain qualifications to fill this position.

Motion by McNerney, support by Keyes to approve the consent agenda as presented.

McNerney asked about the Drama Club Advisor. The deadline has passed and they have not heard anything. Beal stated that Hubbard would like to talk to the candidate before it comes to the board.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

New Business

Individual Season Passes

The individual season pass would increase by \$15.00, the same as a family pass.

Motion by McNerney, support Keyes to approve the individual season pass increase to \$65.00.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

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Superintendent Evaluation Timeline and Tool

Beal stated that he presented a tool to the board last year. Beal stated he will tweak a couple of things. Beal stated the board will receive the evaluation tool in January and then in February the board will meet at a retreat and discuss the evaluation. Beal will then summarize the evaluation and present it at the next board meeting. Van Sickler stated that it was good conversation.

Goals

Board Goals

Beal stated that last year the board focused more on the superintendent goals. Beal would like to know the board's goals? How far is the board willing to dip into the fund equity? If the board does nothing the fund equity would go down to 6%. Beal stated he would not want to dip more than a \$150,000.00 into the fund equity. That would drop our fund equity to 14%. Beal stated that the district has been dipping into the fund balance for the last few years. Beal stated it is vital that the board continue to work on the budget. The board agreed that they would dip 150,000.00 into the fund equity if need be.

Van Sickler stated goals should be better communication, boast about the school, and celebrate our successes. The board would like to see and hear about more of the successes of our kids. McNerney stated it would be nice to advertise the success stories of alumni.

Beal questioned the board if they would like to sponsor an alumni breakfast once a month. This would give the alumni a chance to see the changes in the school district. McNerney stated that the board could be more involved in showing more appreciation to the teachers. Van Sickler stated that the board needs to work on the morale of the staff.

Van Sickler stated that one of his goals would be to be more involved in education. Beal stated that he could provide literature every month on information and changes to education. Beal stated that he will make it one of his goals.

Beal stated that he has been strongly suggesting to the teachers that all teaching staff be present at graduation. Beal would like to see the entire board be in attendance for graduation.

Superintendent's Goals

School improvement, data, common core.

Make sure that the district survives financially and academically.

Communication and community relations

Budget

Van Sickler mentioned that he met with the auditing firm today. He stated that the auditing firm is very happy with the audit and the checks and balances of the staff and procedures that they follow.

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McNerney stated that the web page needs to be up to date at all times. Beal stated that he will make that part of his communication goal.

McNerney also asked about the technology service. McNerney stated that the email server was changed in the middle of the year and his son is still not able to access his email.

#### Expectations

##### Board Expectations

More educational materials to understand the new things in education. Van Sickler stated there is a lot of good information in the MASB handout that comes to the board members. Attendance at meetings and functions of the school is also an expectation of the board.

Van Sickler stated that he might take a day here and there and visit the classrooms, get an idea of what is going on in the school.

##### Superintendent's Expectations

Beal's expectations are communications and the web site. Possibly have lunch with the teachers.

Beal stated that he is usually out in front of the building when students and parents are entering the building each morning.

#### Professional Development

##### Legal Updates (Education Reform)

Beal stated this was part of the expectations.

##### Montcalm County Board Meeting (at Vestaburg September 26<sup>th</sup>.)

Van Sickler stated to keep this on your calendar. Beal stated we will be giving tours of the building. Beal also stated he would like to do a commercial for the school and talk about some of the highlights.

Palmer asked about the projector in the commons, is it up and working? Beal stated that there is some trouble with sound but should be fixed before the meeting.

#### Communications

##### District Needs / Personnel Needs / Board Needs

Beal stated being open and honest and transparent is the best practice for our district.

Beal stated there are fencing needs down by the fields because people are driving on the drain field.

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Beal stated he is re-negotiating the contract with DM Burr. Beal asked to change the contract from 12 months to 11 months to save money for the district. Beal stated that he would like to keep good communications with the papers. Keep the negative stuff out of the media.

Budget

Fund Equity

The Fund Equity is at 16% right now; the board does not want to dip more than \$150,000.00 into the fund equity.

Phase 3 Cuts (Discussion)

Palmer questioned personnel cuts, the staff was told that there would only be personnel cuts in phase one. Beal stated that there could still be personnel cuts in phase two or three.

Issues

Fuel System – the district is still waiting for information on this.

Student Database – Currently the school uses CIMs through Gratiot and Gratiot is planning on dropping it after this year.

Guest Recognition: None

Motion by Mc Nerney, support by Palmer to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Karen S. Grover  
Recording Secretary