

Minutes of the Metamora CCSD #1 Board of Education Meeting of August 18, 2015

The August 18, 2015 meeting of the Metamora Community Consolidated School District #1 Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at Metamora Grade School. Members present: Mr. Blundell, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Fisher, Mrs. Sikkema, Mr. Strawn, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Wernsman. Others in attendance included Megan Huss, Melanie Wallace, Laura Anglin, Melanie Koppenhoefer, Megan Bernitt, Paul Anglin, Beth Anglin, Tara Wilson, Brad Wilson, Tom Koonce, Diane Grebner, Amanda Peck, Rick Pope, Sandra Frietag, Wendy Vogel, Danielle Buerkett, Jennifer Duncan, John MacNiel, Metamora Grade School Principal Cathy Costello, Metamora Grade School Dean of Students, and Marty Payne.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mrs. Sikkema, to approve the consent agenda as presented. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Reports from the Public

Joh MacNeil requested the Board approve his son to attend Kindergarten a year early. To attend Kindergarten, a child must turn five before September 1; the child's birthday is in November. School law does allow for the Board to make an exception. The board deferred to the experience and expertise of the kindergarten staff. Wendy Vogel, Kindergarten teacher, was in attendance for the meeting, and volunteered to screen the child.

Tom Koonce, junior high social studies teacher and cross country coach presented the need for an assistant coach. The cross country team has approximately 70 students on the team, and his concern focuses on student safety and school district liability.

Action Items

A. Discussion and Approval of the MGS FY16 Tentative Budget

Mr. Payne shared the following information regarding the Tentative Budget:

1. Fund 10 – Education Fund – used for teacher salaries and benefits, as well as the various educational supplies used for instruction. This includes textbooks, copy paper, paperclips, grade books, various forms of technology, etc. In short, the Education Fund is used for both instructional needs, as well as employee compensation. We've made significant progress in reducing our budget. Remember that the dollar amount spent per pupil hasn't changed in a number of years. The state organization, EFAB (Education Funding Advisor Board), that recommends the dollar amount needed per pupil, has recommended several thousand dollars higher per student than what school districts will receive. Keep in mind as well that we're only getting 92% of the state approved dollar amount.

In short, we're still significantly short of what we should be getting. The budget shows a deficit in the Education Fund of \$165,360. If my research is accurate, our total proration is about \$125,000 (which would bring our deficit to -\$40,360). Our budget is clearly not yet where we need to be, but it is better than the -\$500,000 we've seen over the past few years.

2. Fund 20 – Operations and Maintenance – used for all custodial supplies, as well as paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, etc.). Various maintenance projects are also part of this fund account, including HVAC, windows, ceiling tile, etc. As can be seen in the budget, this account will again operate with a balanced budget.
3. Fund 30 – Debt Service – used to pay bonds that have been purchased over the years for building additions, the parking lot and back playground areas, and for a roof replacement.
4. Fund 40 – Transportation Fund – used to pay for all aspects of busing students, including lease payments for buses, fuel, bus maintenance, supplies for the bus garage, as well as salaries and benefits for our bus drivers. The budget is currently showing a deficit of \$18,706, but we don't yet know the allocation that will come from the state; we won't know until after we approve the final budget in September.
5. Fund 50 – Social Security and IMRF – very self-explanatory; funds in this account are used for payment of SS and IMRF. This account is also balanced.
6. Fund 60 – Capital Projects – used initially to pay for construction projects. The \$106,697 is the remaining cash on hand after our last addition and will be used for future textbook purchases. It shows a negative balance because the funds came one time, several years ago, but we do budget to spend the money in the event it is needed. A positive or negative fund account is defined by using only the current year's revenue and expenditures.
7. Fund 70 – Working Cash – this fund is used for emergency borrowing in the event that another fund account should run very low, or in a negative balance. Working cash can be loaned to other accounts either on a short-term basis, with the requirement to repay to fund account in the next Fiscal Year, or, through a permanent, abatement process. Our Working Cash fund balance continues to increase, with \$771,834 budgeted cash on hand to end the fiscal year. This year's Levy shows revenue of \$78,733. If this remains same over the next few years, we will reach \$1,000,000 by the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
8. Fund 80 – Tort Immunity – used to pay for legal work done for the district. This ranges for sprinkler, fire alarm, and bleacher inspections (to name a few). This fund is also used to pay for various types of building and legal/liability insurance. The Tort Fund has a balanced budget.
9. Fund 90 – Fire Prevention and Life/Safety – funds in this account take the approval of an architect, the Regional Office of Education, and the State Board of Education, and are used to pay for projects that come up that can cause potential damage to the school or to kids and/or employees. Examples include broken water pipes, problems with boilers, issues with our fire alarms, etc. We have several projects on the docket, with total expenditures yet to be

determined. Based on when we have final numbers, we may need to amend this fund account in the spring. We can't spend more than what we budget. The \$60,000 is the amount that we have historically put in our budget for anticipated expenses. If our projects come in at a greater cost, we will need to amend.

Motion by Mr. Strawn, seconded by Mr. Wernsman, to approve Tentative Budget as presented. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

B. Approve Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Metamora Grade School for the Date, Time, and Location for a Public Hearing regarding the MGS FY16 Budget

Motion to approve made by Mr. Strawn; seconded by Mrs. Sikkema. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

C. Approve Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Metamora Grade School for the Date, Time, and Location for a Public Hearing Regarding the use of Health/Life-Safety funds for the Repair of the Parking Lot

Motion to approve made by Mr. Blundell; seconded by Mr. Strawn. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

D. Approve a Service Agreement with Ted Blunier for snow removal

Mr. Payne presented the following information regarding the service agreement:

<u>2014-2015 Rates</u>	<u>2015-2016 Rates</u>
Trucks by Hour - \$80.00	\$85.00
Salting – \$200.00	\$200.00
Skid Steer Needed – \$130.00	\$135.00
End Loader – \$150.00	\$150.00

Motion to approve made by Mr. Wernsman; seconded by Mrs. Sikkema. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

E. Approve of Health Insurance

Mr. Payne, along with members of the META (Metamora Elementary Teachers Association), shared the current research being conducted regarding health insurance. Final information will not be available until after the Board meeting.

Motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve either a one month extension with Blue Cross Blue Shield, to allow for continued research, or to renew, based on the research, of a continued contract. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

F. Approval of the School Improvement Plan and Internal Review

Mrs. Costello presented information from both plans. Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Strawn, to approve the School Improvement Plan and Internal Review as presented.

Discussion Items

All items that needed discussion were covered in other agenda items.

Action was not required for these agenda items.

Information Items

A. Committee Reports

1. Building Committee
2. Education Committee
3. Executive Committee
4. Finance Committee
5. Negotiations Committee

Mr. Ward, chair of the negotiations committee, recognized that many people were in attendance for concerns regarding the current state of contract negotiations. He opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Ward shared the difficult financial shape that the district is in due in large part to a lack of state funding. He shared as well the things the district has done to cut expenses. He further explained the concept of Interest Based Bargaining, and how the collective bargaining process worked. Other Board members shared that it isn't that they don't want to give larger increases in salary it's simply that until the money is there, they can't. Public comment focused on the need to better inform the public of the true financial condition of the district, as well as the need to find different revenue sources. The question was asked as to when the last time the district had a referendum to increase the education fund. The thought was that it was in the early 2000's. Mr. Payne will conduct research with the auditor and provide the information. Members of the audience requested next steps to research revenue options.

6. Policy Committee
7. Transportation Committee

B. Administrative Reports

Mr. Payne provided information on the Health/Life-Safety projects that are underway. The projects include a phone system upgrade, the HVAC system in the main office, the poor condition of windows in several classrooms, and the front parking lot.

Acknowledgement of Cards and Letters

Action was not required for this agenda item

Executive Session for the Purpose of Appointment, Compensation, Discipline, Dismissal, or Performance of Employees, and for the Purpose of Collective Negotiation Matters between the Public Body and its Employees

Motion by Mr. Blundell (at 8:49 p.m.), seconded by Mrs. Sikkema, to enter into Executive Session. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Blundell (at 9:35 p.m.), seconded by Mrs. Sikkema to adjourn the Executive Session meeting and return to Open Session. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Action Taken after Executive Session

Resignations

The board approved the following resignations: Cathy McKenzie and Julie LeMasters (both junior high science teachers)

Employment

The board approved the following teachers: Deane Trentman (2nd grade), as well as Gail Simpson and Shannon McClure (both junior high science teachers)

The board approved the following non-certified employees: Jane Austin, Gina Kurtz, Sarah Murray, Paula Adams, Suzanne Kahler, Stephanie Kiesewetter, and Amy Wilbur; George Oplt and Becky Balk to the transportation department; Amy Zobrist and Steve Gorell as a cross country coaches, Megan Feldman and Amber Scarbeary to latchkey, Scott Cornell as a custodian.

The Board approved Mr. Payne to seek adding the position of cross country coach to the collective bargaining agreement.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Wernsman, (at 9:46 p.m.), seconded by Mrs. Sikkema to adjourn the August 18, 2015 meeting of the Board of Education. All present voted yea on a voice vote.

Bob Fisher
President

Jeff Wernsman
Secretary