

Minutes of the Metamora CCSD #1 Board of Education Meeting, October 20, 2016

The October 20, 2016 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 (arrived at 7:39 p.m.), Mr. Edwards, Mr. Fisher, Mrs. Sikkema, Mr. Strawn, and Mr. Ward. Others in attendance included Becky Rhodes, Mary Miller, Rick Pope, Metamora Grade School Principal Cathy Costello, Metamora Grade School Dean of Students Tim Damery, and Marty Payne.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Mr. Strawn, seconded by Mr. Ward, to approve the consent agenda. All present voted yes on a roll call vote.

Reports from the Public

None given.

Action Items

A. Revised/New Board of Education Policies: 6:100, “Using Animals in the Educational Program,” 7:10, “Equal Educational Opportunities,” 7:340, “Student Records,” and 8:810, “Public Suggestions and Concerns.”

A summary of the changes in policy are as follows:

6:100 – Using Animals in the Educational Program – the content of the policy has not changed, but has been divided into two paragraphs with new headings. The first, “Animal Experiments,” focuses on classroom activity with live animals. The second, “Animal Dissection,” focuses on classroom activity with dead animals.

7:10 – Equal Educational Opportunities – the policy language has not changed, but a footnote has been added, stating the districts need to consult with their respective attorney when developing policy that may lead to any type of a discrimination law suit.

7:340 – Student Records - the change focuses on the distribution of student directories, and not to identify any students by gender.

8:810 – Public Suggestions and Concerns – this is a new policy, and provides language that in the event of a public suggestion or concern, it needs to be directed to the appropriate level at the school. Metamora Grade School follows the chain-of-command.

Motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mrs. Sikkema, to approve the revised/new policy. All present voted yes on a roll call vote.

B. Request for Proposals for the 2017-2018 Metamora Grade School Bus Fleet

Rick Pope, Metamora Grade School Transportation Director, shared the agenda for the next round of bus leases. This year we are on an 8-bus cycle, including two wheel-chair buses. Once the proposals have been submitted the Transportation Committee will need to meet to finalize the recommendation for the Board. This will be part of the November Board meeting agenda. Motion by Mrs. Sikkema, seconded by Mr. Strawn, to approve seeking the RFP for buses. All present voted yes on a roll call vote.

C. Contractual Agreement with the Illinois Fuel Consortium

Motion by Mr. Ward to participate in the fuel consortium, seconded by Mr. Strawn. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

D. Use of Fire Prevention/Health-Life Safety Funds

The use of funds was to be used to repair water leaks in several areas of the building.

The Board discussed the amount of funds to be used (\$3,500), and if it would be better financially to use this account or operations and maintenance. If the bill remains at this amount, then the use of O&M funds will be used. If substantially higher, then the Board will need to revisit the potential approval at the November meeting.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

E. Student Counsel Workshop in Petersburg IL.

This was brought to the Board for approval as the trip is beyond 50 miles, one-way. Riverview Grade School students will be participating in the trip, allowing for the cost to be divided evenly.

Motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Strawn, to approve the trip as presented. All present voted yes on a roll call vote.

Discussion Items

A. Education Fund Referendum

Mr. Payne provided an update and “Thank You” for the tremendous amount of work that has been put in by so many people.

B. Revised Board of Education Policy 8:25, “Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools, Provided by Non School-Related Activities

Mr. Payne shared with the Board the cooperation the high school has given the referendum grass roots group, including marching in the homecoming parade, hosting the community public forum, as well as permitting the grass roots group to set up an informational station at home athletic events. Mr. Payne is bringing the current policy to the Board with the request to revise the policy as written so that MGS can return the favor if/when asked. The Board of Education Policy Committee has been directed to draft revised policy to present to the BOE for review and adoption. The revised policy will be presented at the November BOE meeting.

Information Items

A. Board of Education Committee Reports

1. Building Committee
2. Education Committee
3. Executive Committee
4. Finance Committee
5. Negotiations Committee
6. Policy Committee
7. Transportation Committee

The current bus fleet has two district-owned spare buses that are used on an as needed basis. One of the two buses is very old, and will take approximately \$5,000 to bring up to the point of, *maybe*, passing inspection. The bus needs to be replaced. The cost to lease a bus for the rest of the school year is \$12,340. The bus company will purchase our worn out bus for \$750. Three options were presented to pay the lease:

- a. Go further into deficit spending in the transportation fund – the state has provided neither last year’s final transportation payment nor this year’s first payment. The shortage from last year’s final payment comes to \$62,287.
- b. Use Capital Improvement funds – while these funds are available, they have been used in the past for the purchase of textbooks. Mr. Payne requested that while the funds may be there, not to use them for transportation, but for the future purchase of textbooks.
- c. Use working cash.

Motion by Mrs. Sikkema, seconded by Mr. Strawn, to lease another bus with working cash. All present voted yes on a roll call vote.

8. Referendum Committee – see notes from “Discussion Item”, letter B.

B. Administrative Reports

Mrs. Costello shared many of the positive events happening at MGS, including the Unity Week activities and assembly, and the Veterans Day assembly.

M. Damery shared highlights from the fall sports and activities.

Mr. Payne encouraged members of the Board to, as schedules allow, come to the school to see the many great things happening on a daily basis.

All members of administration shared appreciation for the tremendous job that our staff does on a daily basis. Every classroom is enjoyable to watch and engaged learning is very evident. Board members were encouraged, again as schedules allow, to see our staff at work.

Action was not required for this agenda item

Acknowledgement of Cards and Letters

Action was not required for this agenda item

Personnel Items

Motion by Mr. Strawn, seconded by Mrs. Sikkema, to approve Hollie Richards for the position of Scholastic Bowl Coach. All present voted yes on a roll call vote.

Executive Session for the Purpose of Appointment, Compensation, Discipline, Dismissal, or Performance of Employees

The Board did not have the need for executive session.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Strawn, (at 7:44 p.m.), seconded by Mrs. Sikkema to adjourn the October 20, 2016 meeting of the Board of Education. All present voted yea on a voice vote.

Bob Fisher
President

Jeff Wernsman
Secretary

