

**Minutes of the Metamora CCSD #1 Board of Education Meeting/Retreat, July 8, 2017**

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The July 8, 2017 meeting/retreat of the Metamora Community Consolidated School District #1 Board of Education was called to order at 8:34 a.m. in the library at Metamora Grade School. Members present: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Blundell, Mr. Gualandri, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Palmisano, Mr. Strawn, and Mr. Fisher. Others in attendance included Dennis Triggs, David Pistorius, Cathy Costello, Tim Damery, and Marty Payne.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports from the Public

There were no reports given from guests in attendance.

Action Items

- A.** First Reading of Revised/New Board of Education Policies: 2:100, “Board Member Conflict of Interest,” 4:15, “Identity Protection,” 6:70, “Teaching about Religions,” and 7:100, “Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations and Exclusion of Students”

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Barnes, to approve the first reading of the revised Board of Education policies. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

- B.** Contract Renewal with Miller, Hall, and Triggs as the District’s Legal Council for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to approve the contract renewal. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

- C.** Review of the past Six Month’s Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Mr. Strawn, seconded by Mr. Barnes, to keep closed those executive session minutes closed that have been determined to remain closed, and to allow public access to the follow executive session minutes: January 19, 2017, May 16, 2017, and June 15, 2017. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

- D.** Temporary Transfer/Loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund

The need for the loan comes from a lack of proper funding from the state in Transportation. The use of the Transportation Fund reserves has needed to pick up financial slack. The coming school year’s leased buses are scheduled to arrive in July, ahead of the first tax revenue payment.

So that the buses can be leased upon arrival the transfer of funds is necessary. Once local revenue has been received, the funds will be paid back to the Working Cash Fund Account.

Presentation from Dennis Triggs, School District Attorney

Mr. Triggs provided a brief overview of school board meetings and how they can be conducted effectively and efficiently, as well as the roles of Board members both in and out of a meeting. This included the need to have a majority vote to reach any decision, and that no one board member has any, individual decision making power.

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

Motion by Mr. Blundell (at 8:52 a.m.), seconded by Mr. Barnes to enter into executive session. All present voted yea on a roll call vote

Motion by Mr. Blundell (at 10:18 a.m.), seconded by Mr. Barnes to adjourn the executive session meeting and to return to open session. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Action taken after the Executive Session Meeting

Motion by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to approve Cindy Roley for the position of an elementary teacher. All present voted yea on a roll call vote

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Strawn, to approve Dan Herring for the position of part-time special education assistant. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Barnes, to approve Emily Wiegand as a cafeteria employee. All present voted yea on a roll call vote.

Motion by Mr. Blundell, seconded by Mr. Gualandri, to approve the notice of retirement from Diane Grebner, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Presentation from David Pistorius, School District Bond Underwriter

Mr. Pistorius presented information to the Board regarding the use of Working Cash Bonds for the district. The presentation included restructuring current debt with a \$2,000,000 bond, over a designated period of time so that it will have a limited effect on the tax payers.

### Strategic Planning - Financial

Mr. Payne shared district financial information, including the need to secure additional financial resources. There are a number of avenues that can be taken, ranging from another referendum effort, issuing working cash bonds, a facilities tax (county-wide sales tax), and a Risk-Management Plan. The BOE briefly discussed each of these, and determined that many financial aspects need to be discussed at the Committee level. There was further conversation regarding the Facilities Tax, the Referendum, and the Working Cash Bonds. A few of the other districts in the county have shown interest in the Facilities Tax, and the Board had instructed Mr. Payne to ask further regarding serious interest. Of the Superintendents that returned communication to Mr. Payne (the greater majority in the county), all were in favor of placing it on the March ballot. This being the case, the MGS Board is in support as well.

Another referendum effort was also thoroughly discussed. The Board is not opposed to another referendum effort, and without question, it needs to be kept on the radar for another attempt. However, the Board did not support it being placed on the March ballot. Recent events with extreme tax increases at the state level, along with the facilities tax question being placed on the ballot a very strong possibility, resulted in the belief that for now, the referendum has very little chance of passing. Mr. Payne further explained that the Facilities Tax would have no increase on the tax bill. The Board understood and recognized that the need to educate on this matter, but the need for additional revenue is now.

As a result of the conversation, the Board reached consensus to pursue \$2,000,000 in Working Cash Bonds. The Bond underwriter has been asked to research issuing bonds on a 5, 7, and 10-year plan.

### Strategic Planning – Curricular

Mrs. Costello presented a curricular plan that included all core subjects within the curriculum with the need to purchase ongoing books, supplies, and the integration of technology. This included related costs over a five year period. The plan also covered professional development needs and related costs, as well as curricular needs for social and emotional needs for students. The five-year financial summary was pointed out to be an, “estimate”, but one that will clearly have long-range expenses. The integration of technology was discussed as well. Much of the building is behind in wire infrastructure, and will need to have Wireless Access Points throughout the building. There is much more to be discussed, but the need to develop an ongoing, year-by-year purchasing plan for ongoing curricular and technology upgrades must be developed.

For the purpose of taking next steps, a Board of Education, *Education Committee* was developed with Brian Palmisano as the Chair, and Joe Gualandri as the second member.

Strategic Planning – Social Media

Mr. Damery spoke on the need to use types of social media to better educate the community on the many great things happening at MGS.

As the conversation of the retreat wrapped up, the BOE clearly understands that the coming year(s) will be busy, and must be busy in a productive way. The planning process cannot consist of a yearly retreat and a monthly meeting that requires a scripted agenda. Rather, BOE committees must get to work, and the productive next steps need to be taken.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Blundell (1:00 p.m.), seconded by Mr. Strawn to adjourn the July 8, 2017 meeting/retreat of the Board of Education. All present voted yea on a voice vote.

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Bob Fisher, President  
President

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Mary Miller, Secretary  
Secretary



