

**CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Constantine, Michigan**

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**Monday, August 14, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Zimont in the High School LGIA at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Jeffrey Zimont, Dale Davidhizar, Chuck Colley, Kevin Brouse, Mary Smith, Jacob Bergh, and John Shuler

Members Absent: None

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Smith to approve the Consent Agenda as presented to include minutes of the July 10, 2006 Organizational & Regular Board of Education Meeting, and the Facilities Committee Meeting minutes of August 2, 2006, and bills in the amount of \$267,233.12 for the general fund.

Roll Call Vote: J.B. aye, J.Z. aye, K.B. aye, M.S. aye, C.C. aye, J.S. aye, D.D. aye

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

**Audience with Individuals:**

1. Chris Stacey, MS teacher thanked the board and all involved for the progress MS technology project. She attended a recent conference that instilled pride in her and for community, and referenced how Mendon schools rallied together as a unit for a common goal. She questioned why some teachers have left to teach in other communities, and wondered how long will new teachers stay. Zimont acknowledged the Board's commitment to focus on student education and resolving current issues.
2. Laura Withers, Teacher & CEA President, believes that teachers left due to economics, and that many of the teachers' hearts are in Constantine Public Schools, while the money is not. She also stated that Constantine is not on same level as other county school contracts. Zimont responded that Board is open to all ideas from CEA, and encouraged them to help get dialog going again.
3. Donna Bullock, teacher, believes that Constantine lost good teachers due to financial reasons.
4. Beverly Simmons, 13928 Millers Mill, taxpayer. Questioned where the donations toward memorial benches were. Zimont responded that it would be acted on tonight. He recognized that we are behind schedule but things are progressing now that the MS project is complete, and he appreciated her patience.

**Action Items:**

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Bergh to accept the resignations with appreciation for their years of service to the district, for teachers Karrie Smith’s (6 years) & Jon Stasiuk (10 years), and CMS Counselor Robert Smith (3 years), as presented by the administration.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

The building principals introduced their new staff members at this time.

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Smith to approve the hiring of Brandy Shoup, as CHS Receptionist, Travis Martin, as CHS Physics & Chemistry teacher at BA 20, Step 0, Bill Robertson, as CHS Special Education, at MA 20, Step 7, Elizabeth Buckhold, as CHS English & Publications teacher at BA Step 0, Rachel Searls, as CHS Choir & Music teacher at BA Step 0, Jean Logan as CHS Dean of Students/Student Services Coordinator, Megan Schropp as RS & CMS Special Education teacher at BA Step 0, Jessica Barth as HS Math teacher at BA +20, Step 4, Sherri Borton as MS Guidance Counselor at MA Step 0, Richard Bush as MS Math/Social Studies teacher, at BA +40, Step 0,as presented by the administration.

Roll Call Vote: D.D. aye, C.C. aye, K.B. aye, M.S. aye, J.B. aye, J.S. aye, J.Z. aye

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Smith to recall Janice Jones from layoff, to fill the part-time CHS Media Center aide position, as presented by the administration.

Roll Call Vote: D.D. aye, J.S. aye, K.B. aye, M.S. aye, J.B. aye, C.C. aye, J.Z. aye

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Shuler to approve the slate of fall athletic coaches, as presented by the Athletic Director.

Roll Call Vote: J.S. aye, K.B. aye, J.B. aye, M.S. aye, C.C. aye, D.D. aye, J.Z. aye

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

Mark Bradford	Girls Basketball	Step 5
Dave Cherry	JV Girl’s Basketball	Step 5
Joy Freude	Varsity Cheer	Step 5
Amy Potter	JV Cheer	Step1
Judy Elliott	Co-Head Cross Country	7% Split

Tim McGlothlen	Co-Head Cross Country	7% Split
Shawn Griffith	Head Football	Step 5
Ken Rimer	Asst. Varsity Football	Step 5
Mike Tulley	Asst. Varsity Football	Step 5
Dave McGee	Head JV Football	Step 5
Lee Griffith	Asst. JV Football	Step 5
Dick Larrance	Assistant Golf	Volunteer
Terry Steward	Tennis	Step 5
Steve Steward	Tennis	Volunteer

Moved by Colley and seconded by Davidhizar to approve the annual Cooperative Education Program Agreement with White Pigeon for the 2006-2007 school year, as presented by the Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote: D.D. aye, C.C. aye, K.B. aye, M.S. aye, J.B. aye, J.S. aye, J.Z. aye

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

Moved by Brouse and seconded by Bergh to nominate Peggy Hall as the district representative to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC), as presented by the SJCISD and Superintendent.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Smith to approve using remaining bond funds to replace the carpet in the MS Media Center, address air conditioning for the MS technology closet and Media Center computer lab, and repair portions of the MS roof (funds from General Fund), irrigation, and approximately 150 MS student lockers, not to exceed \$13,000.00 from the General Fund, as presented by the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor and Superintendent.

\*Discussion from Chris Stacey on shortage of computers in the new lab compared to carpeting for the media center. Zimont along with the administration has been working with technology to reconfigure computer labs to accommodate everyone. Taxpayer, Donna Strawser stated that the Board missed the teacher's point concerning the educating of students. She feels that the Board needs to get essential items in the classroom.

Roll Call Vote: M.S. aye, J.B. aye, J.S. nay, D.D. aye, C.C. aye, K.B. nay, J.Z. aye

5 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Shuler to approve the Alternative Education Student Handbook changes, as presented by the Administration..

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Bergh to approve the resolution to borrow \$1,900,000.00 against future state aid from the lowest responsible interest rate bid, as presented by the Attorney, Business Manager, and Superintendent.

\*Lisa Pointer-Seidner, Business Manager, discussed the advantages of the amount to be approved and why it was recommended. Taylor discussed the details of State Aid funding and explained the need for a fund equity.

Roll Call Vote: C.C. aye, M.S. aye, J.B. aye, J.S. aye, D.D. aye, K.B. aye, J.Z. aye

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

Moved by Brouse and seconded by Bergh to grant a CHS diploma to Craig Bartoszewicz, as presented by the Administration.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

### **Discussion Items:**

1. Zimont discussed the vision and goals of the Board and future retreats for 2006-07. He would like to have two types of retreats, one for the Board specifically and one that would include a larger group of people. Brouse agreed and would like the lines of communication to be clearer throughout the community. Shuler would like to see more community involvement. Colley would like to have an open session to exchange ideas, and not necessarily conduct business. Smith would like to also see students involved. Bergh would like to have an agenda to promote a productive meeting. He suggested a spokesperson for each group. Davidhizar would like to have more staff input and clear issues so the discussion does not get sidetracked. He explained that decisions are made to benefit the whole district even though sometimes not every one is happy. Zimont suggested a Saturday meeting, and Davidhizar asked for not more than a four hour session. A meeting date prior to October first was suggested, and Bergh would like to see a regular meeting scheduled. Zimont suggested Sept 16th or 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Julie Hoffman Hoxie, MS teacher, suggested once a trimester. Kristy Barkley, MS teacher asked if a facilitator was involved. Stacey asked if a meeting could be advertised to promote community involvement and adequate representation. Davidhizar suggested a strategic planning meeting with all groups to set an agenda. Badman suggested making it part of the regular Board meetings. Simmons suggested the meetings be placed on the district calendar to the district. Tod Witek, taxpayer, suggested a short survey to help decide agenda items. Colley suggested a Saturday retreat with follow up sessions after the monthly board meetings. Zimont would like responses to be directed to Taylor.
2. Taylor announced that there would not be a proposed increase to the breakfast and lunch prices for 2006-07, prices will remain the same as last year. A comparison of county-wide prices showed Constantine Public Schools had the lowest average meal prices for students.
3. Taylor provided a summer cleaning, maintenance and district projects report. A district wide auction will take place on August 21, 2006 in front of the MS at 5:00 p.m. He also announced that an individual has come forward to donate a large sum of money toward athletics. The first project will be to resurface the track, at a cost of \$75,000. Zimont had concerns about the funding of the projects. Taylor stated that a promissory note is forthcoming from the donor's attorney. Zimont asked about the security cameras.

Taylor stated that the equipment is here, one issue that has arisen is who is responsible for installation of outside wiring. Zimont would like more accurate scheduling and completion of projects. Taylor complimented GRBS on their exemplary work over the summer and implementation of positive reinforcement plans and use of “green” environmentally friendly products.

4. Taylor discussed his recent village and township visitation schedule with the Board. He has been met with a positive response.
5. Taylor asked the Board to RSVP with Julie Lorenz per their attendance at the upcoming SJCISD SBA meeting Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at Mendon. As SJCISBA President, Davidhizar discussed some items on the meeting’s agenda.

**Additional Audience with Individual:**

1. Tod Witek, taxpayer, questioned safety issues with MDOT when recently they took a “School Crossing” sign down between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> streets. Zimont was not aware that the sign had been removed. Sixth Street is the student crossing area.
2. Susan Lowler, teacher, read a prepared statement concerning when the community was more like a family. She hopes for a return to that feeling of unity.
3. Terry Steward, teacher, questioned that some of the new hires were receiving step allowances for their previous experience, and one teacher coming to ES did not receive consideration. Taylor acknowledged that sometimes happens and would be happy to discuss the concern after the meeting.
4. Laura Wither, CEA president, asked if the Dean of Students was a full time admin position. Zimont answered yes. She also wondered who will install MS lockers. Taylor answered that maintenance would be in charge of the decisions concerning the installation. Quotes will be finalized soon.
5. Beverly Smith, RS teacher, asked about replacing bleachers that are in disrepair at Sweetland Stadium. Taylor answered that some repairs have been made. They are on the list for attention soon.
6. Ethan Strawser, teacher asked why such large numbers of teachers are leaving. He stated that teachers start looking for new jobs when they are unhappy.

**Board Member Items:**

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Davidhizar to go into closed session and return for the purpose of discussing SEIU and CEA bargaining status at 9:21 PM.

Roll Call Vote: C.C. aye, K.B. aye, M.S. aye, J.B. aye, J.S. aye, D.D. aye, J.Z. aye

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

President Zimont brought the Board out of closed session at 10:52 PM.

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Bergh to adjourn at 11:20 PM.

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

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Kevin Brouse, Secretary  
Board of Education