

CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Constantine, Michigan

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, May 21, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Zimont in the Eastside Gymnasium at 7:04 PM.

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

Members Absent: None

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Smith to approve the Consent Agenda as presented to include minutes of the April 16, 2007 Regular Board of Education Meeting and Work Session minutes of May 16, 2007, and bills in the amount of \$208,733.15 for the General Fund.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Celebrations & Audience with Individuals:

1. Linda Pettit & Carolyn Crawl, coaches for the 4th grade Clue-Me-In congratulated their team on their first place win. Ursula Bernhardt and Donna Bullock recognized the 5th grade team who also took first place. Doug Kuhlman, parent involved in Clue-Me-In, spoke about his concerns for the level of support for the 6th grade team and the struggle the coaches had to have a participating team this year. Lisa Bienz coached the 6th grade team and gave them special recognition for their recent first place accomplishment. Great job all teams!
2. Teachers, Carolyn Crawl along with Dave Bratt, presented certificates for the Young Authors recognition, grades 2-5.
3. Principal Kristin Flynn welcomed everyone to the ES gym and recognized Mrs. Deb Nihart and her MS team for decorating the gym for tonight's meeting. She also recognized the 92,000 minutes of reading by ES students in the month of March. She commended Carol Baker for donating her recent wedding shower gift of \$615 toward books for the AR program. She mentioned also that the St. Jude's Math-A-Thon, raised \$3792.00 in two weeks!
4. Seth Parker, CMS principal, recognized the Tri-County Math Meet competitors. The meet is comprised of 4 tests. The students were recognized by coaches Rick Bush, Glenda Beach, and Bob Sutton.
5. Tim Staffen, HS Principal announced that Mr. Steve Barrus, teacher; received the Liberty Bell Award this year from the St. Joseph County Bar Association for his efforts during the past school year to educate and promote awareness of different aspects of the law with his students. He also recognized Dave Cherry for his efforts to purchase text books with his own funds for the HS math department.

Taylor also announced that Betty Yoder, bus driver; was the winner of the exceptional Special Ed Driver award given by the St. Joseph County Parent Advisory Committee.

6. Dale Wentela presented an Alternative Education Power Point presentation and added that the Alternative Education program and community involvement in the schools is worth the effort. Graduation is next Thursday in the MS gym.
7. Marilyn Anderson and Jean Barrus gave an update and presentation for Family & Consumer Sciences. Life skills classes, including “Baby Think It Over”, are available as part of the program. They gave handouts to the Board. Allyson Geisler, student, presented her views on the Baby Think It Over program and gave a brief review of her portfolio which she put together in Mrs. Anderson’s class for her Senior Exit Interviews.
8. Zimont took the opportunity to explain the state budget shortfalls to the audience and request they contact their legislators this week!

Action Items:

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Smith to approve the SJCISD Board Election Resolution, naming Davidhizar as our voting delegate and Smith as the alternate voting delegate, and direct them to cast ballots for Niblock & Trenary to 2 year terms, and Boeschenstein & Bush to 4 year terms, as presented by the SJCISD and Administration.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Bergh to approve the SJCISD Budget Resolution for 2007-2008, as presented by the SJCISD and Administration.

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

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Colley and seconded by Brouse to approve the three types of senior high school diplomas recommended for the Alternative Education program, as presented by the Superintendent.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Smith and seconded by Davidhizar to approve the administrators’, supervisors’, non-represented, clerical and mechanical staff assignments for 2007-08 at their current compensation levels, as presented by the Superintendent.

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

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Brouse and seconded by Smith to approve the long term suspension for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year for student 07.05.09HS, and expulsions for students 07.05.03MS and 07.05.10HS as presented by the Principals and Superintendent.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Colley and seconded by Davidhizar to approve the 2007-08 CMS & CHS Student Handbook Revisions, as presented by the Administration.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Smith to approve the second reading of these new & revised Board Policies: 2431, 2623, 3121/4121, 3362/4362, 4120.09, 5350, 5460, 5517, 5517.01, 5630.01, 6520, 9150 as presented by NEOLA and the Superintendent.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Brouse and seconded by Smith to accept with regret the letter of resignation of Riverside educational aide Carol Lusk with appreciation for her 14 years of service to the students and staff of the district and the resignation of CHS Principal Tim Staffen, with appreciation for his 5 years of administrative service, as presented by the Superintendent.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Shuler to approve the 2007-2008 CPS District Action Agenda, as presented by the Superintendent.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Colley to set the annual Proposed Budget Hearing for 6:45 PM on Monday, June 11, 2007 in the CMS Media Center prior to the regular June Board meeting, as presented by the Business Manager and Superintendent.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Davidhizar and seconded by Bergh to approve the CMS biennial Washington D.C. trip, as presented by Administration.

*Bob Sutton was on hand to provide clarification of details on the upcoming trip.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Discussion Items:

1. School of Choice Update was given by Norm Taylor. There is a final net gain of 31 students including 18 kindergarten students.
2. Taylor discussed the pending vacancy on the Board of Education, when Kevin Brouse will resign his seat at the end of June. The board is accepting letters of interest for that appointment until June 4, 2007. The two recently elected Board members, Phil Portinga and Pat Touse were present as well and introduced.
3. Taylor gave an update to the recent district survey that was sent to voters.
4. Taylor discussed end of the year activities. Alternative Education graduation will be next Thursday. Regular graduation will be held Sunday, June 3 at 2:30. The last day of school is June 5, with an 11:30 dismissal. The Staff Appreciation Luncheon will also be on June 5th at 12:30 in HS cafeteria. Retirement gifts and service awards will be presented after the luncheon.
5. Craig Badman, Riverside principal announced that the Community Picnic will be held this Friday from 11:00-1:00 at Riverside.
6. Taylor mentioned to Zimont that diplomas need to be signed along with certificates for service awards. He also reminded everyone that the job posting deadline for the High School principal position was today. He currently has approximately 20 applicants for this position previously held by Tim Staffen. He is scheduling June interviews by a representative panel with several applicants.

Additional Audience with Individuals: None

Board Member Items:

1. Davidhizar, asked Messner to give update on the league situation. Messner then enlightened the audience on upcoming reduction to the league, as two members (Colon and Battle Creek St. Phil) are

leaving. They have to stay in until 08-09, and then the SJV will be down to six teams. He is looking for schools that will join, but they are apprehensive because of the football program as they don't feel they will make the playoffs.

2. Carmen Hull, parent asked about the recent bomb threat and why cell phone use was prohibited during that situation and lock down. Zimont responded with the district's well laid out policy they closely follow within the recommended Homeland Security plan.

Moved by Smith and seconded by Davidhizar to go into closed session to discuss negotiations at 8:35 PM.

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

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Zimont adjourned the Closed Session at 10:16 PM.

Zimont adjourned the regular meeting at 10:17 PM.

Kevin Brouse, Secretary
Board of Education