

**CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Constantine, Michigan**

**Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, October 8, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Zimont in the Mason Township Hall at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Jeffrey Zimont, Phil Portinga, Pat Touse, Mary Smith

Members Absent: Chuck Colley, Jacob Bergh John Shuler

Due to the absence of Chuck Colley, Zimont appointed Phil Portinga as acting secretary.

Moved by Portinga and seconded by Smith to approve the Consent Agenda as presented to include minutes of the September 10, 2007 Regular Board of Education Meeting, and Work Session minutes of October 2, 2007, and bills in the amount of \$ 511,427.22 for the general fund.

Voice Vote:

4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent
Motion Carried

Celebrations & Audience with Individuals:

1. None

Action Items:

Moved by Touse and seconded by Portinga approve the hiring of Todd Boyer as the new CHS Dean of Students, with a two year contract and annual salary of \$59,000 prorated for this school year, as presented by the CHS Principal and Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote: J.S. absent, C.C. absent, P.P aye, M.S. aye, J.B absent, P.T. aye, J.Z. aye

4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Smith and seconded by Portinga to approve the hiring of Debbie Veeder, at MA Step 4, as the new CMS Special Education teacher, as presented by the Administration.

Roll Call Vote: J.B absent, P.T. aye, J.S. absent, C.C. absent, P.P aye, M.S. aye, J.Z. aye

4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Smith and seconded by Portinga to approve the slate of fall coaches, as presented by the Athletic Director and Superintendent.

David Barney	Head Varsity Boys Basketball	Step 2
Tim Baker	Head 8 th Grade Boys Basketball	Step 5
Shawn Griffith	Head 7 th Grade Boys Basketball	Step 5
Kathy Messner	Head CMS Cheerleading	Step 5

Roll Call Vote: P.P. aye, C.C. absent, P.T. aye, M.S. aye, J.B absent, J.S. absent, J.Z. aye

4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Portinga and seconded by Touse to approve the five year copier contract with U.S. Business Systems, Inc., as presented by the Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote: J.S. absent, P.P. aye, C.C. absent, P.T. aye, M.S. aye, J.B absent, J.Z. aye

4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent
Motion Carried

Discussion Items:

1. Tori Wentela, Curriculum Director gave a curriculum update, including our efforts to improve our less than desirable MME test results. She also informed the Board of recent professional development and training for staff. There was dialog with the Board concerning possible avenues of improvement.
2. Taylor gave the Board a handout and a current update of the unaudited September count. Taylor also asked that any Board member planning to attend the MASB Fall Conference to please contact Julie Lorenz as soon as possible.
3. Taylor discussed the possibility of adding Alternative Ed assistant for the night session from 4:00-8:00 p.m., which was a topic at the last work session. Cost is an issue at this time.
4. The latest update from MSBO affirms that there is not enough revenue to support the current state aid pledge for the student foundation allowance. The net gain for schools could be significantly less. The public is urged to contact their state legislators.
5. Zimont discussed the follow up for the Canaris Street School project. Taylor stated there was a meeting this past week with involved parties to discuss possible uses and issues. Constantine Police Chief Mark Honeysett, Renee Welch and Raeann Donaway from the Commission on Aging, Bergh, Taylor and Pastor John Austin from Faithfinders church, all came to the consensus that a community center would be beneficial, but renovation costs and available funds are an issue. The Canaris Street School was deemed not suitable for a community center at this time.
6. Taylor stated the Board and the Bus Driver' union, IUOE, have reached a tentative agreement to settle their contract. Their representative will contact Taylor later this week. The teacher's contract will also be printed by the MEA soon. The aides association (CESPA), which is affiliated with the MEA, will be meeting with the Board in two weeks time.

7. Taylor announced that there may be a budget surplus in the \$90,000 range after the final audit for 2006-2007.
8. Taylor and Principals Badman and Flynn attended a Michigan Department of Education, Office of Professional Development sponsored workshop today in Lansing which dealt with issues concerning administrators', teachers' and aides' certifications for maintaining highly qualified status compliance, and also student safety issues.

Additional Audience with Individuals:

1. Mike Messner, athletic director commented on the Canaris Street School. He wonders if a bond issue could be looked into in order to address the situation. The building is currently being used by athletics for locker rooms and wrestling. He also added that the Hall of Fame weekend was a great success and the comments from those in attendance stressed the importance of Constantine Schools in the community. He especially congratulated the kitchen staff on their efforts to transform the cafeteria into a wonderful dining experience. This weekend the final Tomahawk game will take place. Constantine is doing all it can to commemorate the event. He urged everyone to be in attendance at "The Final Battle". Saturday morning, the cross country LeFevre Invitational will take place at 9:30 AM.

Board Member Items:

1. Zimont discussed the possibility of Taylor, Mulligan, and Messner being part of a team to create administrative guidelines for those students who may desire to be involved in dual sports due to the change in athletic seasons. Messner stated that there currently are some written criteria that would be a good starting point for the guidelines.
2. Zimont mentioned the current status of the outdoor bleachers. We did pass our bleacher inspection. He is wondering about students in the woodshop or metal shop being involved in improving our current bleachers. Taylor has looked into it and in order to become ADA compliant, we would have to overhaul the whole set of bleachers.
3. Smith congratulated the band on their 3rd place finish at Cedar Springs out of seven bands; they do have an upcoming MSBOA festival on Wednesday at Kalamazoo Central at 4:45.
4. Taylor, on behalf of the district, presented the Mason Township Library with three children's books tonight in appreciation for the use of their facility.

Zimont adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Phil Portinga, Acting Secretary
Board of Education