

CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Constantine, Michigan

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, April 21, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Zimont in the CHS LGI at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Jeffrey Zimont, Phil Portinga, Mary Smith, Chuck Colley, Jacob Bergh, Pat Touse and John Shuler

Members Absent: None

Moved by Bergh/Shuler and seconded by Touse/Smith to approve the Consent Agenda as presented to include minutes of the March 17, 2008 Regular Meeting, and April 15, 2008 Special Meeting minutes, and bills in the amount of \$496,173.30 for the general fund.

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

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Celebrations & Audience with Individuals:

1. Victoria Wentela, Curriculum Director announced that Eastside and Riverside teachers completed the Reading Academies this past week so all are updated at this point.
2. Nancy Hill, Riverside teacher announced that Young Authors books were turned in this past week, and winners will be announced next month.
3. Michael Mulligan, High School Principal announced that today he began a pilot program geared towards helping to eliminate students turning in late work. They spend their lunch hour with him doing make up work instead of their regular lunch period in the cafeteria. This program will be evaluated in a month's time for effectiveness.

Action Items:

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Touse to approve the slate of teacher probationary recommendations, as endorsed by the administration.

1. Continuing Probation – Second Year
 - a. Christy Bailey – Special Ed, RS
 - b. Amy Brauer – Spanish, MS
 - c. Suzanne Coffman – Elementary Teacher, ES
 - d. Adam Gifford – Chemistry/Physics, HS
 - e. Beth Wright – Special Ed, RS
2. Continuing Probation – Third Year
 - a. Jessica Barth – Math, HS
 - b. Elizabeth Buckhold – English., HS
 - c. Rick Bush – Math Teacher, MS
 - d. Jaime Chupp – Elementary Teacher, ES

- e. Jeremie Coplin – Elementary Teacher, ES
 - f. Shanna Gableman – Elementary Teacher, ES
 - g. Rachel Searls – Music Teacher, MS/HS
 - h. Steve Wilson – Social Studies, HS
3. Continuing Probation – Fourth Year
- a. Mike Sellers – Social Studies, HS
 - b. Holly Strawser – Elementary Teacher, ES

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Smith to approve the slate of teacher tenure recommendations, as endorsed by the administration.

Laura Telsworth – Special Education Teacher, HS
Dave Wing – Elementary Teacher, RS

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Smith to grant a 5.5 week leave of absence to Kenneth Rimer, Middle School teacher, from approximately 4/29/08 through 6/4/08 in accordance with Article 12.C of the Master Agreement using all accumulated sick days with any remaining days of the leave to be unpaid per Article 12.C, Family Medical Leave Act, as requested.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Bergh and seconded by Touse to approve with regret, the retirement of Mary Lynn Hocevar, Middle School ParaPro, effective June 1, 2008, with appreciation for her 13 years of service to the district, and the retirement of Rosemary Carter, Riverside Administrative Assistant, effective April 1, 2008, with appreciation for her 34 years of service to the district.

Voice Vote:

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Smith and seconded by Bergh to approve the additional spring coaches as presented by the Athletic Director.

Shawn Griffith	Asst. Boy's Track	50% split w/Moe
Gena Webb	MS Asst. Girl's Track	Step 1
Pat Hochstetler	Mini Basketball	\$1200

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

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

Discussion Items:

1. Dave Casey updated the Board on the upcoming May election concerning the appointed position and how its status will affect the current Superintendent search process. Smith is currently in the appointed

position and is running for the four year term; therefore Smith will immediately be replaced when the election is official. If Bergh wins the one year term, he must resign from his current four year term and someone else will be appointed to the remainder of his term for 2008.

2. Zimont discussed additional funding sources for the district. He referenced the QZAB grants which were discussed last month. Casey alerted the Board to money available called, a sinking fund that would need to be voted upon by taxpayers. This fund can be requested for up to 5 mills for 20 years. It can only be used for maintenance and upgrades of buildings and grounds. Although it may not be used for general fund purposes, ie: salaries. One mill would mean approximately \$250,000.00 to the district. It would cost the average taxpayer an additional \$41 per year. A project schedule could be announced along with the vote. Bergh discussed some urgent maintenance needs that could be addressed if a sinking fund was approved by voters.
3. Casey discussed the current status of the upcoming job openings of the Directors of Maintenance and Transportation, due to resignation and retirement. He gave the Board an update on what replacement costs for the positions would be as is. He gave the Board some options of deciding to combine the two positions and possibly hiring an additional maintenance person, which would result in a cost savings of approximately \$4000.00 to the district. There was much discussion among members about the pros and cons to both operations and transportation. Zimont would like to discuss with other districts that currently have such a combined position how it is working for them. He also discussed shared services which are being endorsed through the ISD.
4. Zimont provided a Superintendent search update. First interviews are scheduled for two each evening this week Tuesday through Thursday culminating in an open meeting Thursday evening after the final interview for candidates who will be invited for final interviews next week. Board members gave their input as far as structure for the final interview process.

Additional Audience with Individuals:

1. Kristin Flynn, ES principal let the Board know that Ben from GRBS meets with the buildings at least biweekly and is always available to the district and addresses custodial issues immediately. Principals have noticed a marked difference in service since the beginning of the year. Sue Wilson, RS teacher discussed some issues she has had at Riverside.
2. Larry Springer, Transportation Mechanic discussed splitting the Transportation Director position between himself and the Transportation Department Assistant, Rhonda King. They divided this position over the winter for several months during the absence of Don Hocevar with great success. They figure an approximate \$25,000 savings in that area. Resources could be better utilized this way.
3. Kevin Wright, Maintenance discussed the issues when a Maintenance Director does not come in over the weekends as in the past. Overtime and repair issues are much larger when not caught early on.

Board Member Items:

Moved by Smith and seconded by Shuler to go into closed session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations.

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

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent

Motion Carried

Moved by Touse and seconded by Bergh to come out of closed session at 8:48 p.m.

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

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion Carried

The Board discussed the progress of the 2008-2009 budget process.

Zimont adjourned the meeting at 9:27 PM.

Charles Colley, Secretary
Board of Education