

CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Constantine, Michigan

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Shuler in the High School Media Center at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Marilyn Ritzer, Pat Touse, Mary Smith, Connie Dalrymple, Chuck Colley,
and John Shuler

Members Absent: Phil Portinga

Moved by Colley and seconded by Smith to adopt the agenda as presented.

Voice Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Touse and seconded by Dalrymple to approve the Consent Agenda as presented to include the regular meeting minutes of December 8, 2008, Special Meeting minutes of December 16, 2008, Work Session minutes of January 6, 2009 and bills in the amount of \$92,383.31 for the regular Board Meeting of January 12, 2009 be adopted as written.

Roll Call Vote: M.S. aye, P.T. aye, P.P. absent, C.D. aye, C.C. aye, M.R. aye, J.S. absent

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Colley and seconded by Smith to approve the granting of a Constantine High School diploma to Alternative Ed student, Christopher Allen Hidalgo.

*Laurie Longcore, Alternative Ed Administrative Assistant spoke about the graduate. President Shuler presented the diploma.

Roll Call Vote: M.R. aye, C.C. aye, P.P. absent, P.T. aye, C.D. aye, M.S. aye, J.S. absent,

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Audience with Individuals: None

Administrative Reports:

1. Tori Wentela, Curriculum Director showed the current SOSAC placemats with artwork by Constantine students and stated that the community newsletter has been updated.
2. Kristin Flynn, Eastside Principal discussed her efforts in attempting to shorten the gap in learning between local preschoolers, Young 5 students and Kindergarteners. Eastside is promoting writing skills

next month. Thirteen families were helped at Christmas in large part to the efforts of Lindsay French, ES counselor. Flynn asked for permission to develop a blog for her military unit's families when they deploy for 6 months. Shuler and Frisbie approved.

3. Craig Badman, Riverside Principal was absent due to illness.
4. Jean Logan, Middle School Principal reported that the MS Geography Bee took place. The Care Packages to Iraq were a big success with much help from students. There are two intern teachers at the MS at this time. PD day on Monday January 19th will focus on technology. Chris Barnes from the ISD is helping to develop a plan to tackle the CHAMPS program which will need to focus more on rewards than punishment. An 8th grade commencement is currently in the planning stages.
5. Michael Mulligan, High School Principal announced the upcoming musical "Once Upon a Mattress" January 30-February 1, 2009 in the HS LGI. Snowfestival will take place next week with activities culminating in a dance after the game Friday evening. There were many successful HS fundraisers for families this Christmas season. Sophomores will take a PLAN test to prepare for the ACT next year. Parent-teacher conferences will take place next week on Wednesday.
6. Mike Messner, Athletic Director congratulated the Boys Basketball team for winning the Holiday Tournament hosted by Constantine. This is the first time the boys have won the tournament! There has been some event rescheduling due to inclement weather but all should be back on track by February. The wrestlers are also doing well this season with first and second place finishes at the last two tournaments. Constantine will be hosting the MHSAA Wrestling Regionals. This sets Constantine Public Schools at hosting more than 80 events in 10 different sports! MS Girls Basketball and Boys Wrestling begins today. The Constantine Community Fitness Center now boasts 84 members, with a goal of 100 one year memberships.

Superintendent's Update:

7. Charles Frisbie, Superintendent, updated information on the following;
 - a. Finance and Facility Committee meetings were set at 6:30 p.m. January 28th and February 3rd respectively.
 - b. Frisbie along with Dale Wentela and Barbara Marshall, ISD Superintendent met with Judge Schumacher last week to discuss possible plans to transition the JET Program to the use of Nova Net with the help of Alternative Ed. There were issues with the use of Nova Net through Centreville Schools.
 - c. The St. Joseph County School Board Association will hold it's next meeting on January 27, 2009 at White Pigeon Schools.
 - d. There will be a four year seat to fill in the May School Board Election. Petitions are available in the Superintendent's Office and are due to the County Clerk's Office by February 10, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.
 - e. District snow plowing is going well with the new equipment. Mr. Muckel has currently done 8 full runs this year, with the maximum runs in the past being only 11. He plowed over 30 hours this past weekend.
 - f. Grand Rapids Building Services contract renewal was discussed the at the work session. It was agreed to approve the 4 ½ % increase. After 5 years, communication has greatly improved.
 - g. Concerning the NEOLA updates, the only issue was with the Foreign Exchange student admission matters which other area schools have passed with reservations.

- h. The switch to Honeywell from Bright Arrow for the parent notification system is moving along. No word from Bright Arrow on a refund yet.
- i. According to the School Equity reports, there is no mid-year proration expected, although the recommendation is to budget for a zero increase next year in the foundation allowance. They are also projecting a statewide loss of at least 29,000 students overall.
- j. Due to School Board Recognition month in January, there was a dinner prior to the regular meeting honoring the current Board. The ES PTA presented each member with a pie and the MS Student Council had gifts for each also, while Frisbie presented them with certificates and thanked them for their dedication.
- k. Currently Constantine is the only district in the county without a Headlee override proposal. This year alone will cost the district \$98,000, with an overall loss of over \$400,000. This loss will only get larger each year. All members commented that we need to rally positive support and different options were discussed.
- l. Meetings will begin in June or July to discuss which option to take concerning the Canaris Street School. Option one would be to rehabilitate the building, while option two focuses on demolition.

Action Items:

Moved by Smith and seconded by Touse to approve the Michigan School Readiness Participating Resolution, as presented by the Business Manager, and Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote: C.C. aye, P.P. absent, P.T. aye, M.R. aye, M.S. aye, C.D. aye, J.S. absent

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Touse and seconded by Smith to approve the second reading of the new and revised NEOLA recommendations as presented.

Roll Call Vote: C.D. aye, M.R. aye, P.T. aye, P.P. absent, C.C. aye, M.S. aye, J.S. absent

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Colley and seconded by Dalrymple to approve the retirement of Ursula Bernhardt, Riverside Para Pro, and thank her for her 19 years of service to the district, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: C.C. aye, P.P. absent, P.T. aye, M.R. aye, M.S. aye, C.D. aye, J.S. absent

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Colley and seconded by Ritzer to approve the retirement of Carol Yaw, Bus Driver and thank her for her 5 years of service to the district, as presented

Roll Call Vote: P.T. aye, M.R. aye, C.C. aye, P.P. absent, M.S. aye, C.D. aye, J.S. absent

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Moved by Touse and seconded by Smith to approve the coaching recommendations of Clint Fund for 7th Grade Girls Basketball at Step 5, and Marge Caid for 8th Grade Girls Basketball at Step 2, as presented by the Athletic Director.

Roll Call Vote: M.S. aye, C.D. aye, C.C. aye, P.P. absent, P.T. aye, M.R. aye, J.S. absent

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent
Motion Carried

Additional Audience with Individuals:

1. Mrs. Charles Zimont, taxpayer wondered whose term was up for reelection. Frisbie answered Marilyn Rizter's. She also questioned the status of the gym floor situation. Frisbie stated that the lawyers sent an affidavit to the flooring company requesting full replacement of the floor at no cost to the district. Included in the affidavit was a report from a well respected floor expert recommending replacement by the company.

Board Member Items: None

Shuler adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Charles Colley
Secretary Board of Education