

**Meeting of the Board – September 21, 2015**  
**Board Meeting Room – 6:00pm**

Minutes

- 1) Call to Order by C. Hampton at 6:00pm
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call: Carrigan; Hampton; Lehman; Robertson; Schmalbach; Smalley; Temsey Absent: none
- 4) Moving public input to item 8a  
Motion: Lehman Support: Smalley Y- 7 N-0  
-Motion by Smalley to speak on public bullying as item 8b  
Motion by: Carrigan Support by: Robertson Y-6 N-1
- 5) Approval of Consent Agenda
  - Minutes of August 17, 2015 and September 2, 2015 meetings
  - Personnel Action Report
  - Approval of Payment DisbursementsMotion by: Robertson Support by: Carrigan Y – 7 N – 0
- 6) Update on Rapid Turnaround: Implementation of the Blueprint
- 7) Superintendent discusses the rapid turnaround beginning in April of 2015. He discusses the steps taken so far in this key initiative to change outcomes of PPS. A report is distributed, created by Dr. Chandler. The report shows overview of the launch of district turnaround network team who worked throughout the summer. In July there were over 50% of teaching staff that came in to work on gold standard instruction. Turn around teacher and turn around principal profiles are important to measure professional capacity of the staff. The Superintendent’s key piece is the student support network element. This would look at the social/emotional status of students as well as other student needs. Other elements of the blueprint are performance management, performance goals of buildings and using instructional and non-instructional data. Dr. Chandler is very proud of the staff and the hard work that is being undertaken. The success of Pottersville public schools is incumbent on us all. Lehman inquires about Eaton RESA adopting the rapid turnaround policy and whether their support will help with the process. The Superintendent feels that Rhonda Provoast attending a recent meeting on the turnaround policy and Eaton RESA’s support will help with this process..
- 8) Resolutions for Action:
  - Resolution to Modify Employment ContractThe Superintendent speaks on an action to look at the administrative role for the rapid turnaround blueprint. Issues have risen by teacher leadership for PEA and the resulting contract change is what is seen as the best for what the district needs. The title is changing for the position of: Director of the K-12 Student Support Network.  
Motion by: Smalley Support by: Robertson Y – 7 N – 0
- 9) Superintendent Report

Mr. Donahue supplied to the board a report from the law firm regarding teacher layoffs. Michigan Court of Appeals' decision favored the district. Superintendent is sharing the summary letter and the actual report of the decision. This decision may be appealed to the Supreme Court but Superintendent hopes this can be resolved and the district can move forward. The transportation updates include the numbers from Charlotte's transportation office. Some of the buses are high but not beyond capacity. Kathy Fuller at Charlotte's transportation office will be balancing numbers with Superintendent to help maximize the bus routes. The Superintendent discusses the business manager services and having a posting out soon, which would have a timeline of a posting out for two weeks to look at the response. The district is limited on budget but still feels confident that we can find a professional with a bachelor's degree in accounting with a background in school work. Mr. Johnson, the current business manager, is willing to stay on if this person cannot be found. Lehman inquires about associations that can assist with this. The Superintendent explains there are possible associations to assist such as MSBO, Michigan School Business Officials.

a) Public Input

- I. Lashawn Jordan speaks on concerns about emergency procedure forms that were issued. She has 6 children in the district and has had issues in the past with outside individuals making contact with her children. The Superintendent has assisted her with the situation previously but the problem has still occurred. She looks for better student safety.
- II. President Hampton reminds the public of a 3 minute guideline for speaking due to the amount of public input being discussed tonight.
- III. Jamie Dorian speaks about the community service day Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> where students will be out and about. The Chamber of Commerce and McDonald's have contributed money to the cause. She asks for the community to get involved with the project. She wants people to realize we have great kids at PHS and they have a good community that supports them in many ways. If someone has any ideas of people who need assistance please contact Jamie to assist. Hampton inquires how many kids are involved in the project. Jamie explains the entire high school goes with their first hour class. Hampton discusses possible t-shirts that show Potterville with a possible bright green for safety. Homecoming's theme this year is "there's no place like homecoming".
- IV. Tiffany Bryant has two main concerns. First, she understands there is a new procedure where special needs students start at the same time as other students. She feels her students don't have time to eat breakfast or prepare for class. She's hoping for resolution as soon as possible. Her bullying concern is she feels that nothing last year was done about it. She contacted OK to Say and that still accomplished nothing. She feels the community's voices have been silenced.
- V. Tracy Budden has a son that has been threatened in the recent rap song circulating the community. She explained her son did not have any knowledge of this song at first and that he has no contact with the creator of the rap. She wonders what it will take for something to be done. She feels the consequences for this student's past actions have not been sufficient.
- VI. Casey Mason is concerned as her son was also named in the rap. Her son and the student have had issues in the past and she describes a scenario from last year. She felt the reaction by the school in

- regards to the threatening rap was not sufficient. She discusses State law that states that no matter what the act, cyberbullying will not be acceptable. She will hold the school responsible for any future dangerous situations and just wants safety for staff and students.
- VII. Yvette Green is the mother of the student who created the rap song. She is unhappy with the community's response on Facebook to her son's actions but is not here to discuss that tonight. Speaking to the parents she explains she wants no harm done to any students involved and understands there have been issues between these students in the past. The song was lyrically written like a popular rapper and although she does not condone it that's all it was. Ms. Green details a few past experiences her son has had in the district such as being locked in a locker and cars trying to run him off the road and calling him a "nigger."
- VIII. Kimberly Robinson speaks about how she feels about the bullying. She is not saying that anyone is innocent. She doesn't understand why the situation was escalated to a death threat. Why didn't the schools do something to keep the bullying from getting this far? She has had problems with the student as well.
- IX. Bertha Redman speaks about the student being bullied since he started school to include some teachers. Her granddaughter even was beaten up in the district. The student was simply expressing how he feels and she feels that the parents would feel differently if it was their kids in the song but the ones being bullied.
- X. Monique is the aunt of the student who created this rap song. In the past he has come to her about bullying and she suggested talking to administration. Even the police were called and nothing was done. She thought the issue was resolved until she saw the lying and rumors being spread on the Potterville Community Facebook page. She mentions that one father of the students mentioned in the song threatened to kill the student on Facebook and posted a picture of a rope noose on Facebook.
- XI. Laushawn Jordan speaks again about the bullying her son also encountered in Potterville's district. She understands both sides of this situation and feels parents need to be aware that their students make their own decisions on actions when they leave the home. Discussing her own son who has done some bullying she makes the public aware that fighting and talking ill of a student on Facebook will not get anything accomplished. Parents need to speak with their students about the issues at hand.
- XII. Sharon Dukes is the grandmother of a student named in the rap song. She details her first experience meeting the student who created the song. She recites some lyrics from the song such as people "crying at a funeral" and "Friday will be pay day". She wants the student to get the help he needs and says she feels that this all starts at home. The public joins in the discussion and some feel the issue is inactivity by the school board and administration. Sharon Dukes said this is not a white and black issue. The student's family does not agree with this. Lehman then speaks up to state the public's thoughts have been expressed and we should move along to the next public input.
- XIII. Bryan Titus has had 5 kids come through the school. He feels the community should come together to stop the bullying going on before something worse happens. He's looking for resolution as he feels

every student involved in this situation has been bullied at one time. Bryan feels the school board and possible committees should get involved in the matter.

XIV. President Hampton makes a statement because of the escalated concerns in the meeting. Even prior to sitting on the school board he has watched the dramatic change has been in students. Social media is causing change and bullying is now not just happening at school but on Facebook and texting as well. There should be community/parent input to resolve this. How can we non-bully both inside and outside of the school? He feels everyone should get involved in resolving this matter because these aren't bad districts that this occurs in. It has been noticed by him that everyone has talked about the matter but not how to resolve the issue. He is thankful everyone has come out to speak up on the bullying happening in the district and proposes a committee to meet on the matter.

XV. A community member discusses a possible solution that not many agree with. Hampton states that a committee should be created to police it at the school level, summer time level and the home level. Lehman says it's a community problem. Hampton states that he will send out an email and his email will be available to anyone looking to join the committee. Lehman says any suggestions are welcome and discusses the actions that have already taken place to resolve the issue such as cameras in the schools. They need help from community to look at how it's addressed and it can't be just the school system.

b) Board member Smalley gives out an email with notes on the bullying situation and plans to speak on the topic. He is hoping for this to be addressed by administrators. He discusses his own personal issues with the bullying in Potterville's district. Hampton feels that this discussion should be closed down due to the private nature of it. He feels that everything has been addressed during the public input.

#### 10) Closed Session for Attorney-Client Privilege Matter

Motion To Enter Closed Session by: Lehman                      Support by: Carrigan    Y – 7   N – 0

Roll Call Vote: Carrigan-Y; Hampton-Y; Lehman-Y; Robertson-Y; Schmalbach-Y; Smalley-Y; Temsey-Y

Motion To Exit Closed Session by:        Temsey                      Support by: Lehman    Y – 7   N – 0

Roll Call Vote: Carrigan-Y; Hampton-Y; Lehman-Y; Robertson-Y; Schmalbach-Y; Smalley-Y; Temsey-Y

#### 11) Motion to Adjourn by Temsey, Supported by Lehman, Adjourn at 7:31pm