

**Meeting of the Board – December 19, 2016**  
**Board Meeting Room – 6:00pm**  
Minutes

- 1) Call to Order by J. Lehman at 6:00 pm
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call: Hampton; Lehman; Robertson; Schmalbach; Scott; Smalley; Temsey Absent: Hampton
- 4) Approval of Consent Agenda
  - Minutes of November 21, 2016 and December 7, 2016 meetings
  - Approval of Payment Disbursements
  - Personnel Action ReportMotion by: Smalley Support by: Schmalbach Y- 6, N-0
- 5) Public Input:
  - Mike Walker – Mr. Walker began by stating that Mr. Lehman had asked at a previous meeting to do the homework. Mr. Walker received six responses from administrators/teachers. 1. Kelly Roe-Stated there was no “Welcome Back” meeting from years previous. “How are our teachers supposed to feel trust? The only fault the Board had was falling prey to Tim.” 2. Cat Weaver- “There was a time I felt I would be supported by my leaders. I watched a hidden war between Administrators and teachers. It is a lose-lose battle. Our staff is incredibly unhappy. Our students can see when there is an imbalance in power. I deeply fear for Potterville.” 3. Mike Selzer-“ I felt Tim brought in a head hunter (Grant Chandler). I felt the staff was doing all of the giving.” Mr Walker also stated that we need a healthy environment for our students and staff. We might be fiscally healthier than we have ever been, but mentally, emotionally, we are not there.
- 6) Resolutions for Action: *None*
- 7) Superintendent Report: Mr. Donahue delivered a presentation regarding updates on many important topics, as requested by the Board President:
  - **Transportation**: Shared service agreement with CPS through June 30, 2017. The District currently leases buses, and we get new buses every couple of years. PPS has 6 buses currently- all fit 77 students. Our current range is between 50-67.
  - **Textbooks:ELA**: Mr. Donahue reviewed data from building principals about the current status of district textbooks in K-12 core programs. Tim provided info on budgeting and the move towards one-to-one technology. Teachers can easily share content through devices and learning platforms for classrooms, like Edmodo. Textbooks should no longer be the center of engaging, critical analysis instruction.
  - **Technology**: ALL District classrooms have a WAP- Wireless Access Point. New devices were purchased over a three year span; replacement in future years is fiscally sustainable. Fifteen Help Desk Technology (WAP) Tickets were submitted since 7/1/16; the biggest issue appears to be user error; there are very few issues with the district’s wireless access.
  - **Student Achievement**: Discussed HS Graduation Rates. It is based on the basic 4-year completion rate, which for PPS is 90.19 percent. Our rate is higher than Charlotte and Maple Valley’s, as well as several

other CMAC schools in comparison. Mr. Donahue also discussed 2016 M-Step Improvements- all positive!

- **Student Enrollment:** Most MI schools are experiencing declining enrollment (ex: the birth rate in MI has declined). 4 of 5 Eaton County districts have lost students since 2011; 7 of 8 CMAC school districts have lost students in the same time period for comparison.
- **Staff Transitions:** Mr. Donahue reviewed issues around the departure of the EL principal and two teacher resignations in June of 2016.
- **Teacher Salary Comparisons:** PPS Top Tier/minimum 19 years of service chart displayed. All teacher salaries are made available online. Mr. Donahue provided comparison data of the two top salary levels for PPS teachers compared to the same salary levels in other districts in Eaton County and to other schools in the CMAC.
- **Teacher Turnover:** Currently 57 teachers employed. 39:57 (68%) have been employed since 2010-2011. The number of teachers is declining overall in Michigan (chart displayed). \*Most concerning issue in the State is 1.) Compensation. 2. Too much standardized testing 3. Evaluations.
- **Superintendent Contract:** 2010-2021. Mr. Donahue reviewed the status of the district's superintendent contract since 2010, through 2021. Mr. Donahue also provided salary comparisons for Eaton County's school superintendents and those in the CMAC schools.
- **Community Outreach:** Celebration of New Athletic Field. Two Guest emcees: Bob Hoffman and Cheryl Fritze volunteered their time to help the district celebrate our students and the new facilities. Mr. Donahue also addressed the board about reaching out to two parents to set up meetings to review questions and concerns.

**Jeremy Robertson:** spoke to the new Board members: Kendra Scott & Amy McDowell present (Mr. Scott and Ms. Sipes left for the band concert at the MS/HS building.) Mr. Robertson wished the new board members well but encouraged them to stay the course of positive developments for the district and the community. He came onto the board with the goal of enhancing the safety and security of the district, bring financial stability to the district, and assist with settling the teachers' contract after two years in dispute. He is proud of being able to serve the community and our children by accomplishing his mission. During his tenure, he said he saw the Board achieve a lot: grew the fund balance, saved our food service staff members' jobs, developed a one-to-one technology initiative that led the county, built the new athletic complex, secured buildings and entrances, moved the bus corral, and started to implement Rapid Turnaround, which is a big deal for the district's future. He feels the new Board needs to stay on course and not be blinded by negative comments and viewpoints. He understands the platform for many of the new board members was that it is time for a change, but he believes board members were induced and motivated with misinformation provided out of ignorance and bias. Mr. Robertson encouraged board members to ensure confidentiality. Much information is provided to the Board in a privileged manner for the safety of children and the professionalism of staff. The majority of the information is to be held confidential. Mr. Robertson continued with what he would like the new board to focus on: getting alarm systems synced with Eaton County emergency services, promoting a "one district, one team" approach, ensuring that all staff members are working for the same vision, expanding our technology for learning, and seeking out practical curricula. In his closing comments, Mr. Robertson urged the new board with these words: Don't go broke. Just because you vote to give someone

a raise doesn't mean you won't vote to give someone else a raise. Your voice is your vote-not Facebook. Seek out the correct information, and hold strong to what is right, not what is easy.

**Anita Hall**- stood up and thanked the Board. Mentioned her staff had to take a \$2 hour pay cut. She thanked the Board for giving her kitchen staff the opportunities it has provided.

8) Adjourn at 6:55pm