

Meeting of the Board – February 21, 2017
Board Meeting Room – 6:00pm

Minutes

- 1) Call to Order at 6pm by President Sipes.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call: Lehman; McDowell; B. Scott; K. Scott; Sipes; Smalley; Temsey
- 4) Parent Appeal of Athletic Concern
 - Paula Ackley speaks about her daughter accusing Ms. Murray of discriminating about her daughter's weight. She feels her daughter was harassed by not getting an appropriately fitting uniform. Her daughter is an honor roll student but she never starts any games. Ms. Ackley wants Ms. Murray punished for her comment and the treatment of her daughter. Ms. Ackley feels that the Athletic director needs to be fired and so does the superintendent. Superintendent Donahue then hands the board a summary report of actions regarding this matter and encourages the board to ask any pertinent questions of Ms. Murray. Ms. Murray then made a statement to the board explaining her comment and reiterating that she had made an apology for her comment to the student.
- 5) Approval of Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of January 16, 2017 and February 1, 2017 meetings
 - Approval of Payment Disbursements
 - Personnel Action Report
 - Hiring of Physical Education Teacher

Motion by: Temsey Support by: K. Scott Y- 7, N-0
- 6) Public Input: *Please use Public Input Form (available near the door) and present to Superintendent at any time before Public Input is concluded.*
 - None.
- 7) Middle School Reward School Status Celebration
 - Superintendent Donahue explains the middle school was designated as a State of Michigan Reward School. This is the second time one of our buildings has been designated as such by the State of Michigan. Mr. Leale then gave the following statement:
 - Well, first I would like to say congratulations to the staff and students of Potterville Middle School. Being named a Reward School by the State of Michigan was truly a remarkable accomplishment. Our recognition, according to the Michigan Department of Education, was based on the growth made as we fell into the top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement. Last year, I utilized our building leadership committee, the IT Committee, to collaborate on a vision in which we wanted for PVMS. We stayed true to the course and mainly focused on behavioral expectations with the implementation of PBIS. This initiative allowed our students the opportunity for positive recognition and built a sense of community throughout the building. While this was time consuming to a degree, we felt the benefits were worth it. A shift then began to take place as we could use instructional time more wisely as those little fires were already being put out in a proactive sense. I asked the staff to be open-minded and I would not fault them for trying something new in their classrooms. My main objective was to not be stagnant. Meaning, we don't have to do it this way just because we have always done it that way. With that, there were some periods of trial and errors, changes in perception, and revamping that allowed for teachers to rethink or validate the things we do. This year, we have built off that foundation from last year with the revisions in our master schedule to try and create a more student-centered learning environment. We now have a WIN (What I Need) class that changes every 6 weeks based on screeners that are administered to the students. This allows us to check their understanding and place students in either an intervention or enrichment period to work on those skills before this process repeats itself for the next 6 weeks. We brought back art to the 7th and 8th grade students to produce another outlet for creativity and expression. Lastly, our school day ends with Encore classes. These are extensions of core classes that take skills and

apply them in a project based learning atmosphere. For example, Newspaper is a class that uses ELA skills as students compose their own articles, Broadcasting allows students to write scripts and practice public speaking skills, and Divide and Conquer gives our 5th grade students the opportunity to design zoos and amusement parks by incorporating their abilities for volume and perimeter. I personally feel we are more intentional in our actions and our willingness to bring new ideas to the table helps create a safe, positive, and productive learning environment. As we move forward, I am grateful and appreciative for the direction we are headed in the middle school and send the best wishes for continued success.

- Board Members Lehman, Smalley and Sipes offer congratulations to the staff. Board member K. Scott offered thanks to the staff and talked about her own child's improvement in writing because of the teachers' effort.

8) Presentation on Purchasing Process for District Programs

- Superintendent Donahue introduced business manager Andy Nurenberg who presented an overview of district budgeting and purchasing processes. His report included details of approval processes for purchases that lead to the monthly board approval list. Board member B. Scott asked a question about requirements for auditing. Mr. Nurenberg responded that public schools are required each year to have an independent audit conducted.

9) Dialogue on 2017-2018 School Calendar

- Superintendent Donahue shared documents with board about possible 17/18 school year calendar options. He would like to gather the board input about an early school year start date. Other Eaton county school districts are beginning school on August 21st. Mr. Donahue wished to begin a conversation about what works best for our families and our district. Mr. Donahue has met with teacher association leaders. State law does permit the school district to set the first day of school. The remainder of the school calendar is subject to negotiation. Several board members asked questions about calendar impact such as ending dates, transportation needs, sports and conferences. Mr. Donahue answered board questions and stated that no decision need be made at this time outside of simply exploring options. A motion was offered to set the start date of the school year as August 21st.

Motion by: Temsey Support by: Lehman Y- 4 N-3

10) NEOLA Policy Update Review

- Superintendent Donahue referred the board back to policy update packets that were introduced in early January. Mr. Donahue reminded the board that after reviewing them two times the board can enact policy changes. A motion was offered to approve the board policy updates.

Motion by: Lehman Support by: Temsey Motion: Failed

- The board discussed spending more time reviewing the policy update language as the majority felt that there hasn't been thorough review at this point. Board member Lehman suggested members bring their concerns to the March 1st workshop.

11) Resolutions for Action:

- Resolution on Board Member Protocol: No Surprises
President Sipes explains recent board training through MASB regarding proper protocols for board activities. Mr. Donahue expressed appreciation for the spirit of the resolution toward developing an eight member leadership team.

Motion by: K. Scott Support by: McDowell Y- 7, N-0

12) Superintendent Report

- Mr. Donahue presented a summary report on the bus incident that occurred on January 19th, 2017. The parent of the student in this matter spoke to the board at the recent work session of 2-1-17. He reviewed key points of the report, a copy of which has been entered into the record for this meeting. Mr. Donahue also shared a handout about the upcoming Region VI legislative breakfast that is happening in April. Mr. Donahue also shared with the board some details of a pending office and conference room renovation, which would create a conference room next to the current board room for closed session meetings as needed, as well as a meeting space for the administrative team and superintendent.

13) Administrative Reports (*Provided in Written Format in Board Packet; Opportunity for Dialogue*)

Motion to Enter Closed Session:

Motion by: Lehman

Support by: B. Scott Y- 7, N-0

Motion to Exit Closed Session:

Motion by: Lehman

Support by: Temsey Y- 7, N-0

Board President Sipes stated that the closed session was regarding a student discipline matter. A motion was offered to expel the student in question for a period of up to 180 days, i.e. the semester break of the 2017/2018 school year.

14) Meeting Adjourned at 7:45PM