

Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 16, 2017

The Board of Education Midland Public Schools

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Midland Public Schools was held Monday, October 16, 2017, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan.

1. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: President Brandstadt, Vice President Singer, Secretary McFarland, Member Baker, Member Blasy, Member Fredell

Board Member Absent: Treasurer Frazee

Central Staff Present: Superintendent Sharrow; Associate Superintendents Cooper, Brutyn, Greif
27 audience members were present for this meeting.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Singer/McFarland moved for approval of the consent agenda

2. 1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2017.
 2. 2. The following persons were recommended for employment for the 2017-18 school year:
 - ◇ Chelsea Berg, 1.0 English/Social Studies Teacher
 - ◇ Alexandria Francisco, .4 English Teacher
 - ◇ Jennifer Frazee, .5 PATHs Electronic Learning Facilitator
 - ◇ Abbye Gulvas, 1.0 Speech-Language Therapist
 - ◇ Jamie Hauser, .9 Occupational Therapist
 - ◇ Samantha Schmidt, 1.0 Elementary Teacher
 2. 3. The following staff members announced their resignations effective as follows:
 - ◇ Hayley Barnes, Paraprofessional, Central Park Elementary, September 22, 2017
 - ◇ Kristen Gillings, Paraprofessional, Jefferson Middle, October 4, 2017
 - ◇ Kristen Kloha, Paraprofessional, Eastlawn Elementary, June 15, 2017
 - ◇ Lisa Simonds, Special Education Teacher, Siebert Elementary, September 20, 2017
 - ◇ Amy Sturgeon, Paraprofessional, Central Park Elementary, September 29, 2017
 2. 4. Bids were requested and sent to seven (7) vendors for the wrestling mat at H. H. Dow High School. Six (6) responded with the results indicated on the bid tabulation sheet. It was recommended to purchase the mat from the low bidder, EZ Flex Sport Mats, for a total delivered price of \$8,210.
 2. 5. To meet the increasing volume and demand for plastic sign engraving in the district, bids were accepted for an EGX-600 sign engraver, engraving tool starter kit, braille and profile cutters, accent raster pen license kit with manual and auto pens, and a trade in for our current EGX-30A engraver. Administration recommended issuing a purchase order to Able Engravers, Inc. of Skokie, Illinois for \$14,326.99
 2. 6. Legal Invoices for Payment
Approval was requested to authorize the following legal payments:
 - ◇ Thrun Law Firm, \$1941.50, September 28, 2017
 - ◇ Lusk Albertson, \$637.00, October 4, 2017
 - ◇ Poznak Dyer Kanar Garchow Shefsky PLC, \$181.25, July 31, 2017Motion carried unanimously.
- ### 3. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS--PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD
3. 1. Mr. Sharrow recognized the two October Shining Star employees. These staff members were recognized for doing an outstanding job and going above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students.
 - ◇ Kim Wood, Administrative Assistant, Siebert Elementary School
 - ◇ Barbara Warczinsky, Retired Educator; 2016-17 Long-Term Substitute Teacher at Plymouth Elementary

Members Present: A. Brandstadt, P. Frazee (chair), P. Singer, M. Sharrow, R. Cooper,

Guests Present: Daryl Dambrow, Barton Malow; Dale Jerome, French Associates

October Purchases: Mr. Cooper shared information regarding three purchases which will be brought to the October Board of Education meeting for approval.

<> The first purchase is for continued upgrading of the district radio communication system to digital. With the purchase of 16 additional bus units and 3 handheld units the transportation department will be fully converted to the digital system. As part of expanding the system to our buildings, we are also purchasing a base unit and 8 handheld radios to use at Central Park Elementary as a pilot for our buildings. As discussed earlier the district is looking to expand our radio communication capacity to the school building level with standardized systems enhancing the district's ability to communicate in all situations.

<> The second purchase is an upgrade to our current sign engraver. As the district has taken on more of the plastic sign engraving instead of using outside vendors, the current machine is being pushed beyond its original design and capabilities. Two bids were received. One of the two bids was for an alternate brand of machine than the one requested, which would require different software, additional training and make current cutters and materials owned by the district not useable. Administration recommends issuing a purchase order to Able Engravers, Inc. of Skokie, Illinois for \$14,326.99.

<> The third purchase is for furniture for the new cafeterias at Plymouth and Woodcrest. Like the purchase of previous furniture this purchase will be done using nationwide cooperative State bid pricing. Cafeteria tables will be purchased through Great Lakes Furniture Supply, Inc. at a total cost of \$51,413. This purchase will use bond funds.

Bond Work: Mr. Dombrow of Barton Malow reviewed and discussed with the committee the upcoming project bid schedule of Chestnut Hill and Siebert renovations and additions. Mr. Jerome of French Associates reviewed the site and building plans for the two buildings.

Jefferson Pool: Mr. Sharrow and Mr. Cooper reviewed the information to be presented at a joint meeting with the Midland Community Center of middle school community pool users. This included the current status of the Jefferson pool and the costs associated with fixing it. The pool meeting is the initial step in examine pools in the Midland community by all the stakeholders and the formation of possible next steps.

6. 2. Mr. Cooper announced that the 2017 Energy Star awards just came in from the EPA. Midland High and Chestnut Hill were 2017 Energy Star Certified Buildings. To receive this award, these buildings have 35% less energy emissions than similar buildings.

For Information: Gifts totaling \$15,044.29.

◇ \$ 1,950.00 for Supplies for Teachers from Siebert PTO

◇ \$ 1,000.00 support of DHS Debate Program from Mr. and Mrs. Alan Ott

◇ \$ 1,000.00 matching gift in support of DHS Debate program from Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation
From H. H. Dow High All Sports Boosters

◇ \$ 190.00 support of the cheer program

◇ \$ 100.00 support of membership/clinic for swim coach Smith

◇ \$ 160.00 support of membership/clinic for swim coach Strickler

◇ \$ 1,748.29 for athletic trainer medical supplies

◇ \$ 896.00 support of girls' basketball program

From Community Gives Youth Service Program at Midland Area Community Foundation

◇ \$ 1,000.00 support of Midland High boys' junior varsity baseball

◇ \$ 1,000.00 support of Midland High girls' varsity soccer

◇ \$ 1,000.00 support of Midland High boys' freshman baseball

◇ \$ 1,000.00 support of H. H. Dow High varsity cheerleading team

◇ \$ 1,000.00 support of Midland High boys' and girls' cross country teams

◇ \$ 1,000.00 support of Midland High girls' track team

◇ \$ 1,000.00 support of Midland High boys' varsity soccer

◇ \$ 1,000.00 support of Midland High boys' junior varsity soccer

6. 3. McFarland/Baker moved for approval of the following gift:

◇ \$5,000.00 for classroom and administrative support from Plymouth PTO

Motion carried unanimously.

6.4. For Information: Gifts of Items:

- ◊ Yamaha Trombone (serial #490818) from Ms. Lisa Gandy
- ◊ Bundy Clarinet (serial #357558) from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Plewa
- ◊ Yamaha double French horn (serial #YHR663) from Ms. Amy Hutchinson
- ◊ 100 headphones donated to Plymouth Elementary from Holy Family Episcopal Church

7. **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Study Committee Chair: Scott McFarland; Staff Resource Person: Mr. Sharrow

7.1. The following staff members announced their retirement effective as of these dates:

- ◊ Shelley Blain, Paraprofessional, Seibert Elementary, January 2, 2018
- ◊ Elizabeth Lorenz, Teacher, Adams Elementary, September 30, 2017

8. **CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

8. 1. For Information: Letters from the Board of Education to:

- ◊ Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Pelletier
- ◊ Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Gandy
- ◊ Mr. and Mrs. Torsten Kraef
- ◊ Anonymous Donor

9. **SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES--FOR INFORMATION**

The following is a listing of scheduled meetings or activities of the Board of Education. All meetings are Regular and Special Meetings of the Board of Education and begin at 7:00 p.m. at the MPS Administration Center (600 East Carpenter, Midland) unless otherwise noted:

- ◊ November 20, 2017 ◊ December 18, 2017
- (The following Meeting dates are tentative until they are adopted at the January Org. Meeting)*
- ◊ January 15, 2018 ◊ May 21, 2018
- ◊ February 19, 2018 ◊ June 11, 2018
- ◊ March 19, 2018 ◊ June 25, 2018
- ◊ April 16, 2018

10. **STUDY DISCUSSION SESSION**

This portion of the agenda is utilized by the Board to introduce topics for future study, to discuss school district related matters, to complete professional association business and to relate items of interest. No action is taken during this time. Occasionally closed sessions are scheduled to discuss confidential personnel, negotiations or property matters.

10. 1. Board Members expressed their ...

- thoughts about the great speakers involved in Friday's STEM celebration event at Central Park Elementary School. Thank you to our private sponsors that have supported us through the years. Thank you to Jerry Wasserman for organizing the event. It went smoothly. It was wonderful to see the building with school in session and the learning going on for our students. Amazed by the broad spectrum of our community members who are interested in and have shown support for Central Park.
- appreciation for the books purchased in memory of a Board member's grandmother who recently passed.
- thoughts about the upcoming annual Midland v. Dow football game on Friday. Great school spirit on display! Arrive early. Enjoy spirit week at both high schools this week. It will be an exciting week in our high schools and an exciting night.
- thanks to Plymouth for coming tonight and sharing the programs they are using on their Chromebooks. It was a great follow-up to our Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Study Committee meeting earlier today. Our students have great tools and opportunities at MPS. One board member shared that he can't underestimate the great value of the Chromebooks. His two children are Siebert students and have turned into voracious fact checkers. Great to see them actively learning and researching with this powerful learning tool. Thanks to our taxpayers who made these Chromebooks possible for our students. Appreciated hearing the comments from the students, teachers and visitors about the changes at Plymouth.
- excitement for the Energy Star awards announced tonight. It is important to move our buildings into the 21st Century and make them energy efficient so we can put that money into other things for our students.

- appreciation for the letters Board members received from Ms. Slabaugh's 5th grade class at Plymouth regarding the Chromebooks.
- congratulations to our October Shining Stars, Kim Wood and Barbara Warczinsky. Thank you for your hard work to make MPS a better place for students.
- appreciation for the challenge Mr. Andrew Liveris put in front of us as he addressed the 400 Midland and Dow High students about we.org and how we can reach out and make a difference locally and globally. Visit we.org to sign up. It is a great opportunity for all of us to make a difference.
- thoughts about Cultural Awareness month. Go to the Midland Area Community Foundation's website and click on cultural awareness. There you will find many opportunities available in our Midland community relative to cultural awareness.
- thanks to our wonderful donors for all of the monetary gifts as well as the musical instruments that were recognized as gifts at this evening's meeting.
- interest in the STEM summit on Friday at Delta College highlighting some of the great things going on in our Great Lakes Bay Region in support of STEM. MPS is hosting one of the breakout sessions and highlighting Central Park.

9. 2. Announcements from Superintendent Sharrow

- Friday's STEM celebration event at Central Park Elementary was certainly a special day. Thank you to our community partners for their support. We had a special guest here from the State Superintendent's Association—MASA's Executive Director, Chris Wigent. We also invited State Superintendent, Brian Whiston, who had a conflict and couldn't join us. After that morning, Mr. Wigent said that Mr. Whiston is going to have to come to Midland. He also said that when he talks to legislators who think that schools are doing the "same old, same old" he is going to ask them to take a ride with him to Midland after seeing what is being accomplished at Central Park.
- Plymouth and Woodcrest will also have open houses when they are both finished later this school year. These buildings will also have elements similar to Central Park—STEM maker spaces and more.
- Friday will be a special night for MPS—the annual cross-town football rivalry between Midland and Dow. We do not want this to be forgotten with everything else going on—celebrating the hard work and successes of so many children, coaches and teachers at this annual event.
 - Principal Jeff Jaster has done a wonderful job working with the students through this issue that is currently a national crisis. Administrators, student and parents are meeting looking for other possible options so they don't lose their message of racial inequality, which can happen when tied to the national anthem.
 - Many took our district messages on this issue as my personal stance, but they were district's stance with me as the spokesperson. Our District policies have to reflect State and Federal policy. We hope everything settles down, Friday night goes well, and we treat each other with respect.
- Another great sponsorship has been announced—Dow Chemical's granting of \$30,000, with a small investment by MPS--to do a 5-year, long-term study of Central Park Elementary. Brian has met with the SVSU professor assisting with this. As we look at the long-term findings, we will get some amazing data. If we are successful in accomplishing our educational goals, the data will reflect that.
- Last Monday Bob and I met with community users about the Jefferson pool. Our partner on pools, the Greater Midland Community Center, attended as well. We presented our pool consultant's findings. The consensus of the group was it is probably not wise to invest \$700,000 in this aged, non-competition size pool, with an old house around it and much more work needed. Several years ago there was a study of community pool uses, the need, etc. The Greater Midland Community Center will take the lead to conduct a new study to look at community pool needs and long-term solutions going forward.
- We are currently doing a transportation department study to be better at what we do. Bob and Mike Moeggenberg have met with a consultant to look at our efficiency, internal controls, safety and more. Transportation is one of our largest areas of responsibility. We will bring the study results and change recommendations to FFO in the near future and then present the information to the Board.
- This fall I've continued my lunch meetings with the staff at each school. I have enjoyed getting to know the staff. I get lots of great feedback through these face-to-face meetings. I will do the lunch meetings again in the spring.

- I have been asked to join the State’s MASA teacher shortage workgroup. Our State superintendent’s association is trying to be proactive and get ahead of it. We will see committee representation by small, large, wealthy, poor districts who all see different issues with the teacher shortage. We need to get creative on how we draw new teachers into the field, as well as ways to recruit, pay and keep good teachers. I also sit on the SVSU Education Advisory Committee; they are very interested in this topic as well.
- Student count days--one in October and one in February. The October count day will be certified in November. Still cautious but very optimistic about our October count and anticipate it will be an affirmation that parents are choosing Midland Public Schools for their child’s education.
- The “Me to WE” movement is very powerful; we have a lot of work to do. Dow Chemical announced it with the MPS high schools and will now take it to the other schools in the Great Lakes Bay region. Brian and the curriculum staff will be meeting with WE and Dow staff to see how it will fit into our curriculum going forward.
- It is our goal to get the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) up and running in November. We are currently working on hiring a teacher and attracting students for this program. The late start has been a problem (we got late notice from the State that we were approved for the program). We need to use the seats or we will lose the seats the next year.
- As we look at the future of Carpenter, MSU has contacted MPS to let us know they are ready to purchase the practice robotics area for Carpenter with installation soon. We are having our architect help us with the lower elementary side of the building to bring it into a reasonable preschool area.
- Community presentations: I recently spoke with real estate professionals. It was a great discussion. I also recently presented at a Chamber of Commerce event. It was a good start with the business community hearing about Midland Public Schools.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

President: _____
Angela Brandstadt

Secretary: _____
Scott McFarland

Approved by the Board of Education on:

C. Young November 20, 2017