

**M I N U T E S**  
**Mason Consolidated Schools**  
**Meeting of the Board of Education**

**Approved 6/2/21**  
**May 17, 2021**

On May 17, 2021, the Mason Consolidated Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting. President Stieben called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Fowler, Grodi, Larrow, Otting, Skaggs, Smith,  
& Stieben

Board Members Absent:

Also Present: Supt Tuller, Blair, Valentine, Russow, Trainor & Bates

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Review/Approval of Agenda**

President Stieben presented; Superintendent Tuller requested the addition of New Business G: Discussion-Middle School Softball/Baseball

-It was moved by Grodi, supported by Smith  
Motion carried 7-0

**Old Business**

Presentation of minutes from May 5, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

Presentation of Closed Session Minutes from May 5, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Will provide these at the meeting)

Second reading (per Revised School Code Sec. 1169) of Committee approved sex education curriculum materials.

-Mr. Stieben presented, addition of Closed Session with time in/out has been completed on the May 5, 2021 Board of Education Minutes

**New Business**

The next regular scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library at Mason High School.

**Resolution – Monroe County ISD 2021-2022 Budget**

-The MCISD provided a video presentation reviewing their budget for 2021-2022 to administration and the Board of Education. Each year each local is to take formal action to approve or not to approve the ISD budget. Last year our Board of Education did not approve the budget requesting Mason administration be included and participate in the review of potential modification of the Monroe County Special Education Plan, specific documentation used by MCISD for reimbursements, a request regarding ACT 18 Special Education Millage Fund disbursement, and a discussion and review of how students are selected for the Monroe County Middle College. The ISD met with the administration sharing their services along with how they are funded at an initial orientation and why their fund balance is at the current levels, but no other meetings took place to address the concerns from the previous year.

-Mr. Stieben reported that he watched the video several times and still feels that the ISD is not understanding what the District is asking for and is holding too much money given to them by the state that should be going back to the schools as cash or equivalent services. We need to provide suggestions to fix things and a letter has been drafted in the event the budget is not approved again. Mr. Bates shared that the HS used to have four special education teachers

and now has two. Superintendent Tuller discussed the desire to have more co-teaching and that we need to detail the need for staffing. Mrs. Larrow discussed her hesitancy to sign the agreement because it states the district was involved with the planning of the ISD Special Education Plan, but that is not true. It was agreed that communication from the ISD and involvement of the local superintendents needs to improve.

#### Recommendation for Hire- Head Cook

- Recommendation from Food Service Director, Kadie Petrovic, to hire Rachel Leichy for the head cook position at \$13.41 per hour. Ms. Petrovic highlighted Ms. Leichy's experience and great attitude as attributes to add to the current team.

#### Consideration of Resolution for 2021 MCISD Board of Elections

-Mr. Stieben presented there are two candidates running for the two open seats on the ISD Board. Incumbents Renee Larzelere and Dr. Barry Martin are running unopposed for six-year terms. The Board of Education is to adopt the resolution at the Mason Board of Education Meeting on June 2, 2021 to allow Mrs. Skaggs to vote for these two candidates at the June 7, 2021 ISD Board Election meeting.

#### Recommendation for approval for project upgrades at the middle school softball field

-Operations Director, Michael Valentine, asked for approval on behalf of Ms. Deana Vanderpool complete electrical work to erect a batting cage at the middle school softball diamond. All work and equipment will be at no cost to the district, with the exception of the minimal cost of electricity during the seasonal months the batting cage is in use.

#### Recommendation for approval to grant exception to commencement guidelines

-Mr. Bates presented a request to grant an exception to the commencement participation requirements for a student who is working on a dual completion of both his high school diploma and associate degree from Monroe County Community College. It is recommended that the student be permitted to participate in the 2022 Commencement Ceremony, but not receive his high school diploma until all courses are complete for the welding program at MCCC during the summer of 2022.

#### Discussion- Middle School Softball/Baseball

-Athletic Director, Kelly Trainor, shared the current status of middle school softball and baseball and considerations necessary if these sports become district sponsored. Middle School softball has never been a school funded sport and middle school baseball has not been a school funded sport since 1999.

#### **Public Comment**

- Tom and Rose Sancrant from the local VFW gave information relating to the yearly Patriot Pen contest. They would like to get information into the students' hands early this year so they can think about it over the summer. They would also like to post in the hallways for students to see. It was also requested that information about the Patriot Pen contest be posted on our Middle School and High School Facebook pages to get visibility to students that may not be attending in our buildings. This year's winners will be recognized at the Memorial Day ceremony. Commander Sancrant also mentioned that our teachers that get nominated for Teacher of the Year are ranked highly with others in Southeast Michigan.

-Chris McClain reviewed the dates of discussions and decisions related to Middle School Softball and deeming it a club sport and not a school sponsored sport. She reviewed rules created and what the school would and would not assist with.

-Deana Vanderpool stated that Chris kept all of her notes for all of these years.

-Brian Regnier shared how his daughter has grown socially and academically through competing in the Middle School softball team. He stated that making softball a school sport will help prepare students with what it is like to compete in sports while in school. He wanted to thank everyone for doing what they are doing to support the softball program. It is possible that no other schools may

not have made this a school sponsored sport because nobody else has done it yet and someone has to be the first to make the change.

-Crystal Regnier asked to change the Middle School softball program from a club sport to a school sponsored sport. She stated that Coach Vanderpool and Coach McClain have changed the lives of girls as well as their families. She listed softball skills, teamwork, leadership, and time management skills along with many others that these coaches have taught their team. She listed many benefits related to students participating in school sports. She expressed gratitude to the difference the sport has made in her daughter's life.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Resignations: Accepted the following resignations: Juanita Alt, Central Elementary School aide for the past 2 years. Juanita shared her gratitude for all of the help and patience she received, allowing her to become the best assistant teacher she could be. Jeanne Geddes, thirty-one-year veteran of MCS, shared that the most enjoyable part of the job has been the students and staff. Anita Lindsey, MCS twenty-year veteran retires at the end of this school year and states that the students, the parents, and the staff have given her great pleasure over the years her. All three ladies will be greatly missed, and we honor them for their commitment to the students of Mason.

Vacancy: A posting for a Middle School Science/STEM teacher was posted on May 11, 2021. The interview committee hopes to have a recommendation for hire at the June 2, 2021 meeting.

COVID-19 Update: Monroe County Superintendents have been working tirelessly with the Monroe County Health Department, legal counsel, and the district insurance carrier to evaluate the possibility of a revision to close contact quarantine and mask requirements. At this time, the Monroe County Health Department recommends a 10-day quarantine for close contacts of positive COVID-19 individuals and to follow the CDC recommendation of schools following all previously established protocols for the remainder of the year, including masking.

Robotics: The end of year "learnings" has been submitted to the State. This has been a great year for our kiddos to experience an introduction to science and engineering through programming, collaboration, and the rebuild and build of the robot and performance of the robot. We are proud of our team and coaches Jason Burt, Erin Ziems, and volunteer Mark Monarch. We will be expanding on this program in the future.

Roofing Update: The District must bid the previously approved work for the music room and courtyard. The RFP has since been placed on the State website, newspaper and on our website. A process has been outlined to ensure steps are followed in regard to future projects.

Assessment/Evaluations: The District summative assessment window closes June 4. All administrator and teacher evaluations have a component utilizing this information. Final evaluations can be completed after this date. On June 2, President Stieben will discuss the steps for completing the superintendent evaluation.

### **Administrative Reports**

-Mr. Stieben presented, no questions.

Full administrative reports can be found on the District website.

### **Consent Agenda**

Approve the minutes from the May 5, 2021 Board of Education Meeting with noted changes  
Approve the minutes from the May 5, 2021 Board of Education Closed Session with changes

-It was moved by Larrow, supported by Otting  
Motion carried by 7-0

## **Action**

Approve recommendation of additions of Sex Education resources as presented and approved by Mason Consolidated Schools Sex Education Advisory Board

-It was moved by Smith, supported by Grodi  
Motion carried 7-0

### Resolution – Monroe County ISD 2021-2022 Budget

Moved by Grodi to not support the 2021-2022 MCISD Budget, motion supported by Smith  
Roll Call Vote:

Ben Smith-I do not support the budget  
Pat Larrow-I do not support the budget  
Mike Grodi-Yes on the motion  
Jamie Otting- I do not support the budget  
Janice Skaggs-I do not support  
Chandra Fowler-I do not support  
Bruce Stieben-I do not support the budget as presented  
Motion of non-support carried, roll call vote: 7-0

### Approve the recommendation for Hire- Head Cook Rachel Leichty at \$13.41/hour

-It was moved by Larrow, supported by Skaggs  
Motion carried 7-0

### Approve the recommendation for project upgrades at the middle school softball field

-It was moved by Larrow, supported by Grodi  
Motion carried 7-0

### Approve the recommendation to grant exception to commencement guidelines

-It was moved by Grodi, supported by Otting

Roll Call Vote:

Ben Smith-Abstain  
Pat Larrow-Yes  
Mike Grodi-Yes  
Jamie Otting- Yes  
Janice Skaggs-Yes  
Chandra Fowler-Yes  
Bruce Stieben-Yes

Motion carried 6-0 with one abstention

## **Board Reports/Comments**

Smith: I would definitely like to thank our softball coaches and our club coaches and look forward to meeting with you again. All of our sports deserve the same consideration. Appreciate the Board for my son's case. Hopefully, he gets to be a shining star for Mason.

Stieben: Want to thank Kelli and Kelly for the discussions from a softball standpoint and an ISD standpoint and for the background work Superintendent Tuller has had to do with the ISD and for the Board to continue to let them know that it is time for change. If this is not effective, we will have to find other ways to be more effective with our message. I want to thank the Board for their discussions tonight and to our audience for being patient. I also want to say happy birthday to one of our consultants, it is Bob Willis' birthday tomorrow.

Fowler: I want to thank Mason staff for keeping our kids engaged as best as they can because obviously our community needs it. It breaks my heart that they have had such a crazy year.

Grodi: I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Sancrant for coming in tonight, glad to see you again. Mrs. Vanderpool and McClain, thanks for coming in. Hopefully the Board moves in the right direction on this thing soon. I want to thank Kelli Tuller for actually admitting publicly and being culpable for admitting a mistake. You don't hear that anymore and it is very refreshing.

Larrow: Thank you to the ladies for all the years they have put in with improvements both seen and unseen on the varsity and middle school fields. Thank you so much. Kids make memories there and many won't play varsity but can play as a team at the middle school level. Hopefully, the Board can make it happen and take some of the burden off of you. I want to thank the VFW. I know Covid has cheated us. I have enjoyed the programs for teacher of the year and hopefully we can get back to gather more.

Otting: You guys are great. (Mrs. Vanderpool and Mrs. McClain). Want to say on record that Mrs. Geddes retiring is a loss. She is a great teacher.

Skaggs: Thank you to Mrs. Vanderpool and Mrs. McClain. Your dedication to the middle school softball program is so admirable and to see such love and passion. Congratulations to Dr. Smith.

### **Adjournment**

At 8:58 p.m., it was moved by Smith, supported by Larrow to adjourn the May 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education. Motion carried 7-0

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Janice Skaggs, Board Secretary