

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

Approved 8/19/21
July 19, 2021

Regular Meeting

On July 19, 2021, the Mason Consolidated Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting. President Stieben called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Fowler, Larrow, Grodi, Otting, Skaggs, and Stieben

Board Members Absent: Smith

Also Present: Blair, Burt, Russow, Trainor, Valentine, and Tuller

Review/Approval of Agenda

President Stieben shared necessary additions to the agenda.

Addition of New Business J: 2021-2022 MHSAA Membership Resolution

Addition of Action Item D: Adopt the 2021-2022 MHSAA Membership Resolution

Addition of New Business K: Recommendation to approve co-op with Bedford High School for hockey

Addition of Action Item E: Approve the recommendation to co-op with Bedford High School for hockey

-It was moved by Otting, supported by Grodi to approve the agenda with revisions.
Motion carried 6-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Special Presentation

Kenneth J. Miller Memorial Scholarship Presentation

-Kelly Trainor presented the \$300 memorial scholarship to Tyler Bates and Ashley Bell for their overall representation of athletes of high character and success.

Old Business

Presentation of minutes from the June 22, 2021, Board of Education Meeting

-President Stieben presented; no comments

Presentation of Closed Session minutes from the June 22, 2021, Board of Education Meeting

-President Stieben presented; one correction noted by Larrow regarding Fowler arrival.

Monthly Items

Natorium Update-Lance Mushung, SSOE

-The Natorium work design is currently being finalized. Information was shared about the current status of EPDM roofing and the need to choose an alternative.

Check Register

-President Stieben presented; Larrow indicated her question was answered previously during the week

Board Financial Report

-President Stieben presented; no questions

New Business

The next regular scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library at Mason High School.

Recommendation to approve Sophia Ostrosky for MS Science/STEM position at step 1 BA pending favorable criminal history and background checks.

-Principal Russow shared credentials and professional attributes for recommended candidate, Sophia Ostrosky. Once approved, Sophia will teach summer school at the middle school.

Recommendation to purchase bus cameras.

-Operations Director, Mike Valentine, shared necessary specifications and needs for purchasing cameras for the 8 new leased busses.

Recommendation to purchase 220 Apple 8th Generation iPads and cases for \$72, 369 with expected reimbursement from the Emergency Connectivity Fund of \$64,680

-Technology Director, Jason Burt, shared the need for 220 iPad devices for creating equitable access to remote learning for all K-2 grade students. Mr. Burt applied for funds to reimburse the district \$64,680 for this purchase.

Recommendation to approve the designation of Depositories: Fifth Third Bank, First Merchants, Flagstar, and Huntington

-President Stieben presented the recommendation of the annual designation of depositories for approval.

Recommendation to approve the designation of Thrun Law Firm to be placed on retainer

-President Stieben presented the recommendation of the annual designation of a law firm on retainer for approval.

Recommendation to approve the designation of the principal office of the District.

-President Stieben presented the recommendation of the annual designation of the address of the principal office of the District.

Annual review of Board of Education Policies 1201, 3202, 4104, & 5307

-President Stieben presented the annual review of the four Board of Education policies.

Discussion of COVID-19 updates and prevention strategies for 2021-2022 school year

-Superintendent Tuller shared the most recent guidance sent from the MCHD was from the CDC and indicated that the number and intensity of prevention strategies should be guided by the COVID-19 transmission in the community where the school is located. Superintendent Tuller mentioned that currently no dashboard information is available regarding local zip code or county cases, as the MCHD removed these dashboards at the end of June since there was a significant decrease in cases. Reviewing previous data throughout the pandemic, and the case numbers remaining low in the district and its boundaries, the transmission risk is minimal at this time. Given all of the reviewed information, Superintendent Tuller indicated that students and staff will return to a full day schedule with the option of wearing masks. If transmission in the school or community increases to a level of concern, the number and intensity of prevention strategies may change.

2021-2022 MHSAA Membership Resolution

-President Stieben read the annual membership resolution from the MHSAA to allow Mason High School and Middle School to take part in the association.

Recommendation to approve co-op with Bedford High School for hockey

-Ms. Trainor shared the invitation from Bedford High School to allow Mason High School to co-op for hockey. Ms. Trainor indicated that Bedford is struggling to maintain numbers for a team and has reached out to other districts as well. This two-year co-op opportunity will be at no cost to the district.

Public Comment

-One comment request regarding the possibility of transportation being available to the High School Girls Swim team for practices at Monroe High School. Athletic Director, Kelly Trainor indicated that students are not currently transported to any practices. Superintendent Tuller indicated that the district appreciates the inquiry and that will review the possibility, however, this would require additional drivers which the district does not have and a cost to the district. Ms. Tuller shared how expenditures are extremely higher than revenue in the athletic department and it is not likely that this will occur.

Superintendent's Report

Budget: Governor Whitmer signed House Bill 4411 Increasing the foundation allowance for districts to \$8,700 for the 2021-2022 SY.

School of Choice: 16 students were released by their home district and 13 students were accepted to MCS. 4 students are registered at the MCMC, 2 HS students are newly registered at a parochial district this year, and 2 have left for SOC.

University of Michigan Perception Survey: 199 middle school students completed a perception survey regarding their experiences regarding school during the pandemic. Conclusions indicated students weather the pandemic well, pulling together during a challenging time. Mr. Russow, Mr. Pollard, and the Middle School Staff will use this information to increase awareness of various situations that may be impacting student academic and social emotional growth.

Student Participation at Board of Education Meetings: Beginning with the October 2021 meeting student representatives from each building will be invited to attend MCS Board of Education meetings. Central Elementary students will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, a Middle School representative will share happenings from their building, and the High School representative will share current events at the high school.

Leski Wittman Insurance: Staff Member of the Month: Beginning with the October 2021 meeting, a staff member will be recognized each month and will be given a \$100 gift card from the Leski/Wittman Insurance Agency and be entered into a drawing at the end of the year for \$500.

Consent Agenda

Approve the minutes from the June 22, 2021, Board of Education Meeting

Approve the minutes from the June 22, 2021, Closed Session

Approve the June 2021 Check Register

Approve the designation of the following depositories for the district: Fifth Third Bank, First Merchants, Flagstar, and Huntington

Approve the designation of Thrun Law Firm to be placed on retainer with regard to personnel and all other legal matters

Approve to designate 2400 Mason Eagles Drive, Erie, Michigan, as the principal office of the District

It was moved by Larrow, supported by Otting

Motion carried 6-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Action

Approve the recommendation to hire Sophia Ostrosky for MS Science/STEM position at step 1 BA pending favorable criminal history and background checks.

-It was moved by Otting, supported by Grodi

Motion carried 6-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve the recommendation to purchase bus cameras.

-It was moved by Larrow, supported by Fowler

Motion carried 6-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve the recommendation to purchase 220 Apple 8th Generation iPads and cases for \$72,369 with expected reimbursement from the Emergency Connectivity Fund of \$64,680

-It was moved by Larrow, supported by Stieben
Motion carried 6-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Adopt the 2021-2022 MHSAA Membership Resolution
-It was moved by Grodi, supported by Larrow
Motion carried 6-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Approve the recommendation to co-op with Bedford High School for hockey
-It was moved by Grodi, supported by Otting
Motion carried 6-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Board Reports/Comments

Larrow: Really excited with all the new stuff happening. The scholarship, hockey team, all the new goods going in and with the cameras. Mike, thanks for all the good work and to Jason for new the iPads. Keep up the good work. I will be attending my annual stress management seminar next month and will be unavailable. August the 4th through the 18th.

Otting: All of those things Pat said and will also be at a stress management seminar August 4th.

Skaggs: Super excited there were a bunch of little kids in our gym for the basketball camp. It is awesome to see. Also, to hear about all of the new stuff and things are feeling back to normal. Appreciate all of the presentations tonight.

Smith: Absent

Stieben: Jason, Mike, Kelli, Kelly thank you for all the hard work during the summer. For all the work you are doing for this post-pandemic time. A shout out to the Monroe County Community College for all the library equipment. Mike for having the guys go get it. It's exciting. Even if it isn't new, it is new to us. Appreciate all the new stuff coming in and the new teachers. It is nice to see moving forward and it's nice to see the level of teachers applying for the job has increased over the last years. We are getting a lot of high-end people with a lot of experience. People that we didn't get a chance to talk to eight or ten years ago. It is nice besides getting to talk to them, we are keeping them. Thanks to everyone for showing up tonight.

Fowler: Ditto. Congrats to Tyler Bates and Ashley Bell.

Grodi: Ditto. Great Job everyone. I'd like to recognize Kim Cousino, Township Clerk, nice to see you tonight. Had questions for Kelly about buses and the options of shorter buses to use for driving our sports teams. Is there a cost benefit for using a shorter bus as opposed to the large busses? Could be used for Quiz Bowl, Science Olympiad, and smaller sports. I would like to see as a Board member what it looks like new verses used and then tackle the union side of it after we see how it looks.

My background is paramilitary organization, and I am ok with the public, but I am not ok with staff sending us emails without including our administrators. I am not comfortable with that and I think it is something this Board needs to address. From a macro level we need to stress that you first work through your principal, through your superintendent, and then to us. It is respectful to the administrators and we pay them to work through the issues. It is not that we don't want to hear from them, but we need to use the chain of command and work up.

Closed Session

Strategy and Negotiation

Section 8 (c): For strategy and negotiation sessions connect with negotiations of a collective bargaining agreement if either party request a closed hearing.

Motion to enter Closed Session by Grodi, supported by Stieben
Motion carried 6-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Time entered Closed Session - 7:35 p.m.
Time out of Closed Session – 10:13 p.m.

Adjournment

At 10:13 p.m., it was moved by Otting, supported by Fowler to adjourn the July 19, 2021, meeting of the Board of Education. Motion carried 6-0; 1 absent (Smith)

Janice Skaggs, Board Secretary