

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

Approved 1/6/21
December 21, 2020

Regular Meeting

On December 21, 2020, the Mason Consolidated Schools Board of Education held a virtual public meeting in the IVN room at Mason High School. President Stieben called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present on Campus:	McGarry, Smith, Tubbs, & Skaggs
Board Members Present Virtually:	Fowler, Larrow, & Stieben
Board Members Absent:	

Also Present on Campus:	Tuller, Blair, Valentine & Burt
Also Present Virtually:	Bates, McCain, Trainor, & Russow

Pledge of Allegiance

Review/Approval of Agenda

President Stieben presented; no changes indicated
-It was moved by Smith, supported by Tubbs to approve the agenda
Motion carried by a roll call vote 7-0

Special Presentation

Pool Facility Update- Architect, Lance Mushung SSOE
-Lance Mushung, SSOE Architecture presented a revised natatorium assessment outlining cost of delaying HVAC unit and dehumidification system. Anticipated increase of costs for waiting one year to complete this part of the pool facility project was \$74,340; delaying for two years anticipated increase of costs of \$108,944. Discussion held regarding funding of the overall pool project as outlined in the full natatorium assessment. Discussion held about deterioration of materials if dehumidification not addressed, previous maintenance of area, and other current district facility needs.

Old Business

Presentation of minutes from the December 9, 2020 Board of Education Meeting
-Mr. Stieben presented, Superintendent Tuller indicated that a change was necessary to record names of nay votes during roll call votes. A correction will be made to list Fowler as a nay vote regarding the Operations Director position.
Presentation of closed session minutes from the December 9, 2020 Board of Education Meeting
-Mr. Stieben presented, there were no changes or questions

New Business

The Board of Education Organizational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will immediately follow the Board of Education Organizational Meeting held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Recommendation to revise Policy 5301 Compulsory Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy

-Superintendent Tuller presented a revision to the current policy to align with the Monroe County Truancy Protocol

Recommendation to reinstate salary steps for all eligible employees

-Superintendent Tuller mentioned the EMEA requested to reopen the contract to discuss the possibility of reinstating salary steps. A recommendation to reinstate the salary steps for the EA and all eligible staff members was given.

Recommendation of cash in lieu amounts for the remainder of SY20-21 pay cycles

-Superintendent Tuller mentioned the EMEA requested to reopen the contract to discuss the possibility of reinstating previous cash in lieu amounts. A recommendation to keep the cash in lieu at the single subscriber hard cap amount was given. Staff receiving cash in lieu will receive an additional monthly amount based on the new year calculations.

Recommendation to begin the bid process for replacing the district phone system -Technology Director, Jason Burt, shared the necessity to replace district phone systems. The current system is no longer supported and new parts are not being manufactured.

Recommendation to approve SSOE Group as project manager for pool facility

-Superintendent Tuller recommended that SSOE Group be approved by the board as the project manager to oversee the pool facility work approved by the board.

Recommendation to approve pool facility repairs

-President Stieben requested this item be tabled until allowable use of funds to address facility repairs is clarified with legal counsel.

Public Comment

-No public comment

Superintendent Report

Celebrate: The staff continues to find ways to keep kids engaged in remote learning. The administrators continue to meet with teams to determine what adjustments are necessary for students to successfully engage in instruction.

Open Meetings Act: Senate Bill 1246 would amend the Open Meetings Act through March 30, 2021 allowing boards to hold remote or hybrid board of education meetings. This Bill is awaiting signature from the governor.

Additional Coronavirus Relief Funds: Additional funding has been agreed upon in both the House and Senate. Advisors in DC indicated that this should be 4x the original CARES funding, yet K-12 funding still falls about \$150 billion short of what schools have sought. The allocation is expected to follow the same expense expectations as original CRF CARES Act funding.

GEERS Funding: Information was discussed regarding anticipated gaps in learning caused by the spring and fall closures. We will be offering a K-5 summer program for all students currently on an Individual Reading Instruction Plans or At-Risk. The proposed summer camp will take place for four weeks Monday-Thursday from 8-12 during July and August. Students will be transported if needed and breakfast and snacks will be provided. Additionally, in the most recent bill, private schools won a share of the GEERS funding.

Curriculum: Curriculum Consultant, Sara Shriver, continued work with staff regarding standards and assessment at each grade level.

Student Information System: The Lenawee and Monroe County Consortium has been reviewing replacement SIS vendor demos and features. Input from various stakeholders will be reviewed.

Attendance: Administrators continue to work on increasing student attendance. Letters, calls, home visits, and referrals to the prosecutor's office are currently taking place.

Technology: MCS is now an official member of the Department of Homeland Security Information Network. Additionally, MCS is a member of the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center. These are 2 great additions to keeping our school secure and having resources to help us in the event of a cyber-attack.

Facilities Update- Septic tank work will begin as soon as they receive the risers, backflow replacement work has been scheduled as well to allow compliance. Painting has started in some locations and drywall work has started in the area that was not finished after installing lockers.

Board Member Acknowledgement: Longtime board member, Tara Tubbs, was acknowledged and given a certificate of appreciation for her dedication to the district and students during her tenure. Tara has served as a board of education member for over 10 years.

Administrative Reports

Principal Bates, Principal McCain, Principal Russow, and Athletic Director Trainor presented general announcements and appreciation. Full administrative reports can be found on the District website.

Consent Agenda

Approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020 Board of Education Meeting

Approve the closed session minutes from the December 9, 2020 Board of Education Meeting

-It was moved by Larrow, supported by Fowler. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0

Action

Approve recommendation to revise Policy 5301 Compulsory Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy

-It was moved by McGarry, supported by Smith. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0

Approve recommendation to reinstate salary steps for all eligible employees

-It was moved by Larrow, supported by Smith. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0

Approve recommendation of cash in lieu amounts at the single subscriber hard cap amount for the remainder of SY20-21 pay cycles

-It was moved by McGarry, supported by Stieben. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0

Approve recommendation to begin the bid process for replacing the district phone system

-It was moved by Smith, supported by Larrow. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0

Approve recommendation of SSOE Group as project manager for pool facility

-It was moved by Larrow, supported by Tubbs. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0

Tabled the recommendation to begin pool facility repairs

Board Reports/Comments

McGarry: Not much to say tonight.

Fowler: Agree with all the concerns about the pool. Let's reach out and see how we can pay for it and go from there. Tara, thank you for time spent on Board. Good Luck. Keep in touch.

Tubbs: Today spent time thinking of all of you and the time on the Board, for 10 ½ years. I have loved every minute of it, even the hard times. I looked up the definition of team and that is us. We work so well together. Appreciate all of you and all of the time spent here with you. Please continue to lead with humility, gratitude, and compassion.

Larrow: Tara, have enjoyed working with you. Best of luck and stay in touch. Want to thank Dana for all your work helping us and giving us the figures to help us do our work. Most of all thank you to all our principals, teachers, and Kelli Tuller. God Bless you all. Really appreciate everything you do to help us do our jobs. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Smith: Hard to follow Pat, but Merry Christmas to everybody. It is a difficult time on the students and the teachers. Try to keep engagement up and for everyone working towards a common goal. As we as a group has always tried to do, a common goal. Tara has been an important part of that. Grateful for the conversations we have been able to have as individuals and to work still totally as a team. You will be missed.

Skaggs: Was thinking of Tara today and knowing it was your last meeting. Feeling grateful to be part of such a great team. Hard to see you go, you have been a stability and have been a wealth of wisdom, information and history so thank you so much. I am always proud to be an Eagle. The Go Team, problem solving and supportive attitudes towards one another is just remarkable. Thank you to everybody and Merry Christmas. Let's pray 2021 brings a big turn of events for the better.

Stieben: Congratulate Tara on 10 ½ years on the Board. It has been a wild ride personally and professionally as far as the Board is concerned. We have been through a lot with our own families, with changes in the people around us. You have been a wonderful source of history and you have always had the students and the school as your highest priority, and we appreciate that. We hope the young lady taking your place has the same spirit. Hope to continue to see you around the school. For our administrators, thank them and their staffs. Excited about the regional basketball tournament being here. For the pool and the salaries, heard your heart in that. It is a balance keeping the doors open and keeping everyone paid has been an issue. We have held true for doing what we told the public we are going to do. We are that team and that family that you talked about Tara. Jason, for all of your high level work. It is so comforting to know that you are looking out for us. And to Lance and the SSOE group, I am excited to work with them and to get to a final solution address some of our issues at our high school and how to use our funds appropriately. It is a continuing joy to be able to work with you and am proud to say I am on the Board of Education and to be an Erie-Mason Eagle. I see amazement in people's faces when I talk about our district. For all of that, thank you very much.

Adjournment

At 8:00 p.m., it was moved by Fowler, supported by Stieben to adjourn the December 21, 2020 meeting of the Board of Education. Motion carried by a roll call vote 7-0

Janice Skaggs, Board Secretary