

**Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker School
Board of Education Regular Meeting
September 15, 2014
(Approved Minutes)**

President Baur called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Laker High School Room 211. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Neal Eichler, Duane Baur, Dean Smith, Kathryn McGathy, Todd Tate, Heath Krohn and Mary Frances Tait.

Members Absent: Student Representative Green.

Approval of Regular Minutes: Tait moved with support from Krohn to approve the regular and closed minutes dated August 18, 2014 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Eichler reported the bills to be paid for September 2014 totaled: General Fund \$131,086.40; Food Service \$2,525.77, Tech Bond \$1,063.75, Debt 2005 \$142,312.51, and Payroll/Liability, paid from Food Service to General Fund for Food Service Expenses, \$6,045.66. Chief Financial Officer Klosowski responded to concerns related to individual expenses. Tait moved with support from Krohn to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda: Eichler moved with support from Smith to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the addition of "Policy" under "Other Business". The first reading of NEOLA policy was included in the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation: There was no indication of interest from the public to address the Board; however, Keim and Dickens took the opportunity to introduce the new district hires to the Board. Keim introduced Kim Roughly, paraprofessional, Mallory Klosowski, 8th grade special education teacher, Tami Krohn, Student Resource, and Matt Varner, Virtual Lab. Dickens introduced Jim Steinman, paraprofessional, Kelsey McCormick, Good Behavior paraprofessional and Jennifer Ross, DHS.

Anchored in Excellence: Superintendent Smith and Scott Lebsack publicly shared the Board's gratitude in appreciation of the following donors for support of the robotics program: Agri-Valley Communications, Inc., Caseville Small Animal Clinic, Gascho Furniture Co., Gemini Corporation, Haley, Ward and Associates, Huron Metal Casting, Pigeon Dental, Cooperative Elevator, Tom and Julie Stoyka, Thumb National Bank and Tower Automotive. In total, \$5,225.00 was contributed by our community business partners. The Board also personally expressed thanks for all the community support.

Bond Refunding Resolution: Superintendent Smith and CFO Klosowski explained the savings potential to the taxpayers if the district pays the remainder of the current bonds from the 2000 Elementary issue and refinances at a lower rate. The resolution was presented to the board members in the board packets for review. William Roche, bond seller, was present to answer questions and to provide additional information. Smith moved with support from Tate to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Elementary Initiatives to Improve Student Learning: Dickens outlined new Ipad initiatives with lower grade level elementary students and inclusion approaches.

The Future of Wind Turbines, Superintendent House: Superintendent Smith informed the Board of the changes occurring with wind turbines and the alternative use of the Superintendent house. The Board will be reviewing the new approach at a later date.

High School Initiatives: Keim presented the many new changes and programs that the students are experiencing. He spoke of the soft skill initiative for post-secondary success being taught to our secondary students.

Food Service Contract: Changes to the Food Service Master Agreement included a 1% raise that is consistent with other departments and the addition of single subscriber dental insurance that is available to other groups. The cost increases were included in the Board packets for review. Smith moved with support from McGathy to ratify the agreement as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Time: Dickens spoke of adding after-school clubs including archery, dance and other clubs in the elementary. Klosowski reminded the Board that the October meeting will have time scheduled for the annual audit report. Athletic Director Yoder expanded upon the 9th week football game to be at SVSU against Beal City. Superintendent Smith updated the Building and Ground projects: paving, French Ditch, awaiting foundation of pavement, and windows in the elementary that will be repaired this coming spring at an estimated cost of \$38,000.

Other Business: Superintendent Smith updated the Board members of the progress being made on the updating of the school policy. Discussion pertaining to the guide study/study hall hour ensued. There was consent in turning the concerns over to the Policy Committee to research.

Administrative Contracts: Eichler moved to enter into closed session to discuss administrative contracts. Tate supported. Roll call yielded: Baur, yes; Eichler, yes; Krohn, yes; Smith, yes; McGathy, yes; Tate, yes; Tait, yes. The Board moved into closed session at 7:27 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:35 p.m. Tate moved with support from Tait to accept the administrative wage contracts as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Superintendent Smith updated the Board related to the availability of a unisex bathroom.

With no further business before Board, Tait moved with support from Eichler to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Mary Frances Tait, Board of Education Secretary