

MARLETTE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY  
Monday, April 11, 2016 – 7:00 PM

President Mike Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Burton, Mike Hall, Mark Huggett, Gina Kraft, Janet Mutch, Steve Quade, Nik Woods

ADMINISTRATORS: Sarah Barratt, Jason Vislosky, Kyle Wood

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President, Mike Hall.

1. Motion by Mark Huggett, support by Steve Quade to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Superintendent Barratt introduced two first grade students, Tilli Ruggles and Brody Friday. The students read letters that they wrote to the board regarding the purchase of a “monster truck” school bus. The students wrote the letters in Mrs. Nicol’s first grade class as an assignment.

Mr. Burt Burluson introduced himself to the Board as the MEA Uniserve Director. He offered to meet with any of them individually if they have any questions or concerns, at a location of their choice. He stated that although he has a law degree, he is acting in the capacity of Uniserve Director, not as a lawyer. He asked President Hall if he planned to retract his statement from the previous meeting and if he made that statement as an individual or on behalf of the board. President Hall responded that he has no intention of retracting his statement and that he made it as an individual. Mr. Burluson stated that no negotiation team member had contacted any Board member. President Hall reported that he did not say that the negotiating team members had called Board members about negotiations, but said that teachers had.

2. Motion by Mark Huggett, support by Steve Quade to approve the consent agenda as presented:

a.) Minutes - March 14, 2016 – Regular Board Meeting

b.) General Fund Payables – \$367,008.04

c.) Debt Retirement Payable - \$208,226.25

d.) Resignation of Staff -

e.) Employment of Staff -

f.) Fundraisers - Mom-To-Mom Sale, Class of 2018, Melissa Findlay, July 2016

g.) March Expense Report

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

3. Motion by Mark Huggett, support by Steve Quade to purchase one new bus from the remaining bond money.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Superintendent Barratt explained that a few of the board members were confused about a motion that was passed at the last board meeting. She explained that the motion can be rescinded but a 2/3 vote of the board would be necessary to do so.

4. Motion by Steve Quade, support by Nik Woods to rescind the motion approved at the 3/14/16 board meeting that the district write off the debt of the five seniors with over \$100 in food service debt and who have qualified for free lunch.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Superintendent Barratt introduced the "Shining Star Award". This award from the Board of Education will be presented monthly and will recognize a staff member that goes above and beyond. Nominations will be taken from staff and community members. President Hall presented this month's Shining Star Award to Mr. Michael Boyle. Mr. Boyle is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. He voluntarily stays after school for an hour 2 or 3 days per week to help students who need remediation in math or advancement in math. He provides this service to elementary age students as well as Jr/Sr High School students. The Board sincerely appreciates his dedication to the students of Marlette Community Schools.

Debbie Stair with MASB presented a proposal for strategic planning services. The current strategic plan for Marlette Community Schools expires at the end of this school year. Ms. Stair explained the benefits of using an outside facilitator and the process that MASB would follow. She

indicated that the service would cost the district \$5,250.00. The board will consider the information and make a decision at the May board meeting.

Mr. Duane Lange presented the Sanilac County ISD's proposed budget for 2016-17. The proposal indicates a balanced budget for the year. The Board will move on this proposal at the next board meeting.

Superintendent Barratt informed the board that she would like to see the district hold summer school at the Jr/Sr High School this year; Mr. Wood, Jr/Sr High School Principal agreed. They feel that having an instructor on sight would help the students succeed in passing the on-line classes. Students would be required to pay to take the classes. It will be \$100 per class for a student. Students receiving a reduced lunch will pay \$50 per class and students with free lunch will pay \$25 per class.

5. Motion by Steve Quade, support by Jay Burton to offer summer school at the Marlette Jr/Sr High School during the summer of 2016.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

The Bond Finance Committee presented a list of potential projects for the remaining bond dollars. The board discussed the items that were on the list, as well as items that were not on the list. Mr. Luke Reynolds, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, indicated a need for more Chromebooks at the Elementary School. President Hall asked Mr. Reynolds to put a proposal together and present it to the administration.

Superintendent Barratt informed the board that based on declining enrollment and budget projections for the 2016-2017 school year, the district must consider staff reductions to maintain a balanced budget and not go into fund equity. Specific reduction recommendations will be brought to the May board meeting.

The Jr. High School Math Department presented a proposal for new math textbooks for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The recommendation is to expand the use of the "Go Math" series from the Elementary School to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Both building principals, as well as staff from both schools support this proposal. The books will cost \$13,373.00. The Board will take action at the next board meeting.

Miss Elise Nicol, GSRP Pre-School Teacher, presented the board with a proposal to move the pre-school playground. She proposed moving the playground across the driveway which would

give the students more space for activities, as well as the opportunity to incorporate a tree into their natural playground.

6. Motion by Jay Burton, support by Steve Quade to move the pre-school playground across the driveway behind the Elementary School.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Teacher Representative to the Board, Julie Wilson, reported that Tuesday, April 12th the Juniors will begin testing for the week. They will take the SAT on Tuesday followed by the ACT Work Keys on Wednesday and finish Thursday with the M-STEP. Academic Games has been rescheduled for next Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. She also informed the Board that several teachers were in attendance due to statements that were made at the last board meeting. President Hall asked if she would like to expand on that statement and she replied “no”.

Student Representative to the Board, Ryan Rich, reported that BPA did very well at the State Competition, with the Parliamentary Procedure Team finishing in third place. He also commented that students were happy to have Spring Break and were back ready to start the new marking period.

Elementary School Principal, Jason Vislosky, reported that students at the Elementary School are participating in a Lego Robotics program. The program is being led by high school students Ryan Rich and Daniel Macha and has been very successful. On March 18<sup>th</sup> the Lions Club met with the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students for another great Liberty Day at Marlette Elementary School. The Students heard about National, State, and Local Government from those who actually work in our government. Guests from the Lions Club included Don Spinks, Bill Rakow, Dave Mulder, and John Keys. Each student received a copy of the Constitution. On March 29<sup>th</sup> the Detroit Tigers Mascot, “Paws” visited the Elementary School students to “discuss” the importance of reading. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, Jim “Basketball” Jones visited student in grades 3-6 to talk about working hard and always trying our best. He reported that the last Red Raider Down (lockdown) Drill of the year was held on March 31st. Mr. Vislosky informed the Board that the new lockers are installed and ready to use. He explained that a plan is being worked on to update the look and feel of the entire building, especially the library. Mr. Vislosky reported that report cards will go home on April 14<sup>th</sup>, there is a PTO Meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> and the last VIP and Me night will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Jr/Sr High School Principal, Kyle Wood, announced that over the break the district received news that we received a grant through the Michigan College Access Network. MCAN money will be used to help cover the cost of a full time college coordinator that we will share with Brown City Schools, with each school receiving the equivalent of a ½ time position. This will be in addition to

having a full time counselor. Mr. Wood reported that the second set of parent/teachers conferences was held on March 17<sup>th</sup> with attendance being down from last year and that report cards will be available to view on Skyward on April 15<sup>th</sup>. He reported that along with the juniors testing this week, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will take PSAT on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will also visit two colleges each on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The freshmen will go to SVSU and Delta College and the sophomores will visit Mott and U of M Flint. Mr. Wood announced that prom will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Four Seasons Banquet Center in Millington.

Mr. Burluson responded to President Hall's inquiry as to whether he had any questions. He commented that he found President Hall's comments from the last meeting reprehensible and asked again if he would be retracting his statement. President Hall disagreed with Mr. Burluson and stated that he would not be retracting his statement. Mr. Burluson stated that he felt that President Hall was one person making a unilateral statement and wondered if it reflected the entire Board's opinions. Board Member Gina Kraft, stated that President Hall is the Board's spokesperson.

Superintendent Barratt presented the Board with a proposal from MASAP regarding updates to the ball fields. She indicated that they could review the information and take action at the next board meeting.

Superintendent Barratt asked President Hall to form two committees, one to review NEOLA Policy updates and one to review and choose the Shining Star Award nominations. President Hall appointed Kraft, Woods and Mutch to the NEOLA Policy Update Committee and Huggett, Quade and Burton to the Shining Star Award Committee.

Superintendent Barratt expressed her excitement in receiving the MCAN grant. She explained that we will split the cost for the position with Brown City. We will work out the days that the person will be at each school once the position is filled. She indicated that she would like to find a person who is friendly, enthusiastic and a hard worker to fill this position.

Superintendent Barratt thanked Mrs. Sarah Opperman, Art Teacher, for re-painting the M on the wall in the gym over Spring Break, it looks great. She also passed along an invitation to the Board to attend this year's prom at 6:00 p.m. at the Four Occasions Banquet Center in Millington from Mrs. Jane Wildey, Junior Class Sponsor. Members need to contact Mrs. Wildey or Mrs. Lester by April 20<sup>th</sup> if they plan to attend. The cost is \$30 per person.

Superintendent Barratt, shared with the audience an email that she received. A community member asked her some questions regarding negotiations. She read the questions and how she responded.

1. Did the school hire an outside attorney to negotiate their contract?

Yes. We did hire Thrun Law's Martha Marcero to assist in the negotiation process.

2. Are there 20 items that that the teachers are losing in the proposal given to the staff?

She answered that she didn't know for sure the number of items, but that several items that have been taken out are now prohibited items of bargaining and should therefore be taken out of the contract. She also answered that the Board presented a proposal to the teachers and that we are in the negotiation process.

3. Did the teachers ask to meet at the Cass City MEA office to continue negotiations?

Yes, they did and the district refused to go to Cass City since most of those involved in the negotiations, work here in Marlette.

Board Member, Steve Quade asked Superintendent Barratt for clarification on whether or not a proposal had been presented to the MEA. She answered, "Yes, they have been presented with a proposal". He then asked if we are waiting for a response from the MEA; to this Supt. Barratt answered, "Yes".

7. Motion by Jay Burton, support by Steve Quade to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

President Hall adjourned the regular board meeting at 8:55 p.m.

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Regina Kraft, Board Secretary