

MARLETTE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY  
Monday, June 13, 2016 – 7:00 PM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Hall, Mark Huggett, Gina Kraft, Janet Mutch, Steve Quade, Nik Woods, Jay Burton (arrived at 7:11 pm)

ADMINISTRATORS: Sarah Barratt, Cheryl Bruff, Jason Vislosky, Kyle Wood

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

1. Motion by Steve Quade, support by Gina Kraft to approve the agenda with the removal of item 7. Executive Session – Teacher Grievance

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

2. Motion by Steve Quade, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion died due to no support.

3. Motion by Janet Mutch, support by Steve Quade to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of item d.) 2016-2017 Coaches.

a.) Minutes - May 9, 2016 - Regular Board Meeting

b.) General Fund Payables – \$533,089.92

c.) Resignation of Staff - NHS Advisor, Kristen Behnke

d.) Employment of Staff – 2016-2017 Coaches

e.) May Expense Report

f.) Fundraisers –  
- High School Student Council, Shari Hirsch: 3 on 3 Tournament at Dog Days of Summer; Homecoming T-Shirt Sale, July- September  
- Class of 2019, Melanie Robison: Glow

Dance during Dog Days of Summer;  
Fall 2016 - Parent/Student Volleyball  
game, Elementary Quiz Night; Winter  
2016-17 Breakfast w/Santa, Candy-  
Grams; Spring 2017 Easter Bunny  
Brunch, Car Wash  
- Haiti Trip, Kristen Behnke, Steve  
Shifflett, Jane Wildey: Fall 2016 –  
Talent Show  
- Class of 2018, Melissa Findlay: Cow  
Pie Bingo, July 15-17<sup>th</sup>  
- Baseball, Dave Hayden: Donation  
letters, June 2016

Ayes: 4  
Nays: 2 – Woods, Hall  
Motion Carried

4. Motion by Janet Mutch, support by Gina Kraft to approve the Second Reading of the NEOLA Policy Updates, Spring 2016:
1. Policy 1240, 1420, 3220 – Evaluation of Superintendent, Administrators and Professional Staff (revised)
  2. Policy 2623 – Student Assessment
  3. Policy 3131 – Staff Reduction/ Recall (revised)
  4. Policy 6146 – Post Issuance Compliance for Tax-Exempt and Tax-Advantage obligations (revised)
  5. Policy 6424 – Purchasing cards (NEW)
  6. Resolution – Drones (NEW)
  7. 13 EDGAR Policies (New and Revised)

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

President Hall presented this month's Shining Star Award to Mrs. Julie Wilson, a High School Science teacher at Marlette Community Schools. Mrs. Wilson is valued by students, colleagues, administration and the community for her commitment to the students of our community.

Mrs. Cheryl Bruff, Finance Director presented the Board with the 2015-2016 General Appropriations Budget Amendment. She explained that the budget was originally adopted in June of 2015 however, due to assumptions regarding anticipated revenues and expenses being made, changes have occurred. She indicated that this will be the last amendment to the 2015-16 Budget. Mrs. Bruff reported that revenue projections increased slightly by \$8,487 and that expenses

increased overall by \$43,408. This amendment estimates an increase in fund equity to 12.2% for the end of the 2015-16 school year.

5. Motion by Mark Huggett, support by Steve Quade to adopt the resolution to amend the General Appropriations Budget for the fiscal year 2015-16.

Ayes: Burton, Woods, Quade, Mutch, Kraft, Huggett, Hall  
Nays: None  
Resolution Adopted

Mrs. Bruff presented the Board with the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Budget. The information presented for the public hearing for the budget adoption also includes establishing the tax levy for the district. Mrs. Bruff explained that when creating the budget many assumptions regarding anticipated revenues and expenses are used. The budget estimates the fund equity to be at 12.5% at the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

6. Motion by Mark Huggett, support by Gina Kraft to adopt the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Budget resolution.

Ayes: Burton, Woods, Quade, Mutch, Kraft, Huggett, Hall  
Nays: None  
Resolution Adopted

7. Motion by Steve Quade, support by Jay Burton to adopt the MHSAA 2016-2017 Membership resolution.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0  
Resolution Adopted

Mrs. Tammi Hall, Athletic Director, informed the Board that the MHSAA will allow 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in junior high athletic programs beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. She presented the Board with information regarding how two other schools are handling this. She recommended that we allow our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in the individual sports of cross country, wrestling and track. However, she recommends that we set up a committee to determine how to handle the other Junior High team sports such as football, volleyball and basketball.

8. Motion by Steve Quade, support by Nik Woods to allow 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in the Marlette Junior High Cross Country, Wrestling and Track programs beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

Superintendent Barratt presented the Board with the following independent contracts:

1. Elementary Principal Jason Vislosky
2. Finance Director Cheryl Bruff
3. Special Education Coordinator Karen Demaray
4. Athletic Director Tammi Hall
5. Transportation Assistant Linda Laursen
6. Maintenance Supervisor Keith Roberts
7. Maintenance Assistant Christopher Storm
8. Title I Coordination Patricia Kitchen
9. Title I Coordination Karen Nicol
10. GSRP Teacher/Coordinator Elise Nicol
11. GSRP Assistant Teacher Rhonda Brzezinski
12. Preschool Teacher Heather Marshall
13. Preschool Assistant/Childcare Tiffany Brooks

9. Motion by Steve Quade, support by Jay Burton to approve the independent contracts as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

10. Motion by Mark Huggett, support by Steve Quade to approve the retirement of Jr/Sr High School Teacher, Jim Bodnar.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

11. Motion by Gina Kraft, support by Janet Mutch to approve the layoff of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Betsy Trisch and the reduced assignment of Jr/Sr High School Teacher, John Forti.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 2 – Burton, Woods

Motion Carried

Student Representative to the Board, Margaret Mutch, reported that the Boys and Girls Track Teams as well as the Girls Soccer team, won the League title this year. She went on to state that several individuals from the track teams made it to the state competition and did very well. She reported that the seniors really enjoyed Project Graduation, all students walked away with gift cards and prizes. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had a good time on the Washington D.C. Trip and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dinner dance was a success.

Teacher Representatives to the Board, Julie Wilson and Kristen Behnke, voiced concerns from the teachers about the physical education position being reduced to part time and they questioned we are still requiring two years of Spanish Class if the state allows other options. They went on to report that there are concerns regarding the “split” classes at the Elementary School as well as the concurrent classes being offered at the high school next year.

Elementary School Principal, Jason Vislosky, reported that the annual Gayle’s Trail “Walk-A-Thon” was a huge success, the students walked a combined total of 1,396 miles. He indicated that the awards assembly was a big success and thanked the Burton Family for continuing to promote reading. He presented a change regarding the cell phone policy to Board for consideration in next year’s hand book.

Jr/Sr High School Principal, Kyle Wood, reported that the end of the year wrapped up well with students completing their exams on Wednesday and Thursday. Teachers are getting grades finalized and report cards will be ready to view on Skyward on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

The 2016-2017 coaching recommendations were presented to the Board. Mrs. Mutch asked them to be pulled out of the consent agenda for further discussion. Mrs. Mutch had concerns with two of the coaches. The Board discussed these concerns.

12. Motion by Nik Woods, support by Jay Burton to approve the 2016-2107 coaches as presented.

Ayes: Burton, Woods, Quade, Huggett, Hall

Nays: Mutch

Abstained: Kraft

Motion Carried

Superintendent Barratt reported that negotiations with the bus drivers and the teachers are ongoing. She informed the board that the position of M-CAN advisor will need to be filled. While the position was believed to be filled, the person originally chosen, decided to take another position. She informed the board that they will need to participate in a seminar regarding the superintendent evaluation process. She also informed the board that the district’s bus mechanic, Duane Miles has informed the board that he will not be returning for the 2016-2017 school year. She stated that we will need to post for a part time bus mechanic. Supt. Barratt then went on to

read the District's Freedom of Speech in Non-instructional Settings, Policy 3310. She indicated that all staff should have concise and accurate information when posting anything on social media. She also answered the following questions posed to her by a community member:

Is it true that a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher is being laid off, two retiring teachers are not being replaced and the HS PE teacher is being reduced to part time?

- **We are replacing the .5 teacher that is retiring from the district**
- **We made reductions to balance enrollment with staffing**

Are the HS Tech class and CARE 102 the same and are we paying \$200/credit hour for this class? Will this transfer to other schools? Do parents pay for college courses they fail?

- **This is NOT the same class, and we are currently evaluating the Tech course offerings at the HS**
- **The cost per credit for this course is ~\$56 (30 students for 3 credits \$5100)**
- **This will be transferable as an elective credit to most universities**
- **Any college course that a student fails, the parent is expected to reimburse the district. If we have not communicated this effectively, we will continue to educate parents and students about Board Policy. To date, we have not had a student fail a college course.**

I heard that MATH 115, 120 and 130 will not transfer to other schools? I am also concerned that the calculus teacher for next year has not taught calculus at our HS before?

- **MATH 115, 120 and 130 and 220 will transfer to many schools, including Western Michigan University and SVSU**
- **Check the following link to check your school:**  
[https://banner.ferris.edu:9100/pls/GOLD/FSU\\_SK\\_SS\\_TransEquiv.P\\_TCEM.ain](https://banner.ferris.edu:9100/pls/GOLD/FSU_SK_SS_TransEquiv.P_TCEM.ain)
- **Google Ferris State University and Transfer Equivalent**
- **The teacher teaching Calculus next year has a Master's degree in Mathematics and is eligible to be an adjunct professor at Ferris State University**
- **We have complete faith in her ability to teach the course**

I don't think our students need the Concurrent Enrollment courses being taught next year. Kids will only be able to transfer 3 of the 20+ credits we are offering and credits are \$200 each! And what about textbooks?

- **This is inaccurate. All 20 credits may transfer, based upon the university**
- **The cost of concurrent credits is \$120/credit hour, Ferris State charges students \$382/credit, a savings of 68%**
- **The anticipated cost for 2016-17 will be \$33,000 (278 credit hours)**
- **Cost for dual enrollment for 2015-16 was \$15,444**
- **We are keeping OUR staff members employed by doing concurrent enrollment, versus having a university professor come to our district and displace OUR staff members.**

- **Textbooks will be purchased by the district, just like any other textbook is. The textbooks will be used for multiple years.**

If a teacher hasn't taught AP, they are not qualified to teach these college courses.

- **Ferris State University sets the criteria to be an adjunct professor for them.**
- **If our teachers meet their standards, I have faith they will be successful!**

Marlette used to offer 6 AP classes a year. You are only offering 1 next year, why?

I hear that our kids are being pushed into college classes!

- **All students and parents have a choice about their enrollment options, students are NOT being railroaded into classes.**
- **Only 3-4 AP classes have been offered per year. This year, we replaced AP Calculus with MATH 220 and AP English with ENG 150. The enrollment for AP World History was 6 and AP Chemistry 15. We are not running a class with 6 students.**

Why is the district encouraging dual enrollment, resulting in the reduction of teachers employed by the district and taking sections away from the Marlette teachers? .

- **The Michigan State Legislature passed Public Act 160 of 1996, the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act and Public Act 258 of 2000, the Career and Technical Preparation Act also known as the "Dual Enrollment" bills. These bills modify and expand on provisions of the State School Aid Act providing for students to earn college credit while in high school. The bills also require that the board of a school district or public school academy ensure that each student in eighth grade or higher be given information about college course taking opportunities. The classes that students are eligible for must not be offered by the high school or academy and must lead towards postsecondary credit, accreditation, certification and/or licensing.**
- **The law states that districts and public school academies SHALL use funds allocated under the State School Aid Act to support eligible pupils in their pursuit of enrollment opportunities in postsecondary institutions. Thus, districts and public school academies must comply with the pupil's request for postsecondary enrollment if the pupil, course, and institution are eligible under this Act**

Why were counselors given directives to push kids into concurrent enrollment and not AP classes?

- **Counselors were not given directives on what courses students should take, rather they counselled them on the choices available.**
- **Students were NOT discouraged from taking AP courses.**

Why are there 2 split classrooms at the elementary next year? Why is the Elementary Counselor going to teach 2<sup>nd</sup> grade?

- **The Elementary Counselor requested placement in a general education classroom.**
- **That position will be replaced with a School Social Worker.**
- **Student enrollment drives the number of sections for each grade level. Research on split classroom is positive, with students performing equal to or better than their peers.**

Why will the district invest money in our teachers but they don't believe they know what's best for the students they teach? Why doesn't the District believe teachers are a reliable resource? Why do they make decisions even though they aren't teachers and aren't in classrooms with students? Why are the teacher's Master degrees, and years of experience irrelevant?

- **The District has a great respect and appreciation for the teachers of Marlette Community Schools.**
- **The administrators making recommendations are past teachers, who have been in classrooms, and always have the best interests of children at heart!**

13. Motion by Mark Huggett, support by Steve Quade to appoint Janet Mutch to the Human Reproduction and AIDS Committee.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

14. Motion by Jay Burton, support by Nik Woods to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

President Hall adjourned the regular board meeting at 9:26 p.m.

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Regina Kraft, Board Secretary