

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
MUSCATINE SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SESSION
November 9, 2015

The Board of Education of the Muscatine Community School District, in the County of Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Temporary President Tim Bower called the meeting to order. Directors John DaBeet, Aaron Finn, Nathan Mather, and Randy Naber were present. President and Vice President Tammi Drawbaugh and Mary Wildermuth were absent. Also present were Superintendent Jerry Riibe and Director of Finance Jean Garner.

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pro-Tem Bower welcomed visitors and media representatives.

No one spoke during Citizens Speak.

Grant Elementary Students demonstrated how each student led their own parent-teacher conference. Students shared their student notebooks with each board member and members of the audience.

FFA team members were honored for their outstanding representation at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in October. Muscatine's Ag Sales team won the National Championship with a gold rating and high overall team. Individual honors went to: Alyssa Scholz – gold rating, Sam Burmeister – gold rating, Tiffany Tomlin – 2nd individual, and MaKayla Kellor – 1st high individual. The Muscatine FFA Floriculture team finished gold and 6th over all. Rachel Schoer won 5th overall individually. In addition, Anna Brooks received her American Degree.

A motion was made by Director Naber and seconded by Director Mather to approve the consent agenda as follows: the minutes of the October 12, 2015 Regular Session and the minutes of the October 19, 2015 Special Session; the bills and claims against the district dated November 9, 2015; and the following personnel recommendations:

Resignations – Certified Staff: Rebecca Rodocker – Interim Executive Curriculum Director (effective June 30, 2016) and Jennifer Hampton – Elementary Special Ed teacher (effective December 23, 2015).

Resignations – Schedule C: Dave Kerr – MHS Assistant Volleyball and Tom Randleman – MHS Head Boys' Golf.

2015-16 New Hires – Certified Staff: Elizabeth Vogeler – Mulberry 1st Grade – .375 FTE and Amelia Johnston – Madison Special Ed.

2016-17 New Hires – Administration: Michael McGrory – Assistant Superintendent (effective July 1, 2016).

2015-16 New Hires – Schedule C: Ali Bennett – Assistant Cheer (.5 FTE), Mollie LaRue – Assistant Cheer (.5 FTE); Rebecca Sund – MHS Assistant Girls' Track; Alissa Castle – MHS Assistant Volleyball.

All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Naber and seconded by Director Finn to approve administration authority to seek modified supplemental amounts from the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) of: \$576,984.67 (or as determined by the Iowa Department of Education following DE

audit review) to provide 100% spending authority for school year 2014-15 actual cost of ELL program instruction and to attend such meeting as may be necessary to accomplish the same. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Mather and seconded by Director DaBeet to approve administration authority to seek modified supplemental amounts from the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) of: \$267,372 for 2015-16 for on-time funding of open enrolled out students not on previous year's certified enrollment but on our 2015 enrollment and to attend such meeting as may be necessary to accomplish the same. All ayes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Naber and seconded by Director Finn to approve administration authority to seek modified supplemental amounts from the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) of: \$205,627 for the cost of the LEP instruction beyond 5 years and to attend such meeting as may be necessary to accomplish the same. All ayes; motion carried.

Superintendent Riibe noted that the district has had conversation to periodically seek quotes to get the best dollar for services rendered regarding insurance/benefits carriers. He noted that this in no way means that the district is dissatisfied with its current carriers.

A motion was made by Director Mather and seconded by Director DaBeet to approve the Request for Proposals for the following: Commercial Insurance Broker, Employee Benefits Broker, Commercial Insurance Carrier, Workman's Comp Carrier, Employee Benefits Carrier. All ayes; motion carried.

Superintendent Riibe shared that the district wanted to make certain that propane was the better fuel compared to compressed natural gas before it purchased any new buses. He also shared that propane buses take much less maintenance than compressed air-fueled buses. They will also only take 20 minutes for the buses to be ready to go in the morning on frigid days.

A motion was made by Director DaBeet and seconded by Director Finn to approve the purchase of five 77-passenger Bluebird Vision buses for a total cost (minus trade in) of \$182,042. All ayes; motion carried.

Superintendent Riibe noted that the current sound system at the high school is not adequate for its needs especially noting the inability for family and community members to hear graduate names and speeches. The proposal will bring the sound system up to the needed capacity.

A motion was made by Director Mather and seconded by Director Naber to approve the MHS Gymnasium Sound System Remodel in the amount of \$18,500 as proposed by CEC – Communications Engineering Company. All ayes; motion carried.

Superintendent Riibe shared that the infrastructure needs for the propane buses is approximately \$20,000 for concrete, wiring, and fencing to meet code so that the propane tanks can be brought in.

A motion was made by Director Mather and seconded by Director DaBeet to approve the infrastructure to facilitate propane bus usage. All ayes; motion carried.

Teachers Julie Calderon (Franklin ELL), Shawn Larson-Walgren (CMS ELA), Jason Stoltzfus (MHS Social Studies), Jillian Poppe (Madison 4th Grade Math and Science), Jen Keltner (MHS Librarian), and Cheryl Reed (Franklin 1st grade) presented information on the Teacher Leadership Compensation (TLC) grant

program. The teaching staff shared how the TLC grant impacted them personally with instructional support and curriculum development.

Director of Finance Jean Garner presented the financials for the months of August and September as well as financial information regarding the Food and Nutrition program.

Superintendent Riibe reported on district enrollment. This October's certified enrollment shows the district has a net loss of 173 students. This translates to a loss of \$1.4 million dollars in funding and spending authority. He shared that from the end of last school year to this fall, 386 students exited the district. 287 students moved out of the community and 99 others exited for various reasons. Trend data shows that Muscatine County's birth rate has been declining since 2001. This has future implications of continued declining enrollment. He shared the district's response to this decrease in enrollment as follows:

- Protect classrooms and the learning process.
- Identify different models and paradigms for service delivery.
 - Explore different custodial schedules and assignments.
 - Explore the efficiency of our current elementary model.
 - Explore long-range reconfigurations of grade levels and school sites.

President Pro-Tem Bower provided the following announcements:

November 18 – Iowa Association of School Boards Pre-Conference in Des Moines.

November 19 – Iowa Association of School Board Conference in Des Moines.

November 25 – Two-hour early dismissal for the Thanksgiving holiday.

November 26-27 – No School.

December 14 – Regular Board Meeting at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Superintendent Riibe also noted that the draft policy manual from IASB is ready for the board to review. The board will receive available dates and times for the review sessions in the near future.

The high school gate closure times at the Bonnie Drive and Houser Street exits were shared for the public: the gates are closed from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. every day, seven days per week.

Director Naber thanked parents, grandparents and all others who help make certain their students get to school on time every day for perfect attendance.

A motion was made by Director Naber to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried. Time: 9:02 p.m.

Tim Bower, President Pro-Tem

Lisa Mosier Bunn, Secretary