

CATO-MERIDIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2005

PRESENT: Kathleen Bratt, President
Charles Ware, Vice President
Dean Cummins
Heidi Dennison
Roxanne Miller
Patricia Russo
Donald Thompson

ALSO PRESENT: Deborah Bobo, Superintendent
Janice Lee, District Clerk
Crosby Lamont, Jr. – Assistant Superintendent for Business
Betsy Hayden, Athletic Director
Eric Lints, Turner Construction
Chris Gray, Turner Construction
Dan Fay, Teitsch, Kent, Fay Architects
Community Members
John Corcoran, Hancock & Estabrook

WHERE HELD: Cafeteria

The meeting was called to order by President Kathleen Bratt at 6:00 pm.

Pledge to the flag.

The board entered executive session at 6:00 to meet with the newly selected law firm.

The board moved from executive session at 7:45 pm

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the agenda was approved with the addition of Vd & e. adopt resolutions.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

Mr. Lints reported that the high school is in good shape for the opening of school. The high school roof is completed and the middle school roof is receiving detailing. The fields are being completed and renovation of the board room will begin after school is open. He feels that in a month and a half the project will be completed.

Mr. Fay asked Mrs. Bratt to sign a partial Certificate of Substantial Completion that needs to be processed. When the project is completed, another certificate will be generated.

Mr. Gray reviewed the project budget status report. There are two items that need action tonight. 1) Upgrade the MS scoreboard to LED display and wireless controller and 2) MS/HS enhanced sealer to all newly placed concrete walks to provide additional protection from salt damage.

On motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Thompson, PCO SC-018 (\$2,150) and SC-023 (\$120,000) were approved for costs as listed.

Yes 7 No Abstaining

Mr. Cummins asked Mr. Fay to find out when the current the tanks at the bus garage were installed, the cost of taking them out and replacing them and the size of the tanks.

Mrs. Dennison has a concern with the hydrant on the athletic field. Mr. Fay will look into what could be done about the location.

PCO's were discussed. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Bratt would have liked this information to be included in the board packet for review.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, PCO GC011, SC-025 AND EC-034 were approved with the authorization for Mrs. Bobo to approve SC-025 (if not in excess of \$3,000) when finalized.

Yes 5 No 2-Cummins, Miller Abstaining

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, PCO MC-023 and EC-042 totaling \$28,470 were approved with the authorization for Mrs. Bobo to approve the AC portion (EC-042).

Yes 6 No 1-Cummins Abstaining

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, PCO EC-0046, MC-027 and EC-047 totaling \$7,023 were approved with the authorization for Mrs. Bobo to approve these items not to exceed \$10,000 when finalized.

Yes 6 No 1-Cummins Abstaining

Mr. Gray indicated that the board will need to decide where the money that is left in the project will be spent. Mr Fay asked the board to work with him to prioritize a list for spending the remaining money. Punch lists are being created as they near the end of the project.

Public Comment:

Concern was again voiced regarding the fire hydrant on the playing field.

Request to upgrade the front of the high school building.

There is a manhole open on the athletic field that needs to be covered when not in use for irrigating. Mr. Youngs will be so notified.

On motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, Rebecca Wright, was appointed as a special education teacher \$40,974 – B+42. See attachment A.

Appt. Wright

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining 1-Bratt

On motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Thompson, Onorita Chebiniak was appointed as part time rec center clerk at \$6.00/hr.

Chebiniak Rec Ctr.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

Mr. Ware asked for an organizational chart including all positions that are vacant.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Miller, the following personnel were appointed:

Kimberly Rice	Substitute Teacher Aide	\$6.00/hr.
Jennifer DeSanto	Teaching Assistant – HS	\$6.26/hr @ 7 hr./day - approx. \$8,019/yr.
Tammy Curtis	Teaching Assistant – ES	\$6.26/hr @ 6.5/hr./day - approx. \$7,446.27/yr.
Michele Marcano	Teaching Assistant – MS	\$6.26/hr @ 6.75/hr./day - approx. \$7,732.66/yr.
Barbara White	Teaching Assistant – HS	\$6.26/hr @ 7/hr./day – approx. \$8,019.06/yr

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

Mr. Vollmer is replacing Charles Balog who has verbally resigned as assistant coach. This resignation will be added to the agenda under Vf.

Eric Vollmer	Varsity Football Assistant Coach	\$3,539 Step 1
Teri Tressler	JV Field Hockey Coach	\$2,947 Step 1

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Russo, full benefits for Louis Chistolini will be approved.

Chistolini Benefits

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, the resignation of Meghan Ecker was accepted.

Ecker Resign

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

Mrs. Miller read a resolution regarding rescinding the tenure of Mr. Rizzi

Rizzi-Rescind Tenure

WHEREAS, the prior Board of Education adopted a resolution on or about April 14, 2005 granting the current high school principal tenure in the school district administrator tenure area effective October 25, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Court of Appeals has held that a teacher granted tenure effective on a future date is not entitled to the benefits of tenure until the effective date specified in the resolution; and

WHEREAS, Section 3012 of the New York Sate Education Law explicitly contemplates that this Board of Education is entitled to the full three-year

probationary period before making a binding tenure decision with respect to a teacher, principal, or administrator such as the high school principal;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the aforementioned April 14, 2004 resolution be and hereby is rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the deferred grant of tenure to the high school principal be and hereby is also rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this board of education hereby rejects the recommendation of the superintendent to grant tenure to the high school principal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that whereas said rejection is considered advisory pursuant to Section 3031 of the New York State Education Law, the president of this board of education be and hereby is authorized to notify the high school principal in writing of this board's intention to deny him tenure, of the board's intention to discontinue his services, and to further inform him of the date of the board meeting at which such recommendation is to be finally considered by this board.

Yes 5 No 2-Russo, Thompson Abstaining

Mrs. Miller read a resolution regarding the immediate paid leave for Mr. Rizzi. Paid leave, Rizzi

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, a resolution to grant a paid administrative leave to Mr. Michael Rizzi effective immediately and pending further board of education action was approved.

Yes 5 No 2-Russo, Thompson Abstaining

The board attorney advised the resolution read by Mrs. Miller to be amended to read: The board is granting paid administrative leave to Michael Rizzi pending further board action.

Yes 5 No 2-Russo, Thompson Abstaining

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Miller, the verbal resignation of Charles Balog as assistant football coach was accepted. Balog-Resign Coach

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

Mr. Lamont explained the process for a custodial evaluation study which would be conducted by the NYS Buildings & Grounds Association. The purpose would involve organization, equipment needs, the nuts and bolts of running a school building. Cust. Survey

Mr. Cummins and Mrs. Miller are not in favor of spending the money at this time. Mr. Cummins and Mrs. Bratt feel the custodial staff should be asked what is needed first.

Mr. Lamont stated that asking the staff is one way, but professionals would do that and determine the needs. A decision on this item will be

tabled until the November 7th meeting

Mrs. Bratt would like a copy of the pamphlet explaining how the survey would work and how it is available at the 9/12 meeting.

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ware, the minutes of the August 1, 2005 meeting were approved.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ware, the minutes of the August 15, 2005 meeting were approved as amended.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

Mr. Lamont complimented the treasurer for cleaning up the outstanding checks. Mr. Ware wants to know what the 03-04 outstanding checks are for.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ware, the treasurer's report was accepted.

Treas. Rpt.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the revenue report was accepted.

Rev. Rpt.

Yes 6 No 1-Miller Abstaining

Mr. Ware asked when the encumbrances will be done? Mr. Lamont indicated that this is not high priority right now and he wants to take his time, but by the end of October they should be done.

The board reviewed the budget status report.

Mrs. Miller is uncomfortable approving the tax levy without knowing final fund balance numbers for 6/30/05.

The finance committee recommends giving \$175,000 to the taxpayers to reduce the levy.

Tax Levy

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the tax levy was approved as presented (attachment B)

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ware, the finance committee recommends payment of schedules 16, 17, 18 and 20 excepting voucher 293.

Pay bills

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

Mrs. Miller read the finance committee minutes.

Public Comment

Community members voiced their concern and asked the reason the board has put Mr. Rizzi on leave. Mr. Rizzi has done a wonderful job, knows all the students' names, demands respect and has generally cleaned up the high school. They feel it is not good management to put him on leave and rescind his tenure.

Board Comments:

Mrs. Hayden asked for the coach to be appointed to allow for modified boys soccer.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, Dennis St. Amour was, appointed as modified boys soccer at Step 2 - \$2,544.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

Mrs. Miller stated that the policies are on the web and thanked Sue Hawker. She distributed Board of Education goals sheet.

Mr. Thompson said there will be a policy meeting on Wednesday at 6:00 pm.

The finance committee will meet on September 8th.

Mrs. Bobo noted that board members are invited to attend the staff presentation on September 6th.

Mr. Ware reminded the board about the September 22nd meeting with Mr. Hevasi.

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the board entered executive session at 11:40 pm to discuss personnel and superintendent goals.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

The board moved from executive session and the meeting was adjourned at 12:58.

Janice Lee, District Clerk