

**CATO-MERIDIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 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  
Ann Marie Dillon, Elementary Principal  
Sean Gleason, Middle School Principal  
Lou Chistolini, Assistant High School Principal  
Betsy Hayden, Athletic Director  
Eric Lints, 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 7:00 pm.

Pledge to the flag.

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the agenda was approved changing VIII f – Policy meeting review and discussion of a credit card policy.

Agenda

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

President Bratt and Mr. Chistolini presented high school summer diplomas.

Community members voiced concern about procedures and some board members making private decisions without the full board’s knowledge. This concern is related to the rescinding of tenure and the leave of the high school principal. Mrs. Bratt indicated that a majority of the board knew about the issue. They are also concerned about the extra expense of paying two principals. Mr. Corcoran was asked if the board president has the authority to seek legal counsel behalf of the board. He indicated that it is not unusual for some board members to contact an attorney with concerns. And it is not unusual for an attorney to be prepared to go into executive session with the whole board.

There was discussion regarding the volunteer policy, in particular regarding sports. Mrs. Bratt read the policy. Mrs. Bobo makes the final decision on volunteers, after input from the administrator involved. A community member asked what is ineligible - Mr. Chistolini responded.

Mr. Lints thanked everyone for their help in getting school opened on time. Mrs. Miller

September 12, 2005

asked if computers can be funded through the capital project. Mr. Lamont indicated that 3 rooms in the high school could get aid. Mr. Fay stated that it depends on how the computers are used. Mrs. Bratt asked where the kitchen equipment is listed. It is included in incidental cost. Mrs. Miller asked if the gym floor refurbishing was included in GC-088. It is not. Mrs. Dennison asked for time sensitive and prioritized additional work items.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, the following PCO's were approved for priority items as follows:

1. PCO GC-010 not to exceed \$48,000
2. PCO GC-088 – HS bleacher replacement with electric work for powered bleachers not to exceed \$30,000 (electric not to exceed \$12,000 for both the middle and high school)
3. PCO EC-001 – not to exceed \$10,000
4. PCO GC-088 – MS bleacher replacement – not to exceed \$50,000
5. PCO GC-087 – not to exceed \$10,000
6. PCO SC-008 – not to exceed \$20,000
7. PCO SC-026 – not to exceed \$25,000
8. Technology – to be determined at a later date

Yes 6 No 1 – Cummins Abstaining

The press box/bus garage bidding will take place within a week.

Mr. Cummins would like to get a quote from the town or village on the replacement of the wooden guardrail at the route 370 parking lot. Mr. Fay indicated that there will be time to check it out.

With regard to the appointment of Mr. Mitchell as interim high school principal, Mr. Thompson stated that he is concerned with paying 2 people, however, we need proper leadership in the high school so he will vote yes.

a. Appoint the following personnel:

Charles Mitchell	Interim High School Principal	\$350/day – No benefits – Begins 9/19
Michelle Halstead	Part-time bus driver	\$3,902.40 (.3 FTE) \$13.01/hr.
Catherine Laird	Part-time bus driver	\$5,203.30 (.4 FTE) \$13.01/hr
Jack Pardee	Mod Football Assistant Coach	\$2,156 Step 1
Tracee Conibear	PT Lifeguard	\$6.00/hr
Cynthia D'Arrigo	High School Secretary	\$19,500

On motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Ware, action on Charles Mitchell was deferred to follow executive session.

Yes 5 No 2 – Russo, Bratt Abstaining

September 12, 2005

On motion of Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mr. Ware Michelle Halstead was appointed as part time bus driver. Halstead-PT

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining – 1-Dennison

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ware, Catherine Laird was appointed as part time bus driver. Laird-PT

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, Jack Pardee was appointed as modified football assistant coach. Pardee-Coach

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mr. Thompson, Tracee Conibear was appointed as part time lifeguard in the rec center. Conibear-Lifeguard

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ware, the minutes of the meeting held on August 29, 2005 were approved. Minutes

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ware, the supplement to the Comprehensive Development Educational Plan was approved.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the Committee on Special Education minutes were approved. CSE

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

Item VIII will be discussed in executive session.

Reservations for the CNYSBA annual meeting were taken.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the policy committee minutes. The credit card policy will be reviewed by the finance committee.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the board will allow the policy committee to select 3 community members for 3 months for advice and community input. Mr. Ware and Mrs. Russo believe there should also be staff and an administrator included. Mr. Thompson amended the resolution to include staff and an administrator.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

September 12, 2005

A question was asked as to how much the attorney is charging. Mrs. Miller indicated that it depends on which member is here. Mr. Corcoran is charging between \$175.00 and \$185.00/hour.

Mrs. Bobo thanked Mr. Chistolini for his hard work.

Mrs. Russo asked for a building use request be added to the 9/26 special meeting.

Mrs. Bobo noted that the high school dedication will be on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 on the front lawn and in the gym in case of rain.

Mrs. Bratt said the homecoming game is at Weedsport or Port Byron and the dance will be on Saturday night.

She also reminded the board that board training will be held on Tuesday, 9/20 at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Ware resumed reading the minutes of the finance committee. He also thanked Mrs. Bobo for the organizational chart.

Mrs. Bobo thanked Sue Hawker and Lillian Cabral for their assistance and diligence in completing this task

He asked that Mr. Lamont send a memo to all staff with the proper procedure to make purchases.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Miller the following schedules were approved for payment:

SN-19	\$517,201.52
SN-22	\$161.00
SN-24	\$416.94
SN-26	\$145,744.23
SN-27	\$124.00
SN-28	\$63,726

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the board entered executive session at 9:20 PM to discuss a tabled appointment; C-M administrators association; an employment issue and 2 contractual negotiations.

The board moved from executive session at 11:12 PM.

September 12, 2005

On motion of Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, Charles Mitchell was appointed as interim high school principal on an as-needed-basis, with per diem salary of \$350.00/day.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining 1-Russo

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the Cato-Meridian Board of Education respectfully declines a request for voluntary recognition of the Cato-Meridian Administrators' Association bargaining unit.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining 1-Russo

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ware, resolved that the Board of Education president is authorized to supply the high school principal a statement pursuant to section 3031 of the education law.

Yes 5 No 1-Thompson Abstaining 1-Russo

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 pm.

---

Janice Lee, District Clerk