

**CATO-MERIDIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 3, 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  
Charles Mitchell, Interim High School Principal  
Lou Chistolini, Assistant High School Principal  
Margaret Schlegel, Dir. of Pupil Personnel Services  
Betsy Hayden, Athletic Director  
Community Members

**WHERE HELD:** Cafeteria

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

Pledge to the flag.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the board entered executive session at 6:05 to discuss employment history of particular person and contract negotiations. Exec. Session

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

The board moved from executive session at 6:50 pm.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the agenda was approved eliminating item V and replacing it with public comment. Item IV will be approval of a resolution regarding the high school principal.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mr. Ware read the resolution of the agreement with the high school principal.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison the following resolution was approved: Rizzi Agreement

WHEREAS, this board of education adopted a resolution August 29, 2005 which, among other things, rescinded the prior board's deferred award of tenure to the high school principal;

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the aforesaid resolution of August 29, 2005 be and hereby is rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this board of education hereby acknowledges delivery of, and accepts, the high school principal's resignation from the district's employment effective November 1, 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this board of education hereby approves an agreement with the high school principal and authorizes the board president to execute same on behalf of the district and the board.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining 1-Russo

Community members commented regarding the cost involved with the high school principal resolution, and the procedure in which this action took place, the position of volleyball coach, the importance of driver education, and the cost of fuel during the winter months. A teacher noted that while she has heard people like what the board is doing, it is difficult for people to say so because of fear for their own job or retaliation toward their children. Other community members thanked the board for its recent actions.

Mr. Lamont reviewed the handout – School Lunch Survey, which includes nine school districts. It is Mr. Lamont's recommendation to increase lunch prices by 10¢ and return to this subject in the spring to see if we're on track. Some board members suggested that the lunch price be raised more. Action on the price increase will take place at the October 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

School Lunch

Mr. Chistolini discussed career day to be held on December 7th. He indicated that residents are asked to speak on that day.

Mr. Ware would like financial information when hiring new employees.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, the following substitute teachers were approved: Robert Barber, non-certified, \$55/day; and Bradley Broadwell, Daniel Gillett, Katie Salisbury and Maryanne Whyte at a rate of \$55/day and \$60/day after 15 days.

Appt. Subs

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ware, Dawn Koelsch was appointed as a substitute teacher assistant at \$6.00/hr and Angela Allen as a substitute teacher aide at \$6.00/hour.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ware, Bueleh Cavanagh and David Perry were appointed as substitute custodians at \$6.25/hour.

Cavanagh/  
Perry  
Sub Cust.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

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On motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mrs. Russo, Christine VanWie was appointed from cleaner (\$21,121.98) to custodian (\$22,265.30) effective October 21, 2005.

C. Van Wie  
Custodian

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining 1-Ware

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mr. Thompson, Cathy Mulford was appointed part time rec leader at \$7.50/hour.

Mulford  
Rec Aide

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mr. Ware, Jennifer Fenton was appointed as student custodial helper for the high school at \$6.00/hour.

Fenton-Cust.  
Helper

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Appt. Coaches

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the following coaches were appointed:

Ryan Brunelle	Varsity Boys Basketball	Step 2 \$5,084
Kevin Aukema	JV Boys Basketball	Step 1 3,539
CJ Hannon	Modified 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Boys Basketball	Step 1 2,272
Mike Nichols	Modified 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Boys Basketball	Step 1 2,272
Charlie balog	Varsity Girls Basketball	Step 2 5,084
Jennifer Crook	JV Girls Basketball	Step 1 3,539
Scott Henry	Mod 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Girls Basketball	Step 1 2,544
Mike Nichols	Mod 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Girls Basketball	Step 1 2,272
Sue Scharoun	JV Volleyball	Step 2 3,961
Laura McGetrick	Mod 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Volleyball	Step 2 2,544
Heather Wieland	Mod 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Volleyball	Step 1 2,272
Dan Butler	Varsity Wrestling	Step 3 5,693
Scott Terpening	Mod Wrestling	Step 3 2,850

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mrs. Schlegel explained the need for the creation of two teacher assistants (supplemental support personnel (SSP) for special education. The special education department is working very hard to keep our students at Cato-Meridian within the district run programs. A portion of these assistants' salaries are aidable. Currently, staff have identified some additional needs that may require additional staff, which may need to be implemented next month. Mrs. Miller asked about the other duties of the assistants listed on a hand-out. Mrs. Schlegel indicated that the assistants may have a break of time between classes and in order to make it worthwhile for the employee, they

are given other duties.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Russo, the creation of two (2) 6 hour teacher assistant positions for special education was approved.

Create 2  
Asst. Positions

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining 1-Ware  
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On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2005 were approved as amended.

Minutes

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Members of the cross country team requested approval for the cross country team to participate in an invitational at Manhattan College on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. The trip will be funded by proceeds from t-shirt sales and a chicken BBQ.

XC Trip to Manhattan

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mr. Thompson, approval was granted for the cross country team to participate in an invitational in Manhattan on October 8, 2005.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

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

CSE Minutes

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mr. Lamont explained a request from Colleen Kelly to create a new club. The Band and Chorus Club would replace the former Music Booster Club. This club will be part of the extracurricular clubs of the school district. There was a balance of \$190.94 from the former booster club that will be put into the new club.

Band & Chorus Club

On motion of Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mrs. Miller, a new club, Band and Chorus Club was created and \$190.04 from the former booster club was accepted.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, a Roland KR-3 piano, bench and mobility rack was accepted from the Music Booster Club at a cost of \$2,907.20.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, a tax adjustment for James Shoemaker, at a decrease of \$-400.37 was approved.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mrs. Dillon requested approval for an increase of hours for literacy tutor, Heather Wood. The increase of 2 hours would allow for her to meet with more students to work on the third grade test as part of the Sunrise Scholars Program and for the development of the Sunset Scholars program for second grade prevention.

On motion of Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mr. Thompson, an increase of 2 hours for

literacy tutor Heather Wood was approved. This position is without benefits.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining 1-Ware

The board discussed the mileage allowance, as approved at the reorganization meeting. The IRS rate has increased and the decision will be made at the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting whether it will be changed. The mileage charges on the bill schedules will be approved October 3, 2005

on October 17<sup>th</sup> also and listed on a separate schedule. Mr. Lamont indicated that it was his intent to stay with the IRS rate at the reorganization meeting.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ware, reimbursement for mileage charges were tabled until the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the following bill schedules were approved, except the mileage charges:

Schedule 29	\$145,625.06
Schedule 30	\$4,817.77
Schedule 31	\$8,208.45
Schedule 32	\$40,864.03
Schedule 33	\$59,428.40
Schedule 34	Payroll

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mr. Lamont will meet with the auditor on Wednesday. The auditor will make recommendations on where to put the remaining money. Final numbers of the 2004-05 budget will be available by October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Miller asked that the board bring the goals handout she distributed at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The credit card policy will be presented at the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for the first reading.

Mrs. Miller suggests that there be only one credit card for district use.

Mr. Ware asked that Mr. Lamont report to the finance committee at their next meeting the pros and cons of multiple or a single card.

Mrs. Bratt indicated that there should be a future discussion on fuel oil prices. She noted a letter from the DOT congratulating the district on meeting their goal of at least 90% of the vehicles passing NYSDOT's semi-annual bus safety inspections during the 2004-05 school year. Mrs. Bratt also noted dates for new school board member mandated training.

Mrs. Bobo noted the board development seminar by COSBA on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the

COSBA annual dinner on June 1, 2006; Senator Valesky will be at the school on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. The awards ceremony will be held at the high school on October 4<sup>th</sup> and the middle school open house will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Bobo also recognized Mrs. Dillon who was interviewed for a newspaper article. Homecoming football game will be on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and the homecoming dance will be on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> in the high school gym and the dedication of the high school is slated for October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am.

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Mr. Thompson reported that the policy committee will meet on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Sue Teska will serve on the committee and Slade Cox has been asked serve. Mrs. Bobo will ask staff members to serve on the committee. He said that policy 3150 School Volunteers has been discussed. Mr. Ware would like an application added to the policy.

Mrs. Hayden respectfully requests she discuss with the board in executive session a personnel issue.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the board entered executive session to discuss negotiations, litigation, and a personnel issue and invites Mrs. Hayden to discuss a personnel issue.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

The board moved from executive session at 11:40 pm.

On motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Ware, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 pm.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

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Janice Lee, District Clerk