

CATO-MERIDIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

October 17, 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: District Conference Room

The meeting was called to order by President Kathleen Bratt at 7:00 pm.

Pledge to the flag.

Mrs. Bratt introduced Mr. Mitchell and welcomed him to Cato-Meridian.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Miller the agenda was approved re-numbering VII h-l.

Agenda

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mrs. Parsons discussed a handout regarding a trip to France. Mrs. Parsons applied for a grant in March of 2004 and received \$15,000 to be used by C-M students for the trip to take place during winter break, 2005. Due to the budget defeat, there were no extracurricular activities, therefore Mrs. Parsons lost the grant. Mrs. Parsons got the grant money reinstated for a trip in 2006. The former Board did not object to her taking the students to France as a private citizen. The stipulations were that Mrs. Parsons would take a day without pay for any school time missed and that the students would be marked as an unexcused absence. All fundraisers would also be conducted off campus.

France Trip

Mrs. Bobo had contacted the school attorney and the insurance company regarding the school's liability for this trip. Both the attorney and insurance agent advised against the trip as the school would have ultimate liability.

Comments from board members included: Mr. Cummins: It is a much different world today relative to traveling overseas and he is against the trip at this time and regarding the issue of fundraising, there may be a corporate sponsor that would help; Mr. Thompson: Since the attorney and the insurance agent are against the trip,

it would be wrong to put the district at risk; Mrs. Dennison: Agrees with Mr. Cummins that there may be a corporate sponsor to help. Mrs. Parsons indicated that the money has been raised and the money is not a problem. She has a problem with her pay. Mrs. Miller stated that she thinks that we should thank Mrs. Parsons for all of her efforts and think that she should minimally be allowed to take personal days for the trip. We didn't think twice about approving the cross country trip to New York City and there are risks involved in traveling there too. Mrs. Russo agrees with legal counsel and the insurance company and that the district should separate themselves from liability. Mr. Ware applauded Mrs. Parsons for planning the trip, however, he doesn't believe the board can sanction the trip as it would not be in the best interest of the district. Mrs. Bratt asked how many students would be going. Mrs. Parsons indicated there are 6. She also stated that the teachers' contract reads that days cannot be taken to extend a vacation and personal time cannot be used for travel.

Mr. Mitchell along with TK Hayden presented a slide show of the high school spirit week.

Public Comment:

Public Comment

The article in the paper about students raising money for New Orleans was very nice. There was discussion about attorney fees, the cost of the former high school principal and full board knowledge of any action that was taken. A comment was made pertaining to the level of concern parents should have since the high school principal was let go so abruptly..

It was stated that the interim principal is visible with the students and another comment was made concerning the visibility of Mr. Rizzi when the bus dropped off students each morning at the high school.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ware the following resignations were approved:

Resignations

Tammy Curtis	Teacher Assistant
Kristin Piedmonte	Teacher Assistant
Michael Harwood	Teacher Aide

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the following appointments were approved:

John Pierce	Sub teacher	\$55/day-\$60 after 15 days
Jacob Kalinowski	Rec center aide-PT	\$6.00
Megan Post	“	“
Sarah Castiglia	Teacher Aide	\$6.00/hr (New position approved 10/3)
Kim Rice	Teacher Aide	\$6.00/hr (New position approved 10/3)
Kelly Wheeler	Teacher Aide	\$6.00/hr (M. Harwood)
Sherrine Taft	Teacher Assistant	\$6.26/hr (T. Curtis)

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, Ember Hilkert was granted a maternity leave effective 2/17/05 – 4/3/06. Hilkert Leave

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the minutes of the meeting held on September 26, 2005 were approved. Minutes

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

The minutes of the meeting held on October 3rd were tabled at this time.

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

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the acceptance of a donation of \$500.00 from Exxon Mobil was tabled until November 7th. Donation

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mrs. Russo, the following tax adjustments Adj. Tax were approved:

Cabral, Austin/Lillian	\$-417.82
Dygert, Larry/Barbara	\$-257.61
Hopkins, Barry/Anne	\$-566.62
Root, Joseph/Linda	\$-548.08
Monterville, Robert/Michele	\$- 37.27

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, a transportation request from Our Rqst. Trans.

Lady of the Snow Parish for travel to Stella Maris Retreat in Skaneateles on November 11th was approved. The Parish reimburse the district for expenses.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mr. Ware read the proposed credit card policy. He also indicated that the credit Policy Credit Card

limits on the cards may be changed. The second reading will be on November 7th and the board will authorize credit limits at that time.

One change will be made: “The credit cards shall be locked in a secure place as determined by the superintendent.

Mr. Lamont stated that the finance committee discussed the school lunch increases.

Sch.

Lunch

The school lunch program will be discussed in May or June, 2006.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, school lunch program increases will be effective January 2, 2006 as follows: Breakfast - \$.75 to \$1.00; Lunch – \$1.10 to \$1.25 and adult lunch \$2.50 to \$2.75.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mr. Thompson stated that Mrs. Petrocci and Mr. Lamont are doing a good job. Mr. Lamont indicated that the treasurer is working very hard. Mr. Ware would like a current budget status report. One will be available at the second meeting in November.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the treasurer's and revenue reports for June, July and August were accepted as presented.

Treas./Rev.
Report

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mrs. Bratt read the resolution.

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ware, resolved, that the board of education Levy of the Cato-Meridian central school District hereby elects to appropriate \$175,000 to be used for the reduction of taxes for the 2005-06 fiscal year and retains \$299,469.50 of unappropriated fund balance effective June 30, 2005.

Reduce Tax

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, resolved that the board of education of Cato-Meridian Central School district hereby elects to establish and fund the following reserves effective June 30, 2005: Unemployment insurance reserve \$160,000; ERS(Employees Retirement System) reserve \$200,000; Liability reserve \$280,000; Insurance reserve \$300,000.

Reserve funds

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Miller, resolved that the board of education of the Cato-Meridian Central School District, effective June 30, 2005, hereby elects to

Capital Fund

Transfer

transfer \$115,635 of general fund surplus funds to the capital fund to cover prior years unfunded expenditures.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mr. Lamont stated that the deficit is wiped out. He also stated that a capital reserve fund has to be voter approved. Mr. Lamont's intent for the mileage resolution voted on at the reorganization meeting was to go with the IRS rate. Mrs. Dennison asked if there was extra paperwork to change the rate at this time. Mr. Lamont indicated that there was not. Mrs. Miller would like to see the rate remain at 40.5.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Russo, changing the resolution to Mileage Rate approve mileage at the IRS rate at the time the mileage is incurred.

Yes 5 No 1-Miller Abstaining 1-Bratt

Item VII k was removed from the agenda and the policy committee will work on this issue.

Mrs. Miller commended the business office for submitting much more current bills. Mr. Lamont indicated that he is following up on signatures of goods received and noted that warrants are ready any time after the financial committee meeting for review. The finance committee meets on November 2nd at 5:00 and the policy committee on October 25th at 6:00.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Miller, the following bills were paid:

Pay Bills

SN 36	\$83.53
SN38	\$265.29
SN39	\$6,340.58
SN40	\$60.00
SN41	\$806,747.16
SN42	361,397.13
SN43	4,961.95

Yes 7 No 0 Abstaining 0

Mrs. Russo stated there needs to be more detail on the school attorney's invoices.

Board goals were discussed. Mrs. Bratt will pull goals together for approval by the board. Goals

Board

Public comment:

It was suggested that the school heating system be upgraded. Discussion of money that each classroom has for students who forget their lunch money, etc. Perhaps the amount the teachers keep should be raised.

There are concerns by community members regarding the varsity volleyball coach, and Mrs. Bratt stated that there will be a recommendation for the appointment of a volleyball coach at the November 7th meeting. There was also a concern regarding the authority of the board president.

A community member was happy to see everyone enjoying the slide show of spirit week at the high school. She has faith in the board and administration and hopes the dissention will stop.

A community member was disappointed that the trip to France was not approved and sited that we were taking on additional liability by allowing an outside organization to use our bus.

Updates:

Mrs. Bobo suggested if there is money left from the capital project that possibly the auditorium could be painted as it is badly in need. It would cost approximately \$20-25,000.

Mr. Ware, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Bobo will attend a meeting to meet legislators on October 26th at Cayuga Onondaga BOCES. Mr. Ware noted that an email has been sent to each board member regarding the 6-hour training for board members.

Mr. Cummins will check with the Town of Ira concerning the guard rail in the route 370 parking lot. Board members have a whistleblower policy, which will be sent to Erie I BOCES for their review.

Mrs. Bobo noted that staff development day is October 21st, and the high school dedication is Saturday at 9:30.

Mr. Lamont indicated that there is a new mandate for use of chemicals that are environmentally safe and he will report on this at a future date.

Mrs. Dillon stated that October 29th will be the first BJ's partnership in Auburn. She spoke about the elementary Walking to New Orleans and the Halloween parade on October 31st at 1:00 pm.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison, the board entered executive session at 9:40 pm to discuss an employee's history, negotiations and to review the minutes.

Exec. Session

The board moved from executive session at 11:37 pm.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Dennison the minutes of October 3rd will be tabled until November 7th.

Table 10/3
Minutes

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining 0

The board moved from executive session at 11:37 pm.

Mrs. Russo left the meeting during executive session.

On motion of Mr. Ware, seconded by Mr. Cummins, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 pm.

Adjourn

Yes 6 No 0 Abstaining 0

Janice Lee, District Clerk