

MT. PLEASANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting Minutes – August 2, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on August 2, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 1155 S. Elizabeth Street, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Board Members Present:

Amy Bond, President; Tim Odykirk, Vice-President; Dana Calkins, Trustee; Jessica Jernigan, Trustee; Wiline Pangle, Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Sheila Murphy, Treasurer; Courtney Stegman, Secretary

Administration Present:

Superintendent Jennifer Verleger, Asst. Superintendent Linda Boyd, Chief Financial Officer Ginger Faber

Guests:

Debra Ervin, Jason Robinson, Amy Ervin, Trisha A. Fall, Stacie Stanton, Nancy Gillis, Linda Richardson, Brent Fisher, Jana Gilpin, Colleen Barz, Alissa McGuire, Sue McGuire, Shelly Susdorf, Phillip Susdorf, II, Jamie Martinez, Emmanuel Martinez, Janae Altenberg, Jeremiah Altenburg, Fidenedo Martiniz, Jewel Susdorf, Jausalin Ettinger, Kimberly McEifish, Vanessa Hubl, Hollie Krzysanowski, Lynda Wiltse, Melissa Haring, Dawn Betha, Patrick Birgy, Erick Mendez, Annette Richards Mendez, Tina McCormick, Lisa Wylie, Missy Higgins, Phil Kruska, Stacie Pratt, Shannon Dellon, John Elmour, Chrissy Lane, Jim Burkhart, Kim Bishop, Trisha Hyde, Kim Fox, Janet Kruska, John Chiodini, Carol Gall, Jessica Lapp, Eric Chercover, Diane Anderman, Xantha Karp, Kari Creguer, Bob Busch, Alyse Nelson, Katie Jones, Jenni Koch, Dan Ellis, HJill Wilson, Jamie Hal, Tara Leonard, Paul Kruska, Kris Batzner, Cathy Hicks Kennard, Josh Ayerdi, Erica Hopereaft, Kelly Faber, Diamond Neph, Bree Moeggenberg, Lorene Verona, Heidi Rocha, Steve Lear, Heather Beardslee, Maureen N. Eke, Christie Brennan, Nicole Hagle, Cindy Surbank, Pat Heitman, Al Christina, Pat Christina, Michael Heitman, Ted Crayton, Brandi Robinson

CALL TO ORDER

President Amy Bond called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

President Amy Bond read the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ROLL CALL

Tim Odykirk called the roll.

Init. _____

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tim Odykirk moved to add **VIII Discussion Regarding Masks** to the agenda. Dana Calkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Michigan School Business Officials

Superintendent Jennifer Verleger stated that the District received clarification that Elaine Esch, Business Office Specialist, has met the requirements for renewing the Business Office Specialist certification under the MSBO voluntary certification program. Congratulations to Ms. Esch.

Inner City Bussing

Superintendent Jennifer Verleger reporting on the bussing situation within the city limits of Mt. Pleasant. She acknowledged and supports that it would be wonderful if we could return to bussing children within the city limits, but we are lacking drivers. Josh Rhodes, Transportation Director, is researching the most efficient way to run bus routes.

Health Department Update

Superintendent Jennifer Verleger shared that she again joined Dr. Jen Morse, Director of the Central Michigan District Health Department on Thursday, July 29th for the Back to School 2021/2022 With COVID-19 report. Questions followed her presentation.

PSC Monthly Update

Asst. Superintendent Jennifer Verleger shared the PSC Monthly Update.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Minutes

Tim Odykirk moved to approve the July 19, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. Wiline Pangle seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with a 5 - 0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation

Tim Odykirk moved to accept the resignation of **Josh Boutwell**, Physical Education teacher, effective August 2, 2021, with regret and much appreciation, as presented. Wiline Pangle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

New Hires

Jessica Jernigan moved to approve the employment of **Kelly Faber**, 5th grade teacher at Fancher; **Kurt Gulick**, PE & Health teacher at MPHS; **Katie Jones**, 1st Grade teacher at Vowles; **Tyler Merrihew**, Welding instructor at GI-TEC; and **Cassidy Morkin**, 5th Grade teacher at McGuire, as presented for the 2021-2022 school year. Dana Calkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

November 2021 Bond Resolution

CFO Ginger Faber presented a memo and information regarding the Special School Election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. The information presented was the ratification language pertaining to the new money bond proposal which included the ballot language to be placed on the November 2, 2021 ballot. Ms. Faber stated that the bond proposal is to borrow the sum of not to exceed \$45,900,000 and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, in one or more series. Ms. Faber also read the wording to be placed on the ballot. Discussion followed.

Init. _____

Wiline Pangle moved to approve the Special School Election Resolution for Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Jessica Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Amy Bond, Dana Calkins, Jessica Jernigan, Wiline Pangle,
Tim Odykirk

NAYES: None

Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

Mask Discussion

Vice President Tim Odykirk stated he would like to open a discussion in the near future regarding our district and creating a policy regarding the many diseases that come up throughout the year, possibly creating a timeline. Discussion took place on what this policy may or may not look like and how it would be implemented.

CITIZENS REQUEST TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following individuals addressed the Board: Bree Moeggenberg, Heidi Rocha, Korene Verona, Heather Beardslee, Maureen N. Eke, Craig Surbrook, Kelly Fountain, Jewel Susdorf, Ted Clayton, Fidencio Martinez, Dawn Betha, Pat Birgy, Stacie Pratt, Phil Kruska, Jim Burkhart, Jamie Hall, Tara Leonard, Trisha Hyde, Steven Girsich, Peggy Korsick, Carol Sobieski-Gall, Michael Heitman, Jessica Lapp, Xantha Karp

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

Jessica Jernigan stated that the MPPS survey that was presented regarding returning to school is an informal survey.

Wiline Pangle stated that there has been a Recall Hearing set for Wednesday, August 4, 2021, for Amy Bond, Wiline Pangle and Courtney Stegman.

Tim Odykirk stated on behalf of the Board of Education that they appreciate the MPPS staff and especially Central Office staff. It has been tough and they have been taking a lot of harassment. Superintendent Jennifer Verleger thanked Diamond from MAC TV for recording this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. by general consent.

APPROVED:

Secretary, Board of Education

Recording Secretary

Init. _____