

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF
CASTON SCHOOL CORPORATION**

The Caston Board of School Trustees met Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the administration building to conduct a public hearing on the 2016 budget. Present were Board members Mrs. Beth Howard, Mrs. Michaela Slisher, Mr. Bruce Cress, Mr. Gary Baumgardner and Mr. Jason Herd. Superintendent - Mrs. Lucinda Douglass and corporation attorney Andrew Achey also were in attendance. Also attending was Ben Middlekamp (Pharos Tribune Reporter), Anita Doan, Angie Miller, Katie Miller and Chuck Evans. Board President, Mr. Bruce Cress, called the Public Hearing to order and gave those attending the meeting the opportunity to ask questions regarding the 2016 proposed budget. There were no questions or comments pertaining to the budget.

Following the conclusion of the public hearing, Board President Bruce Cress opened the regular meeting with the pledge of allegiance at 6:40 P.M. All in attendance stayed for the public meeting.

Celebrations: Caston school bus driver, Jerry Baker, recently worked cooperatively with State Trooper Randy McPike to present a school bus safety program for Caston's kindergarten students. Students were taught to walk in a "safety zone" and avoid the "danger zone" while boarding and unboarding the school bus.

Last week the Fulton, Grass Creek & Twelve Mile Lions sent in volunteers to help with the vision screening for our students. Because of all their wonderful help and support we were able to conduct all required screenings in one day. Additionally, the Lions Clubs have provided each 3rd grade student with a dictionary for the past few years – they have already been in this year and presented a new dictionary to each student so that they have it to use in their classroom throughout the school year and to take home with them at the end of the year.

Public Comment Regarding Advertised Items: None

Consent Agenda: Beth Howard moved, seconded by Gary Baumgardner to approve consent agenda items as follows:

1. Approve minutes of the August 18, 2015 Minutes of the Public Work Session, Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session of the Caston Board of School Trustees
2. Presentation and review of claims
3. Approve hiring/volunteer service for the following individuals:
 - 1) Mrs. Melissa Young to be hired as a Title I Paraprofessional
 - 2) Mr. Garrett Johnson to be approved as a volunteer soccer assistant
 - 3) ~~Mrs. Michaela Slisher to be approved as a volunteer soccer assistant~~ ***(Removed from agenda at Mrs. Slisher's request)***
4. Accept the resignation of Mrs. Tracy Mappin as a Title I Paraprofessional effective September 2, 2015.
5. Presentation and review of the August, 2015 Treasurer's Report and Revenue Report

Unanimous 5-0

Old Business:

Gary Baumgardner moved, seconded by Jason Herd to approve the application to Indiana Department of Environmental Management for requesting a Certificate of Financial Assurance (COFA).

Unanimous 5-0

Jason Herd moved, seconded by Michaela Slisher to approve the application for a credit card with \$1500 limit to be utilized for preapproved travel expenses as approved by the Superintendent.

Unanimous 5-0

New Business:

Michaela Slisher moved, seconded by Beth Howard to approve the addition of a new outdoor storage building per lowest quote submitted by Burns Buildings, and needed improvements to the existing transportation storage building per lowest quote by Michiana Contracting, Inc.

Unanimous 5-0

Gary Baumgardner moved, seconded by Jason Herd to contract with Joseph Dzierla & Associates, Inc., for architectural & planning services for future projects to the Caston Educational Facility

Unanimous 5-0

Gary Baumgardner moved, seconded by Michaela Slisher to approve the 2015-16 Master Contract between Caston School Corporation and Caston Classroom Teachers' Association

Unanimous 5-0

Jason Herd moved, seconded by Michaela Slisher to approve the purchase of a new 2016 activity bus per the bus replacement schedule

Unanimous 5-0

Gary Baumgardner moved, seconded by Beth Howard to approve the following conferences requiring overnight stay:

- 1) Mrs. Katie Miller to attend the Indiana Association for School Principals Fall Conference November 22 – 24 at the Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2) Mrs. Julia Ashbaugh to attend the Indiana School Counselor Association Fall Conference November 12 – 13 in Indianapolis, IN.
- 3) Mr. Nathan Speitel and Mr. Steve Freeman to attend the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics State Conference October 4-5 in Indianapolis, IN
- 4) Approve the attendance of Mrs. Lucinda Douglass and Mrs. Angela Miller to the Engaging Learners for Success conference through AdvancED September 21-22, 2015.

Unanimous 5-0

Other Business:

Gary Baumgardner moved, seconded by Michaela Slisher to approve the Caston FFA to attend the National Conference in Louisville, KY on October 28 – 30, 2015

Unanimous 5-0

Reports/Information: The following reports were presented to the board for review and discussion:

- A. Principal's Reports
- B. Caston School Corporation ACT Report
- C. Caston Elementary 2015-16 Schoolwide baseline achievement data
- D. Promise Indiana
- E. Online Academy
- F. Indiana School Improvement Planning Process
- G. SA5-1 Extra Curricular Schedule of Balances

Public Comment: Anita Doan addressed the board and expressed concerns with class sizes, the preparation of students for AP exams, offerings for High School students, the hiring of new administrators, success period, the Career Center and how this limits our students' scheduling options at Caston, the corporation's cash balance, the per-student expenditures at Caston, and stated "we needed to get off our assets and put them to work for kids."

Board Comment: Michaela Slisher shared that her daughter is having success at the college level in two difficult courses; color theory and problem solving, and wanted to express that she felt two teachers in particular, Mrs. Melinda Shultz and Ms. Kaitlyn Ueltschi and provided opportunities in their high school classrooms that directly correlate to this success.

Beth Howard stated that she felt the board needed to investigate policies for use of social media by staff and students and consider adopting a policy addressing this topic.

Adjournment: Gary Baumgardner moved, seconded by Jason Herd that the regular meeting be adjourned. At 7:36 P.M.

Unanimous 5-0

CASTON BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

