

**CHASSELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
Board of Education
Regular Meeting**

August 17, 2015

The Chassell Township School Board of Education met on Monday, August 17, 2015, in the library. President Ken Kytta called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Carl Olson, Marcia Messer, Suzanna Tuomi, Chris Holmes, Lynn Gierke, Roger Tervo, Ken Kytta

Absent: None

GUESTS: Barb and John Litzner, Sandy Curnow, Denise Messina

Denise Messina addressed the board with the following items: Drainage on the playground. Has there been any discussion regarding trying to improve the drainage. After a brief discussion the topic was referred to the Property Committee to follow-up on. Second item was replacement pickets around the lift station. Denise's husband who works for Uppco noticed that several pickets were damaged and/or removed, however some looked like they had been replaced. They just wanted the board to be aware of this.

Regular Board Meeting – July 20, 2015 – Chris Holmes moved, seconded by Roger Tervo, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 20, 2015. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.

Treasurer's Report - Lynn Gierke reported an Income of \$23,439.15, Expenses of \$82,741.50, leaving a deficit Net Income balance of (\$59,302.35) for the period of July 1, 2015 through July 31, 2015.

The General Fund Cash & Investment Balance as of July 31, 2015 was \$146,312.37.

Carl Olson moved, seconded by Suzanna Tuomi, to approve the treasurer's report, petty cash report, and to pay the July bills as submitted. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Marcia Messer, Suzanna Tuomi, Chris Holmes, Lynn Gierke, Roger Tervo, Ken Kytta

NAYS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- A. AmeriCorps Members – Currently BHK is short AmeriCorps members by almost half. At this time Chassell does not have any members returning from last year. The current year budget was built with hiring one AmeriCorps member.
- B. Athletic Ticket Prices – During Thursday's athletic director meeting, a discussion was held regarding having a "per event" price "per family" of \$15.00. The consensus of all local districts present was to set the ticket prices at \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for "seniors/senior citizens" and students; along with the \$15.00 per family, per event.
- C. Gogebic Community College (Early College) – Currently there are ten students enrolled for the early college program. Three additional students have indicated that they are interested in enrolling and have already taken the "Compass Test" which is required for placement, but have not completed or filled out college enrollment forms.

- D. Administrator Academy – An update from the 2015 U.P. Administrators Academy which was held on August 4 & 5 at Bay College in Escanaba. A major highlight from the conference was a long discussion on House Bill 5223: A reduction in the “student growth” portion of a teacher’s performance rating criteria. Last year (2014-15) the student growth portion was weighted at 25%; this year (2015-16) the proposal is to have the student growth portion to weigh at 50 % of a teacher’s performance rating. Among other changes the bill would reduce the amount of a teacher’s performance rating to 20% beginning with the 2016-17 school year.
- E. Freshman Volleyball – As of Friday, August 14, there were not enough students participating or practicing to field a *freshmen* volleyball team. Freshmen students will be included with the junior varsity team.
- F. The “Bake Sale Bill”, Public Act 139 of 2015 – The Michigan Department of Education set rules that permit no less than two days a week on which schools could hold fundraising sales of food or beverages that do not meet mandated school lunch nutritional standards during the regular school hours. The bill will also require schools to notify parents a week ahead of such sales. The bill was introduced in response to federal and Michigan Department of Education restrictions and bans on the sales. The bill passed by a vote of 66 yes to 43 no.
- G. The legislation, known as the “early warning” package, is designed to allow the state to intervene sooner in districts that are struggling financially. Intervention could mean the appointment of an emergency manager earlier. The early warning legislation identifies nearly 200 school districts and charter schools statewide whose fund balance is less than 5 percent of its general fund budget. A fund balance is money in reserves that is often used to balance budgets. Not having enough fund balance is a sign to the state that the district could be on the brink of collapse. The first step for a district that is struggling financially, would be to work with their local ISD to create a recovery budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel Committee – Met on Friday, July 31, 2015, and discussed support staff positions, wages and benefits.
- B. Property Committee – Met on Wednesday, August 5, 2015, and discussed options regarding repairing the existing “plow truck” versus looking at purchasing a newer truck for plowing.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Plow Truck Summary – The repair summary given by Garnet Garage stated that the truck would need a new front sway bar, an axle joint, manifold bolts and gasket, a new front drive shaft which would cost approximately \$500.00 - \$600.00 and brake pads both front and back. The total cost of all work to be done would be approximately \$1,000.00.
- B. Food Service Meal Prices – Due to an increase in food costs, a shortage in eggs and direction by the state to serve more vegetables, there is a need to look at increasing meal costs for the food service department. The last increase was made in 2011-12. The food service director has suggested the following: Increase breakfast from \$1.50 to \$1.75. Elementary (K-6) hot lunch from \$2.30 to \$2.75 and High School (7-12) hot lunch from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per meal.
- C. Support Staff Wages – The personnel committee did meet with the food service department to discuss wages. There is no doubt that our support staff is underpaid for the jobs that they perform, however, the overall school budget is a concern. At this time the personnel committee did not recommend a wage increase for the food service personnel nor the support staff personnel. However, the personnel committee would like to add **(2) snow days** to the support staff benefit package. The personnel committee would also like to continue to sit down and discuss options once enrollment figures have been solidified.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Athletic Ticket Prices – Chris Holmes moved, seconded by Carl Olson, to set the athletic ticket prices as follows: \$5.00 per Adult; \$3.00 per Senior Citizen/Student (CTS students will be allowed to enter home events free of charge); and \$15.00 per event per family, to align with all the other local school districts in the area. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.
- b. Plow Truck Repair – Roger Tervo moved, seconded by Carl Olson, to have the Garnet Garage replace the front sway bar, an axle joint, manifold bolts and gasket; replace the front drive shaft and brake pads both front and back. The total cost of all the work to be done would be approximately \$1,000.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Marcia Messer, Suzanna Tuomi, Roger Tervo, Lynn Gierke, Chris Holmes, Ken Kytta

NAYS: None

(Note: DLH will continue to be our back up snow removal)

- c. Food Service Meal Prices – Carl Olson moved, seconded by Chris Holmes, to approve an increase in meal prices as follows: Breakfast – increase from \$1.50 to \$1.75. Elementary (K-6) hot lunch from \$2.30 to \$2.75. High School (7-12) hot lunch from \$2.50 to \$3.00. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.
- d. Milk Bid – Carl Olson moved, seconded by Chris Holmes, to accept the bid from Jilbert Dairy for the 2015-2016 school year. The prices are as follows: 1% white milk (1/2 pint carton) fixed price \$0.2525; TruMoo Skim Chocolate Milk (1/2 pint carton) fixed price \$0.2725 and Skim White Milk (1/2 pint carton) fixed price \$0.2450. (Bid copy attached) Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Marcia Messer, Suzanna Tuomi, Roger Tervo, Lynn Gierke, Chris Holmes, Ken Kytta

NAYS: None

- e. Title I Aide – Chris Holmes moved, seconded by Carl Olson, to hire Kim Buda as a Title I Aide to replace Sarah Guidotti who took a teaching position as a secondary English teacher. Mrs. Buda's wages will be equal to the support staff pay schedule as on file. Mrs. Buda will be working as a Chassell Township School employee rather than a contracted employee through GMS services due to her having been a former CTS employee. (Note: She needs to be employed approximately 1.5 years to obtain health benefits for retirement). Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Marcia Messer, Suzanna Tuomi, Roger Tervo, Lynn Gierke, Chris Holmes, Ken Kytta

NAYS: None

- f. River Valley Bank – Money Market Account – Roger Tervo moved, seconded by Carl Olson, to adopt the resolution designating depository of school district moneys (resolution attached). Motion carried with all members voting AYE.

- g. Snow Days – Chris Holmes moved, seconded by Carl Olson, to **add (2) snow days** to the support staff benefit package. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Marcia Messer, Suzanna Tuomi, Roger Tervo, Lynn Gierke, Chris Holmes, Ken Kytta

NAYS: None

- h. After School Cleaning – Chris Holmes moved, seconded by Roger Tervo, to approve U.P. Janitorial as the *After School Cleaning* company. Hourly rate and cleaning personnel will remain the same as during the 2014-2015 school year. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Marcia Messer, Suzanna Tuomi, Roger Tervo, Lynn Gierke, Chris Holmes, Ken Kytta

NAYS: None

- i. September board meeting will be on Monday, September 21, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

Carl Olson moved, seconded by Chris Holmes, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: