

TECUMSEH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 10, 2017 Minutes

The regular meeting of the Tecumseh Public Schools' Board of Education was called to order by President Amstutz-Wild at 7:00 p.m., in the High School Media Center.

Board Present: Members Amstutz-Wild, Hart, Johnson-Berges, Linn, Rice, and Tritt
Board Absent: Member Johnson
School Present: Superintendent Coffin, L. Church, J. Pfund, S. Bailey, D. Thelen, R. Francis, G. Mills, A. Mensing, R. Hilderley, A. Schmidt, and C. Lewandowski

There were approximately 45 guests present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Member Hart led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

GOOD NEWS:

Class of 2017 THS Salutatorian: The Board recognized THS Co-Salutatorian, Tevon Hastings on his outstanding high school accomplishments and receiving this honor.

High School TVA Student Experience: TVA student, Julia Green. spoke to the Board about her educational experience at Tecumseh High School and how the individualized learning path gave her the confidence needed to be successful and complete her course work ahead of time and offered her the ability to take college courses.

Michigan Art Education Association Region 3 Art Show Participants: District art teachers spoke about the 19 student art pieces that were entered in the show this year. Of those entered, 9 pieces were moved to the State level (only 50 pieces moved to the state level and TPS had 9 or 20%). It was reported that 5 pieces made it to the State show at Western and 1 piece was advanced to Michigan Department of Education. Also, 2 pieces were rated in the top 15%. Overall, Tecumseh Schools was well represented at the art show this year.

Other: Daniel Noel invited Board Members to the workshop and concert by Le Vent du Nord, critical acclaimed and world renowned performers. He stated students will also attend workshops which will be a great cultural experience for them.

AGENDA - BOARD

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments made.

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dr. Coffin requested the bids for the reorganization work be added to Item VIII - Action Items. It was moved by Member Hart, support by Member Rice, to approve the revised agenda. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

SCHEDULED REPORTS:

Month of the Young Child/Preschool Report: Mrs. Sue Dieter, Director of the Preschool Program, spoke about the fact April is Month of the Young Child. She spoke about the many activities the young learners have been involved in as well. She stated she will be presenting at the MiAYC Conference this year on quality standards of why preschool is paramount to the foundation of educational growth.

Mrs. Dieter stated the program is nearly 60% full for fall with 100 students enrolled, and she has a wait-list for the 2018-19 school year, which speaks highly about the quality of our program. Mrs. Dieter spoke about the tablet the children are using as part of the creative curriculum program.

Finance Update: Mrs. Judy Pfund, Director of Business Services, reviewed the monthly financial reports covering revenue and expenditures. She also spoke about the House and Senate proposals for school funding as she continues to plan for budget assumptions for next year.

Facilities Update: Mr. Josh Mattison, Director of Facilities, reported on the LED lighting project and that work is expected to be completed by the end of April. He stated we are having monitors installed at the high school and middle school to verify wattage which will help us evaluate the district's savings as part of the LED lighting project. Mr. Mattison stated the construction work for the reconfiguration is scheduled to start as soon as school is out. Mr. Mattison stated there were 9 contractors on site for the walk through for the hard ceiling work and he anticipates this will help bids to come in at more competitive prices.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

TPS Audit: Mrs. Pfund reported the district received notification from our auditors, Gross, Puckey, Gruel, & Roof, P.C., that they must withdraw from completing the audit this year, due to Tecumseh being the only school they were scheduled to do. The amount of additional CEU's and certification time the firm would be required to do for one district does not warrant their continued service to Tecumseh. She stated due to the timelines of getting scheduled, there is an urgency to move forward with securing another firm. She reviewed information she received from Abraham & Gaffney, P.C., of Lansing, MI. She stated she is familiar with their quality of work as they also do the audit for the LISD. Mrs. Pfund stated she is comfortable with their staff as well. In comparing costs, she reported the bid to Abraham & Gaffney is \$4,000.00 higher than what we are currently paying.

Request to Develop RFP for A District-Wide Voice Over IP System: Mr. Joel Bills, Technology Director, stated the current district phone system is 20+ years old and spoke about all of the problems we are having with it. He stated we need to look at options and to explore new, updated equipment that would give us a platform going forward to replace intercoms, clocks as well as phones. He requested the Board allow for a bid to go out to see what is out there that could provide us with an up-to-date voice over iP system district wide.

ARAMARK Food Service Contract Renewal Extension: Mrs. Laura Pleasant presented documentation to the Board regarding the food service contract extension for the 2017-18 school year. She stated the Board approved the bid in 2014 with 5-years extension options and this would be the 3rd year of extensions. She spoke about the CPI being set at 2% and highlighted the costs of the contract. The next step is to submit the documentation to the Michigan Department of Education for approval and then it will be back to the Board for approval prior to July 1 for the 2017-18 school year.

Custodial Services at TPS: Superintendent Coffin stated the Board acted at the March 13, 2017 Board Meeting to terminate its contract with ARAMARK Custodial Services, effective June 30, 2017, for the district's custodial services. She stated the next step would be for the Board to discuss options on how to proceed; either to bid it out through the state bid system process or for the district to take back handling of the custodial department with the district staff managing it. Dr. Coffin spoke about the pros and cons of seeking bids through the bid process as we are on a very tight timeline to post it, have walkthrough meetings, select a company, and have staff in place by July 1st. She stated if the Board would decide to take it back in house, we could proceed with selecting staff now to be in place on July 1st. Board members discussed the fact the district has had two different companies since we privatized and it appears that over time, things deteriorate when the district does not maintain the services. Member Rice stated if the Board takes back the managing of custodial services and over time we feel it is not working out, the Board can always decide to bid out at that time. Board members discussed the fact we are in a different place now and having someone on staff that can manage, monitor, and supervise the work should help improve the level of service from the employees. The Board agreed to move this matter to an action item.

Board AD HOC Committee Meeting: Member Amstutz-Wild spoke about the Board Ad Hoc Committee meeting of March 27, 2017, where committee members reviewed information regarding the building improvements, carpet, and furniture purchases for the reorganization. Committee members reviewed the updated budget and recommend that the Board approve the bids for construction work, the bids for flooring, and all work, upgrades, and furnishings fall within the proposed budget.

ACTION ITEMS:

Custodial Services: It was moved by Member Johnson-Berges, support by Member Linn, to authorize administration to proceed with managing the district's custodial services through the district, effective with the 2017-18 school year.

Resolution to Approve E-Rate Bids for Technology Infrastructure Upgrade: It was moved by Member Johnson-Berges, support by Member Rice, to approve the E-Rate Bids to Secant Technologies in the amount of \$154,965.01, to proceed with the E-Rate 470 requirements. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

Resolution to Approve Audit Services: It was moved by Moved by Member Rice, support by Member Linn, to approve Abraham & Gaffney, P.C., as the district's auditing firm for the 2016-17 school year. The fee for this service is \$18,700 for the 2016-17 school year, with increases each year in the amount of \$500 for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

Resolution of 3-Year Contract (2017-2020) with Tecumseh Education Association: It was moved by Member Linn, support by Member Tritt, to approve the 3-year master agreement with the Tecumseh Education Association (TEA), effective July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

Bids for Reorganization – Construction Work: It was moved by Member Johnson-Berges, support by Member Hart, to approve the bid to Krieghoff Lenawee, in the amount of \$135,979.00, for the building improvement work as part of the district reorganization. Additionally, this amount is to come from the Capital Projects budget, which was previously approved by the Board as part of the 2016-2017 budget. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

Bids for Reorganization – Flooring: It was moved by Member Tritt, support by Member Rice, to approve the bid to Abbey Carpet, in the amount of \$68,672.10, for carpeting of designated classrooms (current 5th grade wing) and the two main entry ways at TMS as part of the district reorganization. Additionally, this amount is to come from the Capital Projects budget, which was previously approved by the Board as part of the 2016-2017 budget. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

Bids for Reorganization – Flooring: It was moved by Member Johnson-Berges, support by Member Linn, to approve the bid to Floor Care Concepts, in the amount of \$114,534.00, for the rubber flooring in the two multipurpose rooms and carpeting of designated classrooms at Herrick Park and Patterson as part of the district reorganization. Additionally, this amount is to come from the Capital Projects budget, which was previously approved by the Board as part of the 2016-2017 budget. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

AGENDA - ADMINISTRATION (District Business)

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Member Rice, support by Member Hart, to approve the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of March 13, 2017; Minutes from the Special Board Retreat of March 20, 2017; and Minutes from the Board AD HOC Committee Meeting of March 27, 2017. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS: No items scheduled.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Coffin spoke about the work Laurie Church is doing with special education teachers to discuss how services for students with special needs will look differently in the new configuration. Dr. Coffin reported that the Technology Department continues to prepare for the district-wide M-STEP testing and all the work that goes into making sure things are set up and equipment is ready. Dr. Coffin also reminded Board Members about the Celebrate Tecumseh! event on April 12th from 5:00-8:00 at the HS Cafetorium. She stated students will be in the C-Pal sharing about their project-based learning activities/projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Building Updates:

High School- Mr. Mills spoke about the "Why You Matter" posters that are up at the high school; stated staff members are excited to help learners prepare for SAT testing.

Middle School – Mr. Hilderley spoke about the Robotics Club and their recent participation at competition where they won. He spoke about the building tours that are scheduled at the Compass building for incoming students next year.

Herrick Park – Mrs. Francis reported on the work that is being done regarding school improvement goals for next year and how the new staff members who will be working together in the new configuration next year are excited to be part of the process.

Patterson – Ms. Thelen also reported on the school improvement work the staff members have been involved in for next year.

Sutton – Mrs. Bailey spoke about Kindergarten Round Up and that it was a well-attended event. She invited Board Members to the Sutton STEAM night on April 25th to be part of the hands on activities provided by many local agencies.

Tec. Acres – Mr. Lewandowski spoke about the great things happening with his special education teachers and the transitional IEP's for 4th grade students.

Student Support Services – Mrs. Church reported the Tecumseh TEAM teachers presented at the MACUL Conference in March; and spoke about some of the TEAM activities at the building level as staff members have worked hard to bring creative ideas to our learners.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT AGENDA (May 8, 2017)

Good News:

- TMS/THS Music, Band, Orchestra Festival Students
- Spelling Bee Winners

Report/Discussion Items:

- Title I – Reading Specialists
- Sutton School Improvement
- Review of 2017-18 Proposed LISD Budget
- 2017-18 TPS Budget Assumptions/Projections

Action Items:

- Set Board Hearing Date/Time

CLOSING

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Connie Purkey, TEA President, thanked the Board and Dr. Coffin for a great experience with the negotiations process. She spoke about the collaborative work between the TEA and Dr. Coffin, and she thanked the Board for setting the parameters and for their support for the teachers.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Member Hart stated it is great to have such an open, cooperative working arrangement with the teachers.

Member Rice stated the environment around the district is awesome and he is so happy to be a part of this wonderful district.

Member Johnson-Berges thanked administration for bringing in HS student, Julia Green, to speak to the Board as it is nice to know we are meeting the needs of all students no matter what path they are on.

Member Amstutz-Wild also commented on how positive the negotiations process was and how wonderful it is to be part of the district.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:37 p.m., President Amstutz-Wild adjourned the meeting.

Debbie Johnson-Berges, Secretary, Board of Education