

TECUMSEH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 14, 2016

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: K. Coffin, Superintendent; J. Pfund; L. Church; S. Alexander; R. Francis; S. Bailey; D. Thelen; G. Mills, A. Mensing; A. Schmidt; and R. Hilderley

There were approximately 40 visitors present.

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

GOOD NEWS:

Kids for Kids Summer Program: Mr. & Mrs. Rains, along with their two boys, shared information about the Kids for Kids Summer Program. This is a national organization which recognizes the need to assist young students during the summer months to help with the reading slide that can occur. It was reported that classes were held on Wednesday and 50 students participated in the program. At the end of the program, the students and families who successfully completed the program were invited to attend the end of the year celebration. Next Mrs. Szeman spoke about the data that was collected from the students who participated in the program and spoke about the percentage of students who maintained or increased their reading level. It was reported that overall, 83% of the students who participated maintained or increased their Fountas and Pinnell reading level.

Autism Services Center – Summer Transition Program: Mr. Joel Musielewicz, THS Special Education teacher, along with some of his students, shared information about the Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and Western Michigan University (WMU) Partnership for students with Autism which they participated in over the summer. The students took classes while living on campus at WMS for 7 ½ weeks. They earned 3 college credits and some had jobs during that time as well. The Tecumseh students all earned a “C” or better in the courses they took. Monica Robbins from MRS spoke about the impact of the program with the students and stated that WMU did a great job of hosting the program and stated how proud she is of the Tecumseh students. She stated she is hopeful there will be another opportunity next summer and that it would be nice to bring it more locally with the colleges and universities near us. A few parents of the students who participated spoke about the program and how it impacted their children. They thanked TPS for offering the opportunity and for always being there to provide help and support to all students.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: No comments made.

AGENDA – BOARD

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA: With no corrections to the agenda, it was moved by Member Johnson-Berges, support by Member Rice, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

SCHEDULED REPORTS:

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE: Mr. Joel Bills, Technology Director, reported that he is trying to implement a “student involvement” component into technology and spoke about how a few high school

students are working 2-hours a week during Indian Hour to fix and repair Chromebooks. He stated with the new 7th/8th grade STEM/STEAM buildings, it will be the focus to have 100% of all buildings student supported. He also spoke about the need to upgrade the current phone system in the near future as our system is 19+ years old and the repair/maintenance fees are costly.

Middle School – School Improvement: Mrs. Beth Robertson, 6th grade teacher, spoke about the middle school – school improvement goal to improve the learner’s reading skills. She spoke about the time frame and how students work through the instructional model that is in place and how the activities are implemented to ensure student growth. Students agree upon a “DEAR” time (Drop Everything And Read), they analyze articles, and participate in a book study.

Michigan Association of School Boards Report: Members Rice, Linn, and Amstutz-Wild attended the MASB Fall Conference in Detroit in October and spoke about the sessions they attended.

Monthly Facilities Report: Mr. Josh Mattison spoke about the maintenance budget and reported things are in good shape and on target at this point in the year. Mr. Mattison updated the Board on the elementary LED lighting project reporting that work will begin next week during off hours. He stated work at the maintenance building is underway and the RFP for the HVAC system is Jan. 5th.

Monthly Finance Report: Ms. Judy Pfund reviewed the monthly financial reports and stated she will have information at the December meeting for the Board to consider for the first budget revision. Some of the additional revenue areas include the before and after school daycare, a new GSRP classroom, additional at-risk funding, and a higher student count than originally anticipated.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Summer Tax Resolution: The Board reviewed the Summer Tax Resolution document which must be approved each year for the Board to impose a 100% tax levy of the annual school property taxes. This will be on the next agenda for action.

Request for Overnight Trip - Italy in June 2018: The Board reviewed the information from Ms. Karen Arnold requesting a trip for students/staff to travel to Italy in June, 2018.

AGENDA – ADMINISTRATION (District Business)

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Member Johnson-Berges, support by Member Linn, to approve the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of October 10, 2016 and Minutes from the Board Study Session of October 24, 2016. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS: No items scheduled.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Dr. Coffin reported that Laurie Church has been working with the Lenawee ISD Compliance and Monitoring Coordinator for Special Education Services to complete the required components as part of the Continuous Improvement Monitoring System (CIMS). She reported that Mrs. Church continues to work with new families who come to our district as we continue to welcome learners at TPS as Mrs. Church serves as a liaison between the family and school to help ensure a smooth transition for the children and families.

Dr. Coffin reported that as a district, our School of Choice numbers are up by 79 students compared to Fall of last year, which is good for TPS.

Dr. Coffin stated Mr. Chuck Schwahn was in the district on Nov. 17th working with the Administrative Team on the next steps in the implementation of Customized Learning. Mr. Schwahn shared strategies to assist building level leaders in their role of serving as the connector between the district vision and the work of our learning facilitators. Then, that evening, Mr. Schwahn presented at

the Lenawee County Association of School Boards and county Superintendents on Mass Customized Learning.

Dr. Coffin spoke about her recent trip to China where she spoke at the Education Bureau of China about education globally. She stated the partnership between TPS and Carey International Schools continues to strengthen and she anticipates in the future that staff from the Education Bureau in China will be coming to Tecumseh to visit as well.

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Building Updates:

Tecumseh High School – Mr. Griff Mills, THS Principal, spoke about the formal and informal assessments going on in the classrooms; stated 643 learners were on the honor roll; spoke about the good things going on in Ms. Vanhala’s classroom; and invited the Board to the HS Gala event on Saturday.

Tecumseh Middle School - Mr. Rick Hilderley, TMS Principal, spoke about the fact that many middle school staff members are embracing change and taking risks while experimenting with new ideas. He gave an example of moving away from Homework Hotline and sending home electronic newsletters. He also spoke about the enhanced math offerings to 5th-8th grade students.

Herrick Park – Mrs. Robyn Francis, Her Park Principal, spoke about the data check-in meetings at HP as well as the ELA check-in meetings where learning facilitators are collaborating to determine if students are where they should be.

Patterson – Ms. Deidra Thelen, Patterson Principal, spoke about the STEM activities going on throughout the building at each grade level.

Sutton – Mrs. Stacy Bailey, Sutton Principal, spoke about the work with Mike Bloomquist and how the trend data walk-throughs with teachers provided a great experience for them.

Tecumseh Acres – Mr. Carl Lewandowski, Tec Acres Principal, spoke about the “Donuts with Dads” event sponsored by the PTO and how exciting it was to see the dads participating with students.

Student Support Services:

➤ **CIMS Monitoring Update:** Mrs. Laurie Church, Director of Student Services, spoke about the CIMS Monitoring and compliance issue. She stated during the 2014-2015 school year, the district did not meet the requirements for IEP deadlines. As part of the compliance component, the district must develop a corrective action plan to address this issue, which we have done, and she is required to report that to the Board of Education. This meeting is where that information was shared with the Board as part of its regularly scheduled meeting.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Good News:

- Ukulele Club

Report/Discussion Items:

- First Budget Revision

Action Items:

- Summer Tax Resolution

CLOSING

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments made.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Member Johnson-Berges stated she is thrilled to hear about the additional math opportunities for students at the middle school.

Member Hart stated the Kids to Kids Summer Program is fantastic and he enjoyed hearing from the students.

Member Amstutz-Wild stated there is an open seat on the LISD Board and that she would like to have TPS represented and will be applying to serve.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION: At 8:02 p.m., it was moved by Member Hart, support by Member Johnson-Berges, to adjourn to closed session, Pursuant to P.A. 267 of 1976 Section 8, Subsection (a): To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing. A person requesting a closed hearing may rescind the request at any time, in which case the matter at issue shall be considered after the rescission only in open session. Roll call: Members Amstutz-Wild; Hart; Johnson-Berges; Linn; Rice and Tritt. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:38 p.m., it was moved by Member Rice, support by Member Johnson-Berges, to return to open session.

The Board agreed to hold a special meeting (Retreat) on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 from 9:00 a.m.-noon at the Board Office.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:39 p.m., President Amstutz-Wild adjourned the meeting.

Debbie Johnson-Berges, Secretary, Board of Education