



**Board of Education**  
23033 Northline, Taylor, MI 48180 (734) 374-1200

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

February 8, 2021

### **OPENING ITEMS**

#### **I. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.**

##### **Roll Call**

Present: **D. Thomas, J. Thomas, A. Block, R. Danaj, V. Horth, A. McNew, D. Meyers**  
\* Vickie Horth left the meeting at 9:48 pm

Absent: **None**

#### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **III. GOOD NEWS:**

1. **Bruce Holladay, Principal CTE** gave an update on the students and activities that were being done since many of the students, approximately 269 have returned face to face. He showed a slide show presentation that highlighted some of the students engaged in the classrooms at CTE. He said that even if a student is a virtual student they still must come in person for the CTE programs.
2. **Jillian Livingston, Director of Special Education** gave an update on the Special Education Program and stated that she has gone to 10 of the 11 buildings that students have returned to and it was wonderful to see the teachers and students that have returned smiling and happy to be back to school. She said that it was wonderful that other teachers and staff in the buildings helped out with the students even though none of them were in their classrooms.
3. **Sydney Gotcher and Jared Barringer, Beacon Baptist Church** spoke about the many projects that they and other volunteers have been involved in a partnership basis with Kinyon, and hope to add Holland Elem. and West MS schools. They indicated that they were more involved with Kinyon and when Covid hit it stopped their partnership temporarily and that they look forward to starting up again soon. They eventually hope to add all of the schools in their volunteer program.
4. **Rhonda Danaj, on behalf of the Taylor High School Band** shared a flyer that Ms. Ferguson-Barringer sent her regarding a fundraising event for the band and choral in conjunction with Amazon and through purchases the band would receive a percentage of the profit. Just go onto the site and click Amazon Smile and choose Taylor Schools to receive the credit.

### **AGENDA-BOARD AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **V. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by D. Thomas to accept the Agenda.

##### **ROLL CALL:**

<b>J. Thomas - YES</b>	<b>McNew - YES</b>
<b>Block - YES</b>	<b>Meyers - YES</b>
<b>Danaj - YES</b>	<b>D. Thomas - YES</b>
<b>Horth - YES</b>	

**Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0**

**VI. SCHEDULED REPORTS**

**1. Covid-19 Update**

**Mary Ann Cyr, Asst. Superintendent of Covid and Communication** stated that at this time we are at a Level D rating for Covid. She was happy to share that there have been over 439 staff members vaccinated with their 2nd shot scheduled later in February, again at WCCC. She highlighted some of the CDC guideline changes and said that if you had been fully vaccinated and came in contact with a positive case, you would not need to be quarantined and you would not be part of the contact tracing.

**2. Back to School Update**

**Griff Mills, Superintendent of TSD** highlighted his recent visit to schools with Board President, Rhonda Danaj and speaking to some of the students and staff. He also went over a few changes to the calendar regarding February 22 - 26, 2021:

**Monday, February 22, 2021** - Orientation of the PreK, 6 and 9th graders

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021** - PreK-5 students beginning school

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021** - **normal day** of instruction (Thurs/Fri will be Asynchronous)

**Thursday, February 25, 2021** - **Asynchronous Day**, (teachers will be getting their second vaccine)

**Friday, February 26, 2021** - **Asynchronous Day**, (for any reactions or side effects from vaccines.)

Superintendent Mills stated that MIOSHA came to Taylor High School campus and were impressed with the preparedness of the building. Jack Giraud added input on the Merv 13 air filters and said that he was in the process of doing a facility survey and had gotten through 7 of the buildings and will finish the survey the next day.

Superintendent Mills answered additional questions from the previous meeting and said that he will be sharing a link for families soon. He also discussed raising the wages of sub teachers to \$150/day. Children could eat breakfast with face shields on and that the CDC would be coming out with more information on that soon. He also said that at this time there would be a hard stop to students changing from virtual to face to face if they had not already chosen that in December. The Technology Dept. reports that there are 1,800 chromebooks that have been on backorder and should be here in February or March. The individual principals are currently working with hi-risk teachers and families.

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Board Policy: Hearing Expulsion**

**Rhonda Danaj, Board President** stated that it takes 2 meetings to make a policy change, 1st one to discuss the policy and the 2nd one to take action. In the case of the Hearing Expulsion policy 5610, 5610.03 and 5611. The change would be to make the adjustment to streamline the process back to the School District instead of having the Board Members attend.

**2. Substitute Teacher Pay Increase**

**Superintendent Mills** stated that he would like to raise the daily rate of substitute teachers to \$150.00/day to be more competitive to attract more substitute teachers to the district.

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Substitute Teacher Pay Increase**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the increased rate of the substitute teacher to \$150.00/day.

**ROLL CALL:**

**J. Thomas - YES**

**Block - YES**

**Danaj - YES**

**Horth - YES**

**McNew - YES**

**Meyers - YES**

**D. Thomas - YES**

**Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0**

**2. Request to Hire - Instructional Interventionist**

The Superintendent recommends the Board to approve the Request to Hire Instructional Interventionist - Moody Elementary.

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by J. Thomas to approve the Request to Hire Instructional Interventionist - Moody Elementary

**ROLL CALL:**

**Block - YES**

**Danaj - YES**

**Horth - YES**

**McNew - YES**

**Meyers - YES**

**D. Thomas - YES**

**J. Thomas - YES**

**Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0**

**AGENDA-ADMINISTRATION (District Business)**

**IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Mills stated that MHSAA has allowed athletes to return to sports. He stated that he enjoys seeing kids play sports and other activities and will be attending as many activities as he can.

**X. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 25, 2021
2. Consolidated Items: Payment of Current Bills, Payment of Current Bills on Hold, Approval of Requisitions, Approval of Requisitions on Hold, Certified, Non-Certified and Administrative Reports.

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by D. Thomas to approve the Consent Agenda

**ROLL CALL:**

**Danaj - YES**

**Horth - YES**

**McNew - YES**

**Meyers - YES**

**D. Thomas - YES**

**J. Thomas - YES**

**Block - YES**

**Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0**

**XI. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING (February 22, 2021)**

- Covid-19 Update
- Back to School Update

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rhonda Danaj read a statement indicating that the Board listens to comments but that at Regular Board Meetings they do not answer questions during the Public Comment part of the agenda.

There were 7 participants from the community tonight: C. Patts, G. Rowell,, M.L. Tavernier, , R. Kuczeski,J. Winkle, J. Beringer, M. Wade

There were questions/concerns regarding the following:

- Liked the Q & A and comments that were made to everyone so that they can hear the same thing.
- Thanks to Dr. Cyr for making sure that we were made aware of the vaccines and setting it up so that we could receive them.
- Returning face 2 face, some of my colleagues and I are concerned that even though we know that Jack and the maintenance crew are cleaning we are still concerned about the 2 filters and the difference between the two which we are still getting information on.

- Face shields are great and we appreciate them, but this is an airborne disease and air can still get under the shields.
- Since the 2nd dose of the Vaccine for those that just received the Vaccine at WCCC will be the 25th of this month would you consider delaying the return to school giving the Vaccine time to be effective, such as waiting until March 15th - that would be 2 weeks?
- Technology issues were discussed. A question was asked regarding the possibility of purchasing cameras that would follow the teacher around the classroom.
- If someone had the 1st vaccine somewhere other than WCCC and their 2nd dose is scheduled on a day other than February 25th, can they use that day as an asynchronous day instead of using a personal/sick day.?
- Concerns regarding side effects from the Vaccine.
- Can a teacher take a leave of absence for a couple of weeks while they are waiting to feel comfortable that the Vaccine was effective?
- Concerns about what happens to the students if there are no substitute teachers available?
- There were concerns that some of the answers to questions were gone over too quickly and didn't feel that some were explained in enough detail. An email was sent and asked for a response to the concerns that were expressed.
- Concerns about high-risk staff and students being addressed at the building level rather than administratively.
- Covid Teams - what are they and when will team members get the information they need to be effective?
- What metrics are being used to determine if/when school begins safely?
- Concerns regarding the next strain and what metrics will be followed and what about community spread?
- Hope decisions being made are not based upon Executive/Legislative alone.

### **XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ann Block said she wasn't aware of the fundraiser for the band/chorus or the soup sale or a few of the others, she said she had been successful in helping raise funds before and that these should be brought to the attention of not only the Board Members but others in the community to help kids raise the money needed for their programs. She said we must also be cautious in inviting the public to an event like a children's concert but for fundraising purposes it should be advertised better.

### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by D. Thomas to go into a closed session for negotiations and material exempt from disclosure by state or federal statute.

Went into Closed Session: 7:00

Returned from Closed Session: 9:48

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**Horth - YES**

**Thomas - YES**

**McNew - YES**

**Block - YES**

**Meyers - YES**

**Danaj - YES**

**D. Thomas - YES**

**Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0**

### **XV. ACTION AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

1. Possible Action after Closed Session:

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by J. Thomas to adjourn the meeting.

**ROLL CALL:**

**D. Meyers - YES**

**D. Thomas - YES**

**J. Thomas - YES**

**Block - YES**

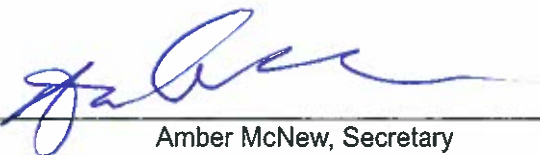
**Danaj - YES**

**Horth - Didn't vote, left the meeting at 9:48 pm**

**McNew - YES**

**Yeas: 6   Nays: 0   Carried: 6-0**

The Taylor School District Board of Education, Regular Board Meeting for February 8, 2021 adjourned at 9:48 PM.



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Amber McNew, Secretary