



Board of Education

23033 Northline, Taylor, MI 48180 (734) 374-1200

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2021

OPENING ITEMS

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:03 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: A. Block, R. Danaj, K. Wright, A. McNew, D. Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE FOR KYLE WRIGHT

GOOD NEWS

1. Middle School

Griff Mills, Superintendent, provided the district with the following good news:

- After 47 years our Middle Schools have softball and baseball teams. Thank you to the Athletic Director, Loren Risovski, for all his hard work.
- Taylor High Schools Varsity Baseball Team is currently 9-4 and had the opportunity to play at the old Tiger Stadium.
- Taylor High School Softball team is young but competitive.
- Taylor High School Varsity Girls Soccer team is currently on a three game winning streak.
- Taylor High School Golf and Track are just getting up and running.
- Reminder that our athletes get testing for Covid once a week and the process has been going very well. Thank you to all that have been working hard to make these things happen for our kids.

2. High School Update

Richard Klee, Taylor High School Principal, shared the following upcoming dates of events:

- **Wednesday, May 5, 2021 - Decision Day**
- **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 - Honors Convocation**
 - Awards will be handed out for the 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 school year.
 - There will be two sessions (4:30 pm & 6:30 pm) and 177 students will be receiving honors.
 - Students will be allowed two guests.
- **Thursday, May 20, 2021 - Senior Day**
 - Testing in the morning then in the afternoon there will be activities for the seniors.
- **Wednesday, May 26, 2021 - Senior Check Out**
 - Seniors will be returning text/chrome books, band equipment, etc.
 - Farewell parade tickets, care pass, and cap & gowns will be distributed.

- **Wednesday, June 2, 2021 - Farewell Parade**
 - Parade will be at the New Hope Assembly of God, staging at 3:00 with the parade starting at 4:00 pm.
 - In the process of making student yard signs with each student's photo and the City of Taylor is providing banners for all the seniors. Thank You to the City of Taylor for their help and support.
- **Thursday June 3, 2021 - Graduation**
 - Graduation will consist of six different ceremonies with no more than 75 students to a session. Every graduate will be allowed four guests.

Rhonda Danaj, Board President thanked Dr. Klee and everyone for everything they are doing for our seniors. She also thanked Lori Rush for the senior shirt and glasses.

AGENDA-BOARD AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** **Danaj, Wright, McNew, Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block**
 No: **None**
 Absent: **None**
 Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

SCHEDULED REPORTS

1. Back to School Update

Griff Mills, Superintendent, gave the following back to school update:

- School is currently back to school face to face and virtual and thanked the community for being understanding.
- Randall Elementary is almost ready for students to return. The district is hoping to have our students back on May 3, 2021.

2. Covid Update

Mary Ann Cyr, Asst. Superintendent for Covid and Communications, gave the following information regarding Covid:

- Will continue to work with and receive data from Thresa Bresovansky, Director for Environmental Health, with the Wayne County Health Department. Below is the most recent data provided:
 - The fourteen day total number of cases in the municipality are 563 cases which is down from the prior two weeks of 646 cases.
 - The 40 day average has 40.21 cases which is also down from the prior entry of 46.14.
 - The average cases per day per million in the population in the last two weeks is 660.1 cases which is down from 757.41.
 - Positivity rate is currently 13.9 which is also down from 19.5.
 - For the week of April 11, 2021 - April 17, 2021 the average daily cases were 16.3.
 - For the week of April 18, 2021 - April 24, 2021 the average daily cases were 13.9.
- At the school district level the following was reported:
 - Decrease in the number of adult cases.
 - Over the last two weeks the district has had five new staff who have been quarantined for close contact but no new positive cases.
 - There has been an uptick in the number of student cases. Over the last two weeks the district had 11 new student quarantines for close contact and eighteen students that have tested positive. Students numbers are not reflected on the district dashboard because all of these students are virtual and not in our buildings.
- The district has partnered with Rite Aid in Flat Rock and have agreed to do a vaccination clinic. The vaccines will be as follows:
 - May 3, 2021 for the first Pfizer dose and May 24, 2021 for the second Pfizer dose.
 - The vaccines are available for students 16 and older, if they bring their parents/ guardians they can also be vaccinated.

- Vaccines will also be available for all Taylor School District staff that have not been vaccinated. Same protocols will be in place for staff regarding prior vaccinations
- Along with the partnership our CTE students in our EMT & Nursing program will be working the clinic (with supervision).
- All the information regarding the clinic can be found on our website homepage.

Mary Ann Cyr would like to thank Dr. Klee and Nurse Rogers for initiating the Rite Aid Clinic and Bruce Holladay and his staff for helping get our CTE student involved.

3. Finance - Amended Budget

David Jones, CFO, shared a presentation regarding amending the 2020-2021 budget:

- Budget Background
- Budgets needing to be amended is the General Operating Fund, Funded Projects Fund & Cafeteria Fund.

4. Reconfirm Taylor School District Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan

Griff Mills, Superintendent, shared a presentation regarding a quick review of what is required of the district according to the State of Michigan

- The district must share instructional options and what they will look like over the next 30 days
- The district must share the last four weeks of two way interaction/attendance
- The district must give the public the opportunity to comment about the plan

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chrissy Kozinski, Taylor High Parent, had concerns regarding why the district is not using an outside facility, possibly Heritage Park, for a graduation ceremony.

Caroline Patts, Employee, would like to congratulate Kyle Wright on being appointed as the new Taylor School District Board Member. She also had the following questions/concerns regarding the Apptegy Website:

- Does Apptegy need to have three bids?
- Why wasn't the person doing the website (C. Patts) contacted before voting on a new website so they could ask any questions and give their opinions or recommendations?
- Has anyone contacted Foxbright to discuss our districts needs?

Kelly Chapman, Randall Parent, asked if she could get a copy of the mold report at Randall. Would like to share with her child's doctor to see if there is anything she should be concerned with.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Reconfirm Taylor School District Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan

Griff Mills, Superintendent, stated that this is the same plan as last month.

2. Amended Budget

None

3. Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum & Operations

Griff Mills, Superintendent, shared information regarding the reasons for this position.

- To make our district more effective and efficient and to put key people in their areas of expertise.
- Currently our district has two positions, one to oversee our PreK through 12th Grade Curriculum & Instruction and many other components of operations in our district. The second position is the Director of State & Federal Programs which oversees all of our grants and makes sure we stay in compliance within the guidelines of those grants.
- The new position would focus on a 6-12 grade curriculum along with the other operations of the district leaving the other position to focus on PreK - 5th grade curriculum and grants.
- Aligning these responsibilities this way allows the district to focus on our Elementary Curriculum and Instruction and our Secondary Curriculum and Instruction.

- Aligning these positions will also save our district approximately \$77,000.00 in the general fund budget. The district received permission from the Michigan Department of Education to use grant money in this reconfiguration.

Superintendent Mills also stated that the district did a very extensive interview process which was explained in detail.

Superintendent Mills addressed the concerns regarding the movement of Dr. Mary Ann Cyr to the Asst. Superintendent of Covid and Communications. This position is short term, is being paid for out of Cares Act monies and has saved our district approximately \$50,000.00 out of the general fund budget. This position has helped our district stay organized and safe.

Board Members had the following questions and/or concerns

- What were the names of the seven candidates that were interviewed?
- Who sat on the interview committee?
- Will the Director of State & Federal positions be filled?
- Does the Cares Act Money cover Mary Ann Cyr's position until November?
- Does the proposed new hire, Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum & Operations, have experience in CTE and the academy model?

Superintendent Mills responded to the above questions:

- It may not be professional to share the names of candidates because they may not have informed their employers that they applied for other positions.
- The interview committee consisted of the Cabinet and a representative from each union.
- No, the Director of State & Federal will not be filled.
- Will get back with the Board regarding Cares Act Money covering Mary Ann Cyr's position.
- Yes, in his previous district he implemented a 9th grade school within a school model.

Superintendent Mills also stated that we are looking at ways to save our district money. We no longer use BoardDocs which saved our district \$12,000.00, Mary Ann Cyr's position isn't costing the district any money, and we have not hired anyone in Cynthia Nickel's old position.

4. **Apptegy Website/App**

Mary Ann Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Covid & Communications, shared the following information regarding the Apptegy Website/App:

- The district reached out to RESA and other area districts to get their top three website companies. The three were Finalsity, Edlio, and Apptegy.
- The team met with Edlio and Apptegy, Finalsity never returned the district's calls.
- Apptegy came out on top largely for their customer service and the professional development for our staff.
- The following are some features that Apptegy offers for their website/app:
 - Ability to refresh our website with vibrant graphics and feeds.
 - App option with ability to view as it appears on our website. MDE requires that we update our parent communications on our website which this app feature would.
 - The information that is on our website is the same information parents will see on Facebook, Twitter, etc.
 - Robocalls are also a feature that is offered.
 - There is a multi language feature for those we service that English is not their first language.
 - The website is also ADA compliant.

Daryl Thomas, Board Treasure, verified that our current company we use was not in our top three?

Kyle Wright, Board Trustee, asked what set Apptegy apart from our current provider?

Ann Block, Board Trustee, asked if the district did an RFP for this?

Mary Ann Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Covid & Communications, replied to the above questions:

- No, our current website company was not in the top three.
- In regards to our current provider, we would not want to discredit any company but Apptegy offered better graphics that are more vibrant, immediate feed, thrillshare that connect all platforms, help parents with communications and website is inviting.
- No, an RFP was not done but did research and received quotes from different vendors.

Superintendent Mills, stated that it is their understanding that because this is a provided service \$250,000.00 is the threshold in terms of having to bid it out. If this information is incorrect we can pull back before signing anything.

5. RFP for eligible Wireless Network Electronics & Operations

Griff Mills, Superintendent, the district put out an RFP to try and benefit from our E-Rates savings. This is an opportunity for our district to receive \$350,000.00 worth of equipment for \$50,000.00. This will help the district refresh our wireless access points in our classrooms and our buildings.

ACTION ITEM

1. Reconfirm Taylor School District Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan

A motion was made by J. Thomas and seconded by D. Meyers to approve the TSD Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan.

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** **Wright, McNew, Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Danaj**
No: **None**
Absent: **None**
Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

2. Amended Budget

A motion was made by J. Thomas and seconded by D. Meyers to approve the amended budget for the 2020-2021 school year.

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** **McNew, Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Danaj, Wright**
No: **None**
Absent: **None**
Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

3. Request to Hire - Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum & Operations

A motion was made by D. Meyers seconded by K. Wright to approve the hiring of Jacob Anastasoff for the position, Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum & Operations.

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** **Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Danaj Wright, McNew**
No: **None**
Absent: **None**
Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

4. Apptegy Website/App

A motion was made by D. Thomas and seconded by D. Meyers to approve the three year Apptegy Contract.

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** **D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Danaj Wright, McNew, Meyers**
No: **None**
Absent: **None**
Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

5. RFP for Eligible Wireless Network Electronics and Structured Cabling

A motion was made by J. Thomas seconded by D. Thomas to approve the RFP for eligible Wireless Network Electronics (WNE) and Structured Cabling (SC) to replace the existing aging wireless network electronics.

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** **J. Thomas, Block, Danaj Wright, McNew, Meyers, D. Thomas**
 No: **None**
 Absent: **None**
 Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

AGENDA-ADMINISTRATION (District Business)

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Mills and the Board congratulated and welcomed Jacob Anastasoff on his new position.

Mr. Anastasoff thanked the Board and Leadership for this opportunity and looks forward to being part of our team.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from the Special Board Meeting of April 12, 2021
2. Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of April 14, 2021
3. 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: **Yes:** **Danaj, Wright, McNew, Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block**
 No: **None**
 Absent: **None**
 Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT AGENDA (Wednesday, May 12, 2021)

1. Good News
2. Back to School Update
3. Covid Update

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Amber McNew, Board Secretary, would like to Thank the counselors and staff at the high school for the gift and all their hard work. She would also like to Thank the seniors and senior class advisors.

Kyle Wright, Board Trustee, stated what an amazing job everyone did with the 9th-11th Grade Honor Awards.

Rhonda Danaj, Board President, stated that the district would like to honor at an upcoming Board Meeting our 2019-2020 retirees and executive union leadership.

Daryl Thomas, Board Treasure, gave a shout out to Loren Risovski and Marie Marion for doing a great job getting the Middle School Baseball and Softball back in our district.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

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

Went into Closed Session: 7:14 pm

Returned from Closed Session: 9:40 pm

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Wright, McNew, Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Danaj
	No:	None
	Absent:	None
	Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0	

AFTER CLOSED SESSION

No action taken after closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by K. Wright to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Danaj, McNew, Meyers
	No:	None
	Absent:	None
	Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0	

The Taylor School District Board of Education, Regular Board Meeting for April 28, 2021 adjourned at 9:41 pm.



Amber McNew, Secretary