

Board of Education

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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2021

OPENING ITEMS

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

Roll Call

Present: D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Danaj, Horth, McNew, *Meyers
*Mr. Meyers attend the meeting virtual
Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

GOOD NEWS:

1. Meijer Donation
Griff Mills, Superintendent of TSD, thanked Bill Deaton and the Meijer area stores for the donation of \$1,500.00 Meijer gift cards, the money will be used for those families in need.
2. DECA
Carly Lundgren, DECA Club Advisor at Taylor High School, shared great news regarding the DECA program.
 - The DECA program had 20 students attend the Leadership Conference over the summer and 20 different students attended the State Leadership Conference in the fall.
 - 35 DECA students competed at districts in December and won 60 medals. Of the 35 students 30 of them won at least one medal.
 - State Competition is coming up and students tested February 22, 2021. 28 students are competing for states. The week of March 8th students will start their role play and on March 17th the district will find out what students will make it to the international competition.
 - One TSD student broke the school record with her test score, Ellie Kwaske.
 - An alumni that graduated two years ago took 1st place at states for the collegiate DECA, Vheena Vhillareal. She is competing for EMU.

Rhonda Danaj, Board President thanked Mayor Sollars and the City of Taylor for their donation of student masks to the district.

AGENDA-BOARD AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was a revision to the Agenda, VIII ACTION ITEM #9 #8 (numbering incorrect)
Request to Hire School Improvement Coordinator was removed from the Agenda.

A motion was made by D. Thomas and seconded by J. Thomas to accept the Agenda with revisions.

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

SCHEDULED REPORTS

1. Covid-19 Update

Mary Ann Cyr, Asst. Superintendent of Covid and Communication presented a Covid-19 update, New CDC Guidance "Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools Through Phased Mitigation".

- Correct use of masks
- Physical distancing
- Physical distancing on the bus
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing, isolation and quarantine
- 439 staff members are scheduled for their 2nd vaccination
- Reminder that asynchronous days for staff vaccines will be 2/25/21 & 2/26/21

D. Meyers and R. Danaj asked questions regarding students eating and drinking while wearing face masks and the protocol for cleaning the buses.

Ms. Cyr responded that the district has purchased face shields for students and are encouraging students to wear them. She also stated all buses will be cleaned and disinfected after every run.

2. Back to School Update

Griff Mills, Superintendent of TSD, shared a slideshow of today's orientation which included our Pre-K, 6th and 9th grade students and students new to TSD. He stated it is nice to see and hear the students express their excitement to return to school. He reminded everyone that this is what it is all about, we are here for the students.

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

Griff Mills, Superintendent of TSD, reminded everyone that nothing has changed from the plan. He did a quick review of what is required of TSD under this plan. He also reminded everyone of the schedule change this week due to the vaccination of staff.

Monday, February 22, 2021 - Orientation of the PreK, 8 and 9th graders

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - Regular School Day

Thursday, February 25, 2021 - Asynchronous Day (Vaccination Day)

Friday, February 26, 2021 - Asynchronous Day (in case of side effects from vaccinations)

Monday, March 1, 2021 - 6-12 students beginning school

Cynthia Nickel, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, presented on the iready math and reading scores.

Tracy Carroll, School Improvement Coordinator, shared the NWEA math and language arts growth in addition to the middle and high school 1st semester grades. The information shared was from the testing window of January 25th - February 12 and the last testing window for the school year will be May 3rd - May 21st

PUBLIC COMMENT

Superintendent Mills noted that the district is adding questions being asked to our Q & A page on the TSD website.

Caroline Patts wanted to congratulate the Griffin Basketball teams and their coaches for doing a awesome job.

There were 3 participants from the community tonight: M. Wade, J. Beringer, M. Nedzlek

There were questions/concerns regarding the following:

- Accommodations being made for staff with underlying health conditions or with family members with health concerns.
- The number of subs that are taking the place of teachers that are deciding to take a leave of absence or retire because of their concerns about returning face to face.
- Why can't teachers choose to remain teaching virtually instead of face to face.
- Concerns with technology issues in our buildings. Buildings have slow or no internet connections.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A motion was made by D. Thomas and seconded by D. Meyers to open Discussion Items.

ROLL CALL: **Yes: Block, Danaj, Horth, McNew, Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas**
No
Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

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

Griff Mills, Superintendent TSD, stated that there is no adjustment to the plan. He did want to address the technology issue; of the people that he asked today there were no issues. He did state that he is aware the district does have some issues. He has reached out to the districts Interim Director of IT and it is something the district is working on. He recommended continuing to put in help tickets as problems arise

Vicky Horth and Jodi Thomas asked questions regarding what happened to the IT Director that was hired and is there a problem with students trying to log in using their own devices. There were also concerns if the use of personal devices would be a liability for the district.

Superintendent Mills responded that last Friday via email the new IT Director declined the position. He will check on the use of students using their own devices. He also stated that in his previous district personal devices were not to be used but would look into that as well.

2. TFT Negotiations

John Kava, Collins and Blaha Attorney stated that the TFT took the ratified agreement to their members last week with both the Board of Education and TFT approval, the contract will be effective beginning 2/22/21 through 6/30/22. He went over some of the openers for the negotiations of the contract.

- Eliminated the first 2 steps of the contract
- Rework wage scale which would start teachers at a higher starting salary
- Approximate 4% total increase at each step
- Other members of union are also receiving a wage increase
- Next year teachers will also receive their step and lane
- The district cost saving would be the dismissing of the two arbitrations off the books
- The 8 stages of the learning plan to get students back to school by March 1st

3. Cancellation of the Committee of the Whole Meetings

Griff Mills, Superintendent to TSD, stated in the 3 ½ months that he has been here the district has not had a Committee of the Whole meeting. He also stated that if a special meeting or a workshop is needed we can always add one.

Rhonda Danaj asked if committees can report at regular meetings. Superintendent Mills responded yes and added that the goal is to have two board meetings per month.

4. Soliant Addendum

Griff Mills, Superintendent to TSD, stated this is an addendum to our soliant contract to hire Special Education Para Pros.

ACTION ITEMS

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

A motion was made by A. Block and seconded by D. Meyers to approve the Reconfirm Taylor School District Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan.

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

2. TFT Negotiations

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by R. Danaj to approve the ratification of the Taylor Federation of Teachers contract effective February 22, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Three members abstained from voting Pursuant to Section 1203 of the Revised School Code, due to a conflict of interest in the following contract or financial transaction because of a family member, as defined by Section 12-3, who is a member of the Taylor Federation of Teachers.

ROLL CALL: **Yes: McNew, Meyers, Block, Danaj**
No: None
Abstain: Horth, D. Thomas, J. Thomas
Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Carried: 4-0

3. Cancellation of the following Committee of the Whole Meetings

Vicky Horth asked for clarification, is the district eliminating committees? Superintendent Mills responded that tonight isn't about dissolving any committees but would like to take a look at them at a later date. He also stated that if we get to a point that we need to have those types of meetings we can schedule them.

Ann Block stated that the district has not had a Committee of the Whole meeting in approximately two years.

A motion was made by J. Thomas and seconded by D. Meyers to approve the cancellation of the Committee of the Whole meetings for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year (3/15/21, 4/19/21, 5/17/21 and 6/21/21).

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

4. Soliant Addendum

A motion was made by A. Block and seconded by D. Meyers to approve the Soliant Addendum to supply Special Education Paraprofessional substitutes until TSD is able to secure and hire paraprofessionals with a 26M TSSSA union affiliation.

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

5. Request to Hire LLI Interventionist, Kinyon Elementary School

A motion was made by D. Meyers seconded by D. Thomas to approve the Request to Hire LLI Interventionist for Kinyon Elementary - Tyler Rigney

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

6. Request to Hire Behavior Interventionist, Hoover Middle School

A motion was made by J. Thomas seconded by D. Meyers to approve the Request to Hire Behavior Interventionist for Hoover Middle School - Stacey Sharp

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

7. Request to Hire School Improvement Coordinator

A motion was made by A. Block seconded by J. Thomas to approve the Request to Hire School Improvement Coordinator, Richardia Lewis

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

9 8 Request to Hire - School Improvement Coordinator
This action item was removed per the Amended Agenda

40 9 Board Policy: Hearing Expulsion

A motion was made by A. Block seconded by A. McNew to approve the updates and changes to policies po5620, po5610.03, and po5611 regarding Hearing Expulsions.

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

Amber McNew welcomed all new hires.

AGENDA-ADMINISTRATION (District Business)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Millis referred staff and community members to visit the TSD website and look for the Parent Information on the pop up menu for updates to TSD.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from the Special Board Meeting of February 1, 2021
2. Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of February 8, 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: Horth, McNew, Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Horth**
No: None
Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT AGENDA (Monday March 8, 2021)

1. Good News

2. Back to School Update
3. Building Reports

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

R. Danaj stated that she attended a couple of virtual webinars regarding Parliamentary Procedures and the Role of the Board President.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

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

*Mr. Meyers attended the meeting virtually and did not go into closed session.

Went into Closed Session: 7:05 pm

Returned from Closed Session: 9:31 pm

ROLL CALL:

Yes: McNew, Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Danaj, Horth

No: None

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

AFTER CLOSED SESSION

No action taken after closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

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


ROLL CALL:

Yes: D. Thomas, J. Thomas, Block, Danaj, Horth, McNew, Meyers

No: None

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7-0

The Taylor School District Board of Education, Regular Board Meeting for February 22, 2021 adjourned at 9:32 pm.



Amber McNew, Secretary