



**Board of Education**

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

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

January 11, 2021

**OPENING ITEMS**

**The Meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M.**

A. Block, R. Danaj, V. Horth, A. McNew, D. Meyers, D. Thomas, J. Thomas

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Good News:**

G. Mills thanked Dean Transportation for their donation of \$250.00 to help our families in need.

**Public Comment-On Agenda Items Only**

**In accordance with the Open Meetings Act of 1986**, the Board provides opportunity for citizen input during the "Public Comment." Because agendas are full, each speaker is limited to three minutes.

There were 10 participants in this evening's meeting: C. Patts, T. Winnie, J. Ferguson-Barringer, M. Greenberg, K. Williamson, M. Wade, S. Lorenz, R. Kuczeski, S. Turner, A. Gamble

- Questions regarding future meeting locations and suggestions about getting any agreements in writing. There were questions about having two Public Comment sections and several agreed they liked the opportunity to voice their questions and concerns twice and appreciated the Agenda being available and easier to read.
- Concerns about returning face-to-face, high risk students and teachers, and virtual and face to face education aren't the same and can both the teacher and student be successful with teaching both at the same time. Teachers are being very resourceful trying to be successful for both students and staff. This type of education isn't easy for either the teachers or students. Students are struggling on-line and need face-to-face instruction and a structured environment. Concerns/Questions were asked about GPA's, college opportunities and if there is a back up plan for student support. Some like the virtual experience and would rather wait until Spring for face-to-face due to ventilation concerns and the safety and welfare of staff and students. Dual teaching makes parents more aware of devices even if face-to-face is the "normal". Would like to have parents informed what face-to-face will look like and have another choice option.
- Ventilation, hybrid choices and CDC guidelines. Concerns about technology issues, internet connection, technology updates and upgrades in the elementary schools, high school updates and dual teaching.
- Questions and concerns were raised that 50% of students will go elsewhere unless they are given another opportunity to choose whether they would return face to face or remain virtual once they know how the return to school will look. We need to value the 30% who want face-to-face

instruction and will leave the district if not given their choice. They also are concerned about TSD "bleeding talent".

- Concerns about COVID and a recommendation for vaccinations and waiting the 2-3 week period before teaching in classrooms.

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

### **Revisions/Approval of Agenda**

Per R. Danaj, Item #10, the minutes of the previous meetings of 12-21-20 and 1-4-21 were removed from the Agenda and will be under review for accuracy and placed back on the agenda for the next scheduled regular meeting on 1-25-2021 for approval.

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

### **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

## **II. SCHEDULED REPORTS**

### **1. Covid-19 Update**

M.A. Cyr thanked the Board for the opportunity to work as the Asst. Superintendent - Covid-19-Communication and went on to explain her role as well as the contacts and information she has received and how she is keeping the staff and students up to date and putting safety measures in place. She also talked about the other part of her job, Communication, she plans to digitally capture the great things happening in TSD and showcase it for the community. She took the time to thank Tracy Carroll, School Improvement Coordinator, and the nurses for the work they do with the return to school plans. A birds-eye view indicates that ¾ of the staff are interested in getting the vaccination.

### **2. Technology Update**

Barry Goldstrom stated that there is a lot of work to be done, however he gave an update of the switches, and said there is a brief delay in upgrading the switches at Hoover and West middle schools. The Board Offices, Eureka Heights, McDowell, Taylor High School north and south are scheduled within the next week. All but 2 of the cameras at THS are working and he believes that it's a wiring issue. There are a lot of questions regarding the hot spots and will have 15 of them available soon. IT has been working with the schools and their needs and they currently have 2000 chrome books.,

## **VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

### **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

1. **Kinyon Roof Repair** - Jack Giraud, Director of Facilities and Operations  
Mr. Giraud said they have been chasing the leak at Kinyon for a while. The proposal indicates that it is an area about 25x30, the company will remove the gravel, install a waterproof membrane and replace the gravel on top. This repair has a cap of \$20,000.
2. **Edmentum Contract** for school year 2021-2022 - Tracy Carroll, School Improvement Coordinator  
This is a Recovery Program and the license will cover January 2021 - January 2022. She stated that although it states up to 800, there is no cap on the # of licenses. The company judges the use at the end of the year and is reflected in the next year fee.
3. **MAISL**- Dave Jones, Chief Financial Officer  
MAISL (Metropolitan Assoc. In School Legislation) Mr. Jones is asking the Board to approve himself the Director and Jill Collins the Alternate Director. He explained that this allows him to vote on issues of the trust.
4. **Soliant** - Pat DeLaTorre, Executive Director of HR/LR  
Ms. DeLaTorre is asking the Board to approve the contract with Soliant to supply ancillary staff (Speech Personnel). Recognized as TFT and will bring in personnel as needed with the condition that the jobs remain posted and TSD continues to look at applications. The attorney has looked over the documents and given final approval. If the Board approves, TSD can fill the positions starting Wednesday. R. Danaj wanted to clarify that they would not be taking away from TFT jobs, P. DeLaTorre said they would only be filling the hole until the job is filled.
5. **Future Locations of Board Meetings** - Griff Mills, Superintendent of TSD  
Discussion and questions were raised regarding using the Taylor City Hall for future Board Meetings because they have broadcast facilities. Questions about the availability and cost were asked and further investigation was recommended for reference. TSD Board Office is our "home" and we should make inquiries and recommendations to be able to have broadcast access from here. Zoom meetings are great and a way to reach so many community members so adding additional avenues was favorable.
6. **Board Pay** - The Boards pay should reflect being fiscally responsible. There was a majority agreement to returning to a scheduled payment of \$780.00 two times a year (January and June)  
  
R. Danaj stated that the Bylaws indicate that things should take 2 agenda's to put a change in place: 1)Discussion and 2)Action at the next meeting. Vickie Horth said if the 7 of us seem to be in agreement, we should make it an action item.

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by D. Thomas to add the Board Pay as an Action Item.

**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

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

**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

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Kinyon Roof Repair**

A motion was made by A. Block and seconded by V. Horth to approve the Kinyon Roof Repair with a cap of \$20,000.

**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

**2. Edmentum Contract for school year 2021-2022**

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by D. Thomas to enter the Edmentum Contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

**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

**3. MAISL**

A motion was made by A. Block and seconded by V. Horth to approve the designation of David Jones as the Director of MAISL (Joint Risk Management Trust) and Jill Collins as the Alternate Director.

**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

**4. Soliant**

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by A. Block to enter into the agreement with Soliant to provide the services of Ancillary Staff to fill the vacancies until the jobs that are posted are filled.

**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

**5. Board Pay**

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by V. Horth to change the Board Pay from \$50.00/meeting to \$780.00 2 times a year (January and July).

**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)**

**VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Back to School

**X. CONSENT AGENDA**

- \*Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on 12-21-20
- \*Minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on January 4, 2021
- Approval of Payments/and on hold, Requisitions of Payments/and on hold
- Certified, Non-Certified and Administrative Personnel

A motion was made by A. Block and seconded by D. Meyers to approve the Consent Agenda with \* The Minutes of the Special Meeting on 12-21-20 and Organizational Meeting 1-4-21 were removed from this Agenda per #V Revision/Approval of Agenda.

**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

**XI ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING (January 18, 2021)**

1. MLI (Michigan Learning Institute) Board Workshop 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
(This will be available to the public for those who wish to watch)

**XII PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were 7 participants from the community tonight: C. Patts, M. Nedzlek, J. Ferguson-Barringer, M. Taverner-Radiger, J. Winkle, A. Hoy, B. Murray

- Discussion and concerns regarding moving the location of future meeting, and it was stated that the Mayor doesn't need "permission" to hold meetings in City Hall. It was suggested that in the future the use of Youtube would be another option to reach the community.
- There was clarification of 4 members gathering and discussing business constitutes a Quorum not at social gatherings.
- A thank you went out to teachers, staff and counselors that have reached out to students in need.
- A question was raised about applicants that had applied for jobs and haven't heard back from HR and felt TSD was missing out on qualified candidates.
- Thanked the Board Members for taking a reduction in pay and felt it was a wonderful gesture sent to the community.
- Appreciates the effort toward transparency
- A POHI teacher welcomed new and old Board Members to come and see what's happening and the life skills that students are learning in the POHI classrooms. She requested that the POHI high school students be allowed to return face to face because what we take for granted they cannot do.
- A construction teacher at CTE wants students to return face-to-face. He said safety protocols are in place at CTE. He said POHI students are a different group of people and it's very valuable to have them return.

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by A. Block to close Public Comment.

**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

**XIII BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

A recommendation was made that the CTE program should be opened sooner than later. It is beneficial to those students for future employment and in my heart of hearts-it's imperative. It was stated earlier that the building has been cleaned and safety measures have been put in place.

Acknowledgement was made to every parent and student struggling thru virtual that they are making a difference and their efforts are not unseen.

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by J. Thomas to close the Board Member Comments

**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

**XIII ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

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

Went into Closed Session: 7:33

Returned from Closed Session: 9:08

**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

**ACTION AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

1. Possible Action after Closed Session:

1.a A motion was made by A. McNew and seconded by D. Meyers to approve a calendar through the end of 2020-2021 School Year and to authorize the Superintendent to publish the calendar to the community with the the following days:

January 18, 2021	Staff Professional Development	No students
February 15, 2021	No School	No Staff/Students
March 29 - April 2, 2020	Spring Break	No Staff/Students
May 31, 2021	Memorial Day-No School	No Staff/Students
June 10, 2021	Last day of School	
June 3, 2021	Tentative Graduation Date	

**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

- 1.b A motion was made by A. McNew and seconded by V. Horth made a motion to authorize CTE programs to allow:
- Drop in student be able to attend in-person classes starting the week of January 19, 2021
  - Classes to begin in-person learning the week of January 25, 2021

**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

**4 ADJOURNMENT**

**Closing Questions/Other**

R. Danaj announced that the next Regular Board Meeting will be a workshop with Michigan Learning Institute (MLI) on January 18, 2021 and will start at 5:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

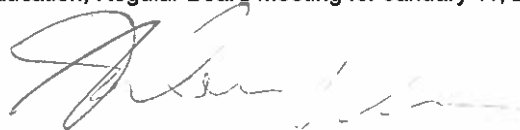
**A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by D. Thomas to adjourn the meeting.**

**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

The Taylor School District Board of Education, Regular Board Meeting for January 11, 2021 adjourned at 6:32 PM.



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Amber McNew, Secretary