



**Board of Education**

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

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

January 25, 2021

**OPENING ITEMS**

**I. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:02 P.M.**

**Roll Call**

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

Absent: None

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. GOOD NEWS:**

G. Mills stated that January was Board Member appreciation month and would like to recognize our Board for their time, effort and love of our district.

**IV. 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 39 participants in this evening's meeting: M. Wade, L. Lee, M. Greenberg, G. Rowel, L. Said, T. Claypool, A. Gamble, D. Alef, S. Burch, M. Radiger, T. Shurmard, J. Winkle, C. Fortener, M. Wexall, A. Hoy, M. Morales, J. Robinson, S. Glinski, T. Duty, D. Polidori, A. Selsey, Allison, S. Turner, D. Phill, M. Matney, C. Thompson, L. Overby, S. Jazell, J. Barringer, R. Kuczeski, S. Sanna, K. Passarelli, K. Williamson, C. Bussell, R. Sweet, S. Huffman, S. McLaughlin, J. Patterson, T. Fulton, C. Phillips & J. Lemay

There were many staff and parents that wanted to thank the board members and Superintendent Mills for their hard work and difficult decisions they face.

Many parents wanted to thank teachers for their creativity, dedication to their students and going over and above their teacher duties.

Comments were also made that parents and staff need to trust that everyone is being responsible and doing their part.

There were questions/concerns regarding the following:

- At risk/health issues of teachers and students.
- What health metrics are being used to make sure the staff and students are safe and healthy.
- Concerns regarding proper ventilation in buildings/the use of merv filters. Will the guidelines of the CDC be followed.
- Safety concerns regarding the new mutating virus.
- Concerns regarding training teachers to teach both virtual and face to face.
- Concerns on how teachers will be evaluated.
- Concerns regarding students eating in the classrooms (no masks, only 3 feet apart)

- Concerns regarding substitute teacher shortages.
- Availability of vaccines/time off to receive vaccines, allowing time for vaccine to be effective and the shortage of vaccines and sites.
- Returning to school should be delayed until teachers have the opportunity to be vaccinated.
- Concerns regarding buildings being deep cleaned regularly.
- Concerns regarding the health and safety of their staff and families versus the job they love.
- Concerns regarding the exposure of students coming in and out of the buildings and changing classes.
- Concerns regarding being able to speak and hear clearly through the mask/are microphones going to be available.
- Can teachers be reimbursed for purchasing their own ventilation/filter system.
- Questions regarding why does self contained special education teachers need to return 2 weeks before general education.
- ¾ or 75% of the teachers don't feel safe returning to school.
- Teachers are concerned about returning to school without a clear plan or is the return to school a reaction to the governor's recommendation for all schools to return by March 1st.
- Concerns regarding teachers that have to work at multiple schools.
- Questions regarding why teachers need to return two weeks before students and will they be given time to set up their classrooms.
- Concerns regarding losing students if we don't return face to face and/or stay virtual. Concerns were on both sides.
- Concerns regarding parents picking up students timely if they're ill.
- Request for a teacher wish list for their classroom.
- Questions regarding how are other schools managing face to face and virtual.
- Concerns regarding other schools that returned to school and have had to shut down multiple times.
- Parents should be notified so that they are aware school is not going to be like it has been in the past. It is not your normal school since students will not be able to interact.
- Technology issues - cord hazzard, docking stations, power outlets, internet connection.
- Many concerns were voiced regarding the mental health of students/staff and the need for interaction and contact with other students and teachers. Students need structure and guidance. What kind of long term damage are we doing to students (depression, suicide rates). Special Education students are missing out on services that are needed. Social well being is at risk.
- Some teachers expressed concern/fear of losing their jobs if they don't return face to face.
- Concerns regarding the failure rate of students and the fact that students are continuing to fall behind.
- Teachers feel they are not being heard.

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

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

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

### **VI. SCHEDULED REPORTS**

#### **1. Ventilation in buildings**

J. Giraud gave a detailed explanation on our district's ventilation system and how it works. He also explained the difference between ventilation and heating/cooling systems. Mr. Giraud has applied for an HVAC assistance program. He is also attending a webinar on Wednesday, February 3rd.

**2. Covid-19 Update**

M. Cyr stated that our district is currently at level "D" but has been in contact with Wayne County and wanted us to be aware that numbers do go up around holidays.

- We need to keep safety precautions in place.
- Visited buildings and they look amazing, isolation rooms are ready, PPE in every room, social distance markers on the floors.
- A requisition was put in to purchase docking stations which will allow teachers to have multiple screens.
- Still waiting to get vaccination news and will continue to send out emails as soon as information is available.

**3. Job Postings**

P. DeLaTorre discussed the district positions still available.

- HR/LR Administrative Assistant interviews conducted last week and a candidate is on tonight's agenda for approval.
- Interviews were conducted today for the two open School Improvement Coordinator positions.
- Tuesday, January 26, 2021 interviews will be conducted for the vacant IT Director position.
- The district currently has 44 open certified positions open. Of these positions 18 are filled with substitutes. The remaining open positions are Title Funded positions.
- Covid maintenance - of the 30 that were approved 18 have been hired.

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

**1. Reconfirm Taylor School District Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan - Griff Mills, Superintendent of TSD**

Superintendent Mills listened to all the comments/concerns and appreciated the input from everyone.

- There is not a consensus to going virtual and/or going face to face. There is nothing easy about this decision.
- Thanked all unions, parents and students for their hard work and patients.
- The district will continue to monitor data and listen to the Wayne County Health Department moving forward in terms of their recommendations.
- Dr. Mary Ann Cyr will continue to update us with the latest information that is available and we will continue working to get Taylor as one of the vaccine sites.
- Presented a slideshow for the Face to Face Return Reconfirmation Plan.

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

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Reconfirmation of the Taylor School District Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan**

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

**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

**2. The Superintendent recommends the Board to approve the Request to Hire Behavior Interventionist - Taylor School District**

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by J. Thomas to approve the Request to Hire Behavior Interventionist - M. Sneed

**ROLL CALL:**

Horth - Yes McNew - Yes Meyers - Yes D. Thomas - Yes J. Thomas - Yes Block - Yes Danaj - Yes

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7 - 0

3. The Superintendent recommends that after the interviews that were conducted on Thursday and Friday (January 21 & 22, 2021) for the Administrative Assistant to HR/LR the committee recommended Deborah Payter for the position. The salary will be \$52,189.32 and will be prorated. The start date will be mutually agreed upon.

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by V. Horth to approve the hiring of Deborah Payter for the position of Administrative Assistant to HR/LR.

**ROLL CALL:**

Horth - Yes McNew - Yes Meyers - Yes D. Thomas - Yes J. Thomas - Yes Block - Yes Danaj - Yes

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7 - 0

**AGENDA-ADMINISTRATION (District Business)**

**IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Mills stated he already spoke in detail regarding the return to school.

**X. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on 12-21-20
2. Minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on January 4, 2021
3. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 11, 2021
4. Minutes for the Board Workshop Meeting held on January 18, 2021
5. 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. Thomas and seconded by D. Meyers to approve the Consent Agenda

**ROLL CALL:**

McNew - Yes Meyers - Yes D. Thomas - Yes J. Thomas - Yes Block - Yes Danaj - Yes Horth - Yes

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7 - 0

**XI. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING (February 8, 2021)**

- Good News: Recognition of Staff
- Update on Back to School

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were 15 participants from the community tonight: C. Patts, G. Rowell, L. Lee, S. Cannon, E. Selwa, M. Brewer, M. Westfall, R. Kuczeski, M. Greenberg, S. McLaughlin, K. VonLinsowe, J. Beringer, T. Goal, C. Prout & K. Williamson

Thank you to Board Members and Superintendent Mills, parents and students have been waiting a long time to go back to school. We understand their concerns, it may be a mess but we need to get back to school.

Thank you to Board Members and Superintendent Mills for making a decision based on data and science.

There were questions/concerns regarding the following:

- Clarification of the Administrative Assistant to HR/LR candidate.
- Concerns regarding merv 9 not meeting CDC standards.
- Concerns regarding audio issues. If the audience is having a difficult time hearing/understanding Board Zoom meetings how is it expected that our students will be able to hear and understand us with masks on both virtual and face to face.
- Parents are happy to hear that they have personal orientations for students to prepare them for the changes.
- Concerns for the health of high risk students and staff.
- Concerns with the shortage of substitute teachers.
- Concerns that Para Pros will not be ready when school starts (training, job bid)
- Concerns that we don't currently have an IT Director or enough maintenance.
- Questions on how the docking stations will work.
- Concerns regarding why teachers have to return to work two weeks before students return.
- Concerns that teachers are not being heard and they wasted their time.
- Questions regarding if parents can change their mind on face to face or virtual.
- Question regarding the use of personal time to cover absences due to Covid.
- Concerns regarding students having to clean their own areas.
- Question regarding how information will be sent out to the community.
- Concerns regarding building inspections.
- Concerns with consequences for students/staff not wearing masks.
- Question regarding options for teachers besides a medical leave of absence.

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

J. Thomas asked when will bussing begin and will temperatures be taken. Information will be sent out.

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

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

Went into Closed Session: 8:55      Returned from Closed Session: 11:43

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Meyers - Yes D. Thomas - Yes J. Thomas - Yes Block - Yes Danaj - Yes Horth - Yes McNew - Yes

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Carried: 7 - 0

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

1. Possible Action after Closed Session:

A motion was made V. Horth and seconded by J. Thomas to approve the school calendar 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

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment**

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

**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

The Taylor School District Board of Education, Regular Board Meeting for January 25, 2021 adjourned at 11:45 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber McNew', is written over a horizontal line.

Amber McNew, Secretary