

Board of Education

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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2022

OPENING ITEMS

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:05 P.M.

Roll Call

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

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE (Noah Ford)

GOOD NEWS

1. Harassment & Safety Concerns Reporting Form

Griff Mills, Superintendent, stated that the district has added a harassment & safety concerns reporting form to our website. This form was created so anyone could report their concerns anonymously or not. The form will be checked periodically throughout the day

2. Fall Coach Recognition

Rhonda Danaj, Board President, on behalf of the district recognized our fall coaches and presented them with a certificate.

3. Alumni Spotlight - Dylan Lamay

Rob Kobylasz, Public Relations, Marketing & Communication Specialist, introduced our Alumni Spotlight, Dylan Lamay who graduated from Kennedy High School in 2014. Dylan attended via zoom and thanked the district for recognizing him on his Tik Tok success.

4. Thank You - Taylor Rotary Club

Rhonda Danaj, Board President, on behalf of the district thanked the Taylor Rotary Club for their generous donation of 34,000 masks.

5. Board Recognition

Griff Mills, Superintendent, thanked and presented the board with a certificate of appreciation for all their hard work. In addition, Superintendent Mills shared a slideshow from staff, students, parents and community members thanking them for all they do.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Carter Adams, Samantha Briggs, Miley Floyd, Simone Hatch, Lilliana Hughey-Seiber, Melanie Kropohl, Kevin Martin, Kaylin McLean, Ryan Sullivan and Noelle Thomas, West Middle School student representatives, shared the following news regarding great things happening at West Middle School:

- Staff's Opening Meeting Team Building
- Cardinal Connectors
- Academic's Classroom Lessons
- Band and Chorus Holiday Concerts
- Homecoming and Christmas Parade
- New Bleachers from Kennedy High School
- PBIS Celebration
- Spirit Week
- School Sports
- Betty White Challenge

AGENDA-BOARD AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

SCHEDULED REPORTS

Rob Kobylasz, Public Relations, Marketing & Communication Specialist, shared a presentation regarding the following Marketing, Public Relations and Communications:

- Social Growth & Engagement
- Improving Our Internal Channels
- Our Website
- Improvement Parent Alert Communications
- Feedback Tool
- Student Enrollment Marketing Plan

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Lockout USA Presentation

Rob Couturier, Lockout USA owner, and Brennan, CEO, gave a brief background of the history of Lockout USA. Mr. Couturier also shared information regarding the SmartBoot System which includes a variety of safety features including a steel boot for every door, tablets and lighting system to alert students and staff in the event of a lockdown. Lockout USA also has a mascot, Bobby the Boot, to help elementary students understand the SmartBoot System.

David Meyers, Board Trustee, asked if a student does remove the boot are they under the same guidelines as if they pull a fire drill.

Brennan responded that it would be at the discretion of the district but that is what most schools do. If the district needs assistance writing a policy LockOut USA can also help with that.

Michele Marshall, Director of Security, asked the following questions:

- How can authorized individuals gain access to a room that has activated the boot?
- Where will the boots be installed?

- Does LockOut USA replace lights and batteries?

Kyle Wright, Board Trustee, asked if every door will have a boot installed.

Griff Mills asked if other districts in Wayne County have this system and what is the target time to have this in all our buildings.

Kyle Wright, Board Trustee, asked the following questions:

- Could teachers get a walk through of what the tablet can do.
- Do the tablets lock?
- Can we get a walk through of what Lockout USA will be doing to maintain the system after installation.
-

Parent in the audience asked if the equipment is transferable to the new highschool or another building.

Rob Couturier, responses to the above questions:

- Law enforcement will not allow Lockout USA to disclose how we can access a locked room but that they can gain entry.
- All main entry doors will have a SmartBoot installed. Secondary doors will have boots but will not be connected to the SmartBoot System.
- Currently no districts in Wayne County have the SmartBoot System installed. As for the timeline we are looking to start installation in about three months and hoping to have it fully installed in the fall.
- Gave a review of the tablet's functions.
- There is a procedure for the tablet to be in lockdown mode. We don't recommend not locking the tablets.
- LockOut USA will do random drop ins and perform unscheduled lockdowns, once a year routine maintenance, and assistance as needed.
- Yes, all equipment can be transferred to another building.
- Yes, LockOut USA is responsible for all the maintenance.

2. **Amendment to purchase agreement with Ashley Capital**

Jeremy Motz, Clark Hill Attorney, stated that Ashley Capital is asking for an extension of their due diligence period by six months beyond what they could have extended to so they have the appropriate amount of time to get through the governmental approvals. Ashley Capital is willing to put an additional \$10,000.00 into escrow for the additional six month period.

3. **Resolution to Sell Bonds**

David Jones, CFO, stated that the district is asking the Board to pass a resolution tonight to sell up to \$31,855,000 of bonds which is the first phase of the \$130,000,000.00 bond issue that we were approved for at the November election.

4. **CTE Cooperative Agreement**

Carly Barnard, CTE Principal, stated that the CTE Cooperative Agreement is an agreement with out-of-district schools to have their students attend our CTE program. This is the first agreement the district has received back. The district should be receiving more agreements back from neighboring districts over the next couple of months.

5. **Career Center Cadet Teaching Program Instructor**

Carly Barnard, CTE Principal, shared a presentation on the new Teacher Cadet program. The new Teacher Cadet Teaching Program will help students interested in going into the field of teaching. This program may help districts including our district with the teacher shortage.

Amber McNew, Board Secretary, asked the following questions:

- Has there has been a lot of staff interest?

- Is there going to be any hands on working with kids?

Pat DeLaTorre, Executive Director for HR/LR, asked the following questions:

- What grade levels would the class start at?
- Does CTE have a partnership with local colleges/universities?

Griff Mills, Superintendent, asked Carly to explain the funding for CTE.

Rhonda Danaj, Board President, asked what the pre-student and student teaching look like and would they do their student teaching in Taylor.

Kyle Wright, Board Trustee, asked where out-of-district students would do their student teaching.

Carly Barnard responded to the above questions:

- Yes, there has been a lot of interest.
- All CTE classes are for 10th-12th grade students. The proposal is a two year program.
- Yes, students will be working with kids. In some districts preschool teachers are the students from the Teacher Cadet Program and parents sign a waiver that they are aware a student teacher is their child's teacher. We are also looking at our students working with the TVLA Elementary students.
- There are a number of things CTE teachers need to do to be a CTE teacher, In addition, the district gets added cost dollars for running classes through CTE. There are some classes that we offer at the High School that we could get additional funding for if we did additional paperwork.
- Students will need to do their student teaching at a school other than the one they attend. For example, if you are interested in being a high school teacher they would need to do their student teaching at the middle school and students interested in elementary school would do their student teaching at the elementary level. Pre Student teaching would just be observing and then writing a paper on what they observed. Student teaching would be in Taylor.
- We would leave out-of-district student teaching to the discretion of the instructor that the district hires. We would not have an issue if the home district wanted to place the student teacher.
- Yes, the teacher cadet program will have a partnership with college/universities as do all our CTE programs. Wayne County Community College gives credits for all our CTE classes.

6. Career Center Cadet Teaching Program

Giff Mills, Superintendent, stated that in addition to the Teacher Cadet Program Instructor we are bringing to the board the new class at the Career Center, Cadet Teaching Program.

7. TVLA Counselor

Griff Mills, Superintendent, stated that the district is also asking for the Board to approve the new position, TVLA Counselor, due to the increased TVLA enrollment. The district will be applying for grants to help pay for this new position.

8. Taylor High and TVLA Diploma's

Melissa Skopczynski, Taylor High Principal, & Marlene Scott, TVLA Principal, stated that they are recommending one diploma for both Taylor High and TVLA. Both schools require the same 24.5 credits and same curriculum. This would create one graduation ceremony and overall unity.

9. New Hire - Special Education Director

Griff Mills, Superintendent, stated that the district went through the three rounds of interviews and came out with a unanimous recommendation. Tonight we are recommending a new hire for Director of Special Education, LaShawn Lomax. The district is currently working with the state to get her approved and her employment would be contingent upon her receiving this certification.

10. Out of State Field Trip Request - Cedar Point - May 31, 2022

JoAnn Farmer, Teacher, is requesting the out of state field trip to Cedar Point on May 31, 2022 for students at West Middle School.

ACTION ITEM

1. Lockout USA Agreement

A motion was made by K. Wright and seconded by D. Meyers to approve the resolution authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with LockOut USA, subject to final negotiations and approval as to form by District legal counsel, in an amount for all goods and services not to exceed the amount of \$1,700,000.00.

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

2. Amendment to purchase agreement with Ashley Capital

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by D. Thomas to approve the amendment to the agreement between Taylor School District and Ashley Capital.

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

3. Resolution to Sell Bonds

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by J. Thomas to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance of the 2022 School Building and Site Bonds.

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

4. Career Technical Education Cooperative Agreement

A motion was made by D. Thomas and seconded by J. Thomas to approve the Taylor School District and Trillium Academy agreement to allow Trillium students to enroll in its CTE Program.

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

5. Career Center Teacher Cadet Program

A motion was made by A. Block and seconded by J. Thomas to approve the new Teacher Cadet Program at the Career Center.

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

6. Career Center Teacher Cadet Program Instructor

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by J. Thomas to approve the new Teacher Cadet Program Instructor at the Career Center.

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

7. TVLA Counselor

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by K. Wright to approve the new TVLA Counselor position.

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

8. Taylor High and TVLA Diploma's

A motion was made by A. Block and seconded by K. Wright to approve the use of one diploma for Taylor High School and TVLA.

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

9. Request to Hire Director of Special Education

A motion was made by D. Thomas and seconded by J. Thomas to approve the hiring of LaShawn Lomax for the position of Director of Special Education contingent upon the temporary approval from Wayne RESA. Salary for the position will be \$92,750.00 (prorated). Start date will be as soon as practical.

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

10. Out of State Field Trip Request

A motion was made by D. Meyers and seconded by J. Thomas to approve the out of state field trip request for the following:

- West Middle School - Cedar Point - May 31, 2022

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

AGENDA-ADMINISTRATION (District Business)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Griff Mills, Superintendent, stated the following:

- Thanked those that have shared concerns regarding covid at earlier board meetings.
- The district created a form that is on our website to ask specific covid questions.
- Thanked our students, staff and families for helping to keep the district face to face.
- Last year we had 30% of our students face to face and this year we have 85%.
- Adjustments have been made based on the recommendations from CDC, MDHHS and Wayne County Health Department.

- Created a F & Q with covid questions and answers which will continue to be updated.
- Continue to ask our building principals to remind their students and staff to properly wear the masks and administer appropriate discipline for those that repeatedly do not comply.
- Next Thursday, January 27, 2021 at 6:00 PM there will be a State of the District via zoom.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from the Special Board Meeting of December 8, 2021
2. Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of December 15, 2021
3. Minutes from the Special Board Meeting of January 5, 2022
4. Minutes from the Organizational Meeting of January 5, 2022
5. Consolidated Items: Payment of Current Bills, Requests to Hire, Certified, Non-Certified and Administrative Reports.

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

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

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT AGENDA (WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022)

1. Good News
2. Bitty Ball/Girls Elementary Basketball Recognition (McDowell & Kinyon)
3. Daryl Thomas Sr. - Taylor School District Donation/Recognition

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michele Marshall, Director of Security, introduced Chief John Blair who spoke about the ALICE Training that was started on Monday.

John Blair, Taylor Chief of Police, stated the following:

- How impressed he was with the SmartBoot System.
- ALICE Training was completed on Monday and the second phase will be on February 22, 2022.
- In March we will be conducting scenario based training.
- The police department received a K9 dog from an anonymous donor and it will be used in the detection of explosives and/or gunpowder.

Caroline Patts, community member, thanked Chief Blair for the good news. This year will be the 175 anniversary of the city and is asking for the district to help with the celebration.

Jennifer Ferguson-Berringer, parent, has the following concerns regarding covid:

- Why is there a difference between in school exposure and out of school exposure?
- There are alot of students not masking the way they are supposed to.
- Days 6-10 students should be strictly masked, what are we doing for lunches, breakfast, band, etc?
- Why are we not doing contract tracing?
- Why are we not testing athletes?

Kim Williamson, parent, stated that the district did a great job handling incidents at the high school and getting information out to parents. Ms. Williams does not see the need to covid test our athletes.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kyle Wright, Board Trustee, thanked Superintendent Mills, Cabinet, Michelle Marshall. The past month has been constant and they have done a great job keeping things under control.

Griff Mills, Superintendent, stated that covid makes things very difficult and decisions are not made easily. Schools have more put on them than anyone else and it is taking its toll on everyone. Everyone is doing a great job. Attendance is also going up from a couple of weeks ago.

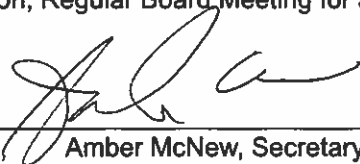
Amber McNew, Board Secretary, thanked everyone. People are communicating better. Even if we don't agree we can still talk about it. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Taylor School District Board of Education, Regular Board Meeting for January 19, 2022 adjourned at 8:32 pm.



Amber McNew, Secretary