

Monday, March 21, 2016

Motion made and supported that the minutes of the February 15, 2016 regular meeting stand as presented. Motion passed.

Motion made and supported that the bills be paid in the amount of \$63,356.39. Motion passed.

Public Comments:

Stephenie Kyser, Republican Candidate for Hillsdale County Treasurer and North Adams-Jerome graduate, reminded the board to vote on August 2, 2016.

Christina Old's son would like to attend the Jackson Area Career Center for his studies and wanted the board to pay the complete amount.

Corey Murray, Hillsdale Daily News representative to cover our school board meetings, introduced himself.

Laura Addleman said the knocker ball tournament and pancake breakfast were successful with a profit of over \$900 for the weekend. She and Mrs. Fedosuk have generated a letter to request financial support of NAJ alumni. Mrs. Addleman also said that the greenhouse is in very rough shape and needs cleaned up and repairs. She also voiced concerns with cleanliness of the bathrooms and the school in general. Pictures of the greenhouse and restrooms were presented to the board.

K – 12 Update for March

- The Music Department is busy rehearsing for their spring performances. Elementary students are learning recorder and singing also in preparation for their "last day" performance. The high school is planning a trip to see the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in May.
- The middle school is working on setting up a visit to Adrian College for the "Track and Explore" program in May. The students will get to do several hands-on science activities that day.
- On April 15 the 4th grade visited Dawson Auditorium to see the Adrian Symphony.
- McEducator Night, at the Hillsdale McDonalds, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22 from 5:00-7:00. Proceeds from inside sales go to supporting various elementary school activities throughout the year.
- The next Senior lunch is at 11:30-12:05 on April 15. Board members are welcome to attend.
- We kicked off the month of March with a Title I Family Fun Night on Thursday, March 3rd. There were over 50 students and their families who joined in literacy activities like making bookmarks to guessing the number of words in a Dr. Seuss book. The Scholastic Book Fair was also open for parents to purchase new books and materials. Students and their parents ended their night with slushies and popcorn.
- March 12 was the North Adams-Jerome 5th grade garage sale. Students and their families donated materials for sale. The community also supported us with bringing in donations and buying items. A huge thanks to Mrs. Lowe who masterminded the event. The sale made over \$1200 to go towards the fifth grade field trip to Mackinaw Island.
- On Wednesday, March 23rd teachers will be meeting after school to review/work on School Improvement strategies.
- M-Step testing will begin for 5th and 8th grade students on April.
- On Friday, April 15 from 5:30-8:00 Interested Parents Club will be hosting a carnival for the elementary students and their families.

- On Wed., April 19 the National Honor Society will be hosting their last blood drive for the year.
- The Senior class will be taking their trip to Chicago on Thursday, April 28th. Parent permission slips have been sent out and the parent meetings have been held. The seniors will meet at 5:30 a.m. and the charter bus will take them to the Field Museum, Cubs game, and Navy Pier. The bus will leave Chicago at 6:30 p.m. and students will arrive back to the school at 11:30 p.m.

Maintenance Supervisor Report

- We have the gym air handler running. We didn't need to update any extra computer programs, but we did replace a burned out control box.
- We had extra gym activities with the basketball districts being played here. Thanks to the janitors for the extra help.
- We are starting baseball and softball in the near future so we will be preparing the fields this week and next.
- We will be working the week of spring break.
- Due to Buddy's closing, we will be getting our mowing gas from Osseo since we have a BP account.

Bus Supervisor Report

- Sharon Stambaugh resigned her position as bus driver effective March 11. We appreciated her years of service and will miss her. Our goal's to get through this school year using Randy as sub.
- The baseball, softball, and track sports trips are always a challenge since the teams leave before the afternoon school runs. We will work hard to get all the teams at their games and on time.
- Laura Addleman is working on a grant to put cameras in all the buses for next year.
- Mr. Otto completed the second part of supervisor training in Jonesville on March 15, 2016.

No committee reports.

Discussion on Athens Area School submission of request to join the SCAA for the 2017-2018 school year. Athletic directors support accepting Athens into the SCAA.

Motion made and supported to approve Athens Area School's request to join the SCAA for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Bumpus, Mrs. Todd, Mr. Stoll, Mrs. Paille, Mrs. Jones

No: None

Discussion on the resignation of Sharon Stambaugh effective March 14, 2016. A substitute driver is already in place.

Discussion on 4% reduction of the superintendent's pay for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion made and supported to approve the contract for the superintendent to reduce pay by 4% for the 2015-2016 school year, from the amount of \$32,500 to \$31,200. Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mrs. Jones, Mr. Stoll, Mrs. Paille, Mrs. Todd, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Bumpus

No: None

Discussion on the bus lease. Reduce the number of buses for the 2016-2017 school year from 5 to 4 due to declining enrollment.

Motion made and supported to amend previous approval to lease 4 buses at 20,000 miles instead of 5 buses. Motion passed.

Discussion on the parking lot. Request to meet with the Building & Site Committee to discuss the 2nd phase of paving the parking lot.

Discussion on Middle College. There is a meeting March 28 at 5:30 in Hillsdale High School. Request to hold a special meeting to discuss Middle College.

Motion made and supported to hold a special meeting to discuss Middle College on March 29, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Motion passed.

Discussion on a co-op with Pittsford for football is being suggested by Pittsford. The Board agrees to allow discussion between Pittsford and NAJ to gather information. No action to be taken.

Discussion on wireless internet and computers. Considering options: E-rate 80% of cost covered and we cover 20% of cost for entire school to go wireless. The State is considering allowing sinking fund money to be used for technology. We could possibly use sinking fund to cover our 20%.

Discussion on a grant received for Early Literacy in the amount of \$1,525.00

Discussion on the cafeteria program needing to spend \$4,220.60 by June 30, 2016 per the State due to excess in our account.

Discussion on moving to a closed session.

Motion made and supported to move to closed session at 8:49 p.m. Motion passed.

Returned to open session at 9:23 p.m.

Discussion on scheduling a board workshop for Monday April 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion made and supported to schedule a special board workshop on Monday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. Motion passed.

Public Comments:

Janice Roberts voiced concerns for the lack of advertising for Kindergarten Roundup. We need to back our young supporters of the school.

Mrs. Christina Old would like the opinion of the board. The cost is \$2,400.00 per year for her son to attend the Jackson Area Career Center. Other schools from Hillsdale County cover the cost. Hillsdale County Career Center does not offer what he would like to study. Response from Mr. Christenson: Approximately 7 years ago the board decided the school district will pay \$350 per semester. Approximately 5 years ago the board denied a request to pay additional.

Mrs. Old provided a copy of MI compiled laws in regards to school.

Mrs. Beth Tobey and Carol Kaleta attended a Title I workshop. It was very beneficial. She highly recommends the administration go.

5th grade sale had a great turn out. However, there was a huge lack of parent involvement. Need to hold the parents accountable.

Mrs. Tobey voiced concerns on the taste of the water and quality.

Mrs. Tobey asked if Mr. Christenson is taking a 4% cut are the teachers going to be asked to do the same.

Mr. Weber is trying to instill a competitive edge in our students. He started a strength training program today.

Mr. Weber expressed concerns of a co-op with Pittsford for football. 8 man teams are on the rise. Co-op with Pittsford may cause us to lose students. Decision should include ALL NAJ football coaches.

Mr. Weber asked about the cell phone policy. During class phones are placed on the heater (not in the students' possession). Also there is a problem with students charging phones during the day. We need consistency between all teachers.

Mrs. Tobey said recycled materials are not being recycled in a timely manner. Mr. Weber said there need to be recycling bins throughout the school.

Mrs. Sharp voiced concerns on cleanliness of the school. Need to hold custodial staff accountable. If the school is not cleaned to our standards. We need to replace staff.

Laura Addleman said we have received 4 Disney One-Day park hopper passes to be raffled off by the IPC.

Board Comments:

Mrs. Bumpus said we need to advertise the school. Facebook. Board policy needed to regulate. She also said that student of the month needs to be reinstated in the elementary.

Mrs. Jones said the Middle College meeting had been moved to a new location. A second meeting was not communicated to the entire committee.

Mr. Christenson said the E-rate form 470 must be submitted to the state by March 30. Issues with the recycling program will be discussed with the custodial staff. Parental involvement is on the decrease in all areas. Big challenge! 8 man football does not limit the athlete's possibilities after high school. The water is being tested. There are filters in each fountain. They need replacing periodically.

Mrs. Jones asked if we can follow up with consistent interviews with parents of students that have now left NAJ.

President Eric Stoll adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.