

Mesick Consolidated Schools Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes - May 9th, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by President Jason McCree. Present were Jason McCree, Sally Flatman, Eric Spencer, Will Sexton and Craig Gabier. Absent were Kirsten Ross and Jason Abraham. President McCree appointed Gabier as acting secretary. There were 14 community members present. School staff present were Supt. Joe Hollenbeck, High School Principal Scott Morey, Central Office Administrative Assistant Jennifer Wagatha, School Safety Officer Paul Fowler and Business Manager Katrina Bontekoe.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Roll call was taken.

Mary Moorman gave an 8-minute presentation updating the status of the partnership between Mesick Consolidated Schools and the Highpoint Virtual Academy of Michigan (HVAM) regarding monies, enrollments, rules & regulations and an optimistic view of the future.

The Board and a few members of the audience then went to room 195 for a presentation about the SMART TV's recently installed in 8 classrooms. Middle School Social Studies instructor, Josh Kaskinen went through a handful of applications and explained the very positive uses of the system.

A motion was made by Gabier and 2nd by Spencer to approve the minutes of the April 11th, 2022 Regular & Closed Session meetings and the April 28th, 2022 Special and Closed Session meetings. The motion passed 5-0.

After asking the Board if they had any questions regarding the Bills Payable, President McCree asked for a motion to accept them as presented. A motion was made by Sexton and 2nd by Flatman to pay the bills in the amount of \$2,564,565.64. Mr. Spencer inquired if consideration had been made to completely fill the propane tanks before the cost rose even more. Mrs. Wagatha said she had already spoken to the Transportation Manager, Bob Harris and he was in the process of talking to Crystal Flash about this. The motion passed 5-0.

President McCree then opened the floor for Communication from the Public and explained the guidelines for addressing the Board and receiving responses.

A fairly lengthy discussion ensued concerning the usage of the Mesick Community Recreation fields which are owned by the Mesick Schools, by the Mesick Mushroom Festival Softball Tournament. Several community members commented and voiced their concerns on the apparent consumption of alcohol on premises during these ball games. Coincidentally, representatives from the Mesick Lion's Club, sponsors of the Mushroom Festival, and chairman of the Softball Tourney itself were in attendance. A very courteous give & take between the parties took place and assurances were given to both sides that the School Board and Administration that their concerns would be taken seriously and hopefully, a mutually agreeable plan of action would be developed.

The topic of discussion then proceeded on to the concern of several parents and community members about the Industrial Arts (shop) program being converted into a STEM {Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics} course in the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade levels. Comments included but were not limited to: kid's disappointment in not having shop: not enough hands-on projects in the latter portion of the school term and the comment that there was a person already in the community who, if qualified, could be a possible resource in the near future. President McCree thanked the participants for their commitment to our students and committed the Board and Administration to searching for a solution.

President McCree asked the Board if they had any questions about the Superintendent's Report that had been emailed with tonight's agenda. Mr. Hollenbeck said that just today, he had been in contact with the State and had discussed a possible waiver that may change the last day of school from June 15th back to June 10th. He will let everyone know if this occurs.

President McCree asked the Board if they had any questions about the reports presented by the Elementary, Jr./Sr. High, Athletic Dept. or the Transportation/Maintenance Departments. Elementary Principal Charnes had been called away earlier in the day and was not present. High School Principal Morey added to his report that make-up testing was occurring this week for the students who had been absent from last week's testing. He also reminded all in

attendance that Graduation is fast approaching. He complimented Mesick Teacher, Ann Abraham, on the excellent progress she was making in organizing the Graduation program. Transportation Director, Bob Harris, had advised Mr. Hollenbeck that even though the new bus that had been ordered in the Spring of 2021 had not yet been delivered, he recommended that an additional new bus be ordered to maintain the School's schedule for vehicle replacement due to age and wear & tear.

President McCree asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the proposed Wexford Missaukee Intermediate School District (WMISD) General Education Fund Budget for 2022-2023 that had been included in the Board packet by Katrina Bontekoe. Ms. Bontekoe added a few comments about how the State monies were being attempted to be allocated by the Governor and the hesitation of the House and Senate to follow her recommendations. A motion was made by Spencer and 2nd by Gabier to approve the budget as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

President McCree requested a motion to approve the purchase of track and field equipment. A motion was made by Flatman and 2nd by Spencer to approve the purchases. Mr. Hollenbeck, when asked, gave an explanation of what was being purchased and why. The motion passed 5-0.

President McCree requested a motion from the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's upcoming evaluation. A motion was made by Spencer and 2nd by Flatman. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:23 pm.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:33 pm.

With no further action either on the agenda or to be voted upon, President McCree adjourned the Board meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig O. Gabier, Acting Secretary