

## Mesick Consolidated Schools Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by President Sally Flatman. Present were Flatman, Will Sexton, Eric Spencer, Kirsten Ross and Craig Gabier. Heather Bradley and Jason Abraham were absent. Also present were Supt. Joe Hollenbeck, Jack Ledford, Scott Morey, Jen Wagatha, Katrina Bontekoe, Craig Jones and Stacey Quiggins. Approximately 47 members of the public were in attendance.

Scott Morey presented "Student of the Month" certificates to Hannah Simerson, Tanis, Hayden and Matthew Smith.

Mr. Jones narrated a power point presentation concerning the band's recent trip to Disney World and provided numerous photos of all of their activities touring the park, attending a music workshop and a video of their performance. Mesick was able to travel down at the same time as Pine River. Mr. Jones said that the entire trip was very successful.

A motion was made by Eric and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 regular meeting; the April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special meeting; the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special meeting; April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special meeting closed session; April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special meeting; April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special meeting closed session. Discussion ensued and it was thought that there had been a closed session during the April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special meeting. Jen will double check and update the Board at the next meeting. Motion passed 5-0 subject to possible amending later.

A motion was made by Eric and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will to pay the bills as presented. Craig asked if the wind damage amount had been submitted to the School's insurance. Katrina said she would check. Motion passed 5-0.

President Flatman invited the public to communicate.

A fifth grade reading book title "You Don't Know Everything Jilly P" garnered both pro and con commentary. Steve Jaszcz, Melissa Suriano, Kelsey Jaszcz, Rhonda Gonyon felt that the book dealt with gender ideology issues at too young of an age, promoted Critical Race Theory, espoused White privilege and no learning guide had been sent home to parents before the book was distributed to students. Nicole Ball opined that she thought it was a good book but also mentioned a learning guide would have been a good idea.

Gloria Sisson, president of the Mesick Boosters and Grace Ann VanNortrick, vice-president, gave an update of what was occurring in their organization, companies and people who had donated and future projects that are in progress.

Cody Simerson urged the Board and the school to consider converting Jr. High and Middle School baseball and softball from their status as club sports to school sponsored.

Deb Robinson, Heather Simerson, Stephanie MacEachern, Abby Monroe, Amber MacEachern, Shirley Swank, Tina Valentine and Jalene Croel requested that the Mesick School food service program not be privatized.

Supt. Hollenbeck gave additional updates in addition to his written report. A new bus driver, Terri Harris, was scheduled to begin driving this upcoming Thursday, Sub-driver, Randy Teichman, is undergoing knee surgery so will not be available for a few weeks. Another teacher, Kate Rogers, has turned in her resignation. Mr. Hollenbeck will soon be meeting with Katrina Bontekoe about the upcoming budget. A new walk-in freezer is being installed in the high school. There are a couple of leaks in the elementary roof so estimates will be requested soon. Mr. Hollenbeck congratulated the band for receiving 1's in all four categories at the most recent band competition. The annual bus inspection is fast approaching. Now that Spring sports are in full swing, the school is running into bus driver shortages especially in the pm runs. Mr. Hollenbeck said all parents have been very understanding and cooperative.

Mr. Charnes was absent so there wasn't any additional elementary updates other than I-ready testing is proceeding and there looks to be another large kindergarten next year.

Mr. Morey said that high school testing is going well. The two current job postings haven't gotten any responses but it is still early.

Athletic director, Stacey Quiggins, updated the Board about all of the ongoing Spring sports.

A motion was made by Eric and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kirsten to approve food service privatization as recommended by the Finance Committee. Discussion ensued about how the recommendation was determined; the four different options examined which included three separate participation levels from Chartwells and one in which the School did its own. The pros and cons of each level were discussed including the

differences in cost to the school, the effect on current school employees and the future quality of food to be provided to the students. President Flatman called for a vote and it was 4-0 in favor of privatization with Will Sexton abstaining.

A motion was made by Eric and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig to accept the bid from Advanced Mechanical & Electrical Services, LLC for the purchase and installation of a walk-in freezer in the high school as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Craig and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kirsten to accept the bid from G & M Builders for site work required for the installation of the walk-in freezer. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Eric and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kirsten to approve the West Michigan Intermediate School District (WMISD) 2023-2024 General Fund Budget. The motion passed 5-0.

A Special Board meeting is scheduled just before Graduation at 6:30 pm on May 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the biennial WMISD election.

A motion was made by Eric and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will to approve the proposal regarding the makeup of the Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB). The motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Eric and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig to approve the request from football head coach Mumby for an overnight football camp to be held at the high school. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Craig and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric to approve the contract for 2023-2025 superintendent contract for Jack Ledford. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board wishes to thank all members of the public for their attendance and comments.

Meeting adjournment was at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Acting Secretary, Craig O. Gabier