

April 17, 2023

The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, April 17, 2023 in the Newaygo High School Library. Vince Grodus, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vince Grodus, Morgan Heinzman, Thomas Frisbie, Jami Schultz, Reid Sherwood and Sara Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Melissa Swinehart

Also Present: Jeff Wright, Superintendent  
Kim Bidwell, Business Manager  
Christina Wetherell, Administrative Assistant  
Gena Dietz, Interim High School Principal  
John Bull, Interim Assistant High School Principal  
Dan Bauer, Interim Middle School Principal  
Kyle McAlister, Assistant Middle School Principal  
Andy Cox, Elementary School Principal

Visitors: 36

*Pledge of Allegiance*

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to appoint Jami Schultz as acting board secretary, amend the agenda to add Gena Dietz as High School Principal in the Recommendations to Hire section #8B-3, and approve the proposed amended agenda for the regular meeting of April 17, 2023.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Officer Mitch Rood addressed the audience and provided a summary explanation of the events that took place over the weekend regarding the school threat and the process that was involved in making the decisions regarding the school. Officer Rood explained that the investigation is still ongoing and there is limited information that he is able to release.

Consent Agenda Items

1. Approval of Minutes:
  - March 20, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - March 28, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes
  - March 29, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes
2. Monthly Trial Balances
3. Accounts Payable Listings

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Presentations from the Floor

*Melissa Hreha & Bette Hallberg – March Reading Month Presentation*

Melissa Hreha and Bette Hallberg presented an overview of the March is Reading month event that occurred at Newaygo Elementary School throughout the month of March.

*Formal Board Communications:*

None.

Public Comments – Items on the Agenda

None.

Superintendent Reports

*Letters of resignation/retirement were received from:*

1. Esther Honeysette –Bus Driver, Retire
2. Sharon Behnke – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Retire
3. Deb Ashker – Middle School Math Teacher, Retire
4. Dan Maki- Middle School Science Teacher, Retire

*Recommendations to Hire:*

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mr. Heinzman, to approve employment of Mike Borkowski in the capacity of an athletic coach with the understanding that Mr. Borkowski was previously convicted of a felony and MCL 380.1230g permits him to work for the school district if the school board and superintendent specifically approve his employment in writing.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Heinzman, to hire Brandon Smith as Elementary School Assistant Principal, as recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Ms. Smith, to hire Gena Dietz as High School Principal, as recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Informational Items

**Subject: Finance and Budget Update**

Ms. Kim Bidwell, Business Manager, gave the Board an update on the finances of the district, including a proposal for the Food Service spend down plan and a budget amendment to the Food Service and General Fund budgets.

**Subject: Flag Pole Update**

Mr. Heinzman explained that the new flagpole on the football field was donated from American Classic. He thanked American Classic for their generous donation and also expressed his appreciation to the City of Newaygo for digging the hole for the flag pole. Mr. Heinzman explained that there are plans being made for a dedication plaque and platform to go at the base of the flag pole.

Mr. Wright announced that Brian Janke was selected as the “I Care” Award recipient for Newaygo County and he will be given this award and recognition at the “I Care” Award Ceremony on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Administrative Matters

For Action:

##### **A. Food Service Spend Down Plan**

Motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Heinzman, to approve the Food Service spend down plan, as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

##### **B. Budget Amendment**

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the budget amendment to the General Fund budget and the Food Service budget, as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

##### **C. Robotics Club Overnight Trip**

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to approve the Robotics Club overnight trip, as proposed at the March regular board meeting.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

##### **D. Meyer Music Proposal**

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Ms. Schultz, to approve the Meyer Music Proposal for the purchase of new musical instruments for the Newaygo Band, as proposed at the March regular board meeting.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

##### **E. Superintendent Contract**

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Heinzman, to approve the superintendent contract ratification for Mr. Ben Gilpin.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Grodus - Aye; Mr. Heinzman - Aye; Mr. Frisbie - Aye; Ms. Schultz - Aye; Mr. Sherwood - Aye; Ms. Smith - Aye.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

#### New Business

##### **A. Administrator Wages**

Mr. Wright proposed the administrator wages for the 23-24 school year.

## **B. Marching Band Camp and State Championship Trip**

Band Director, Branden Listh, proposed that the Board approve the summer band camp and the state championship trip that occurs in the fall.

## **C. Senior Class Trip**

The Senior Class is proposing the Board approve their trip to Six Flags for their Senior Class Trip.

## **D. Athletic Overnight Summer Camps**

There are several proposals for athletics summer camps including:

Girls and Boys Varsity and JV Basketball

Cross Country

### Principals' Reports

Building principals gave the Board an update on what is happening in their buildings.

### Public Comments - Items Not on the Agenda

Student Safety

Communication between the School and Parents

Emergency Response Plan Availability

Student Workers and their Emergency Response Procedures

Student Testing

### Closed Session – Student Discipline

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to move into closed session for the purpose of student discipline.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Grodus - Aye; Mr. Heinzman - Aye; Mr. Frisbie - Aye; Ms. Schultz - Aye; Mr. Sherwood - Aye; Ms. Smith - Aye.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 7:14pm

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to move into open session.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Grodus - Aye; Mr. Heinzman - Aye; Mr. Frisbie - Aye; Ms. Schultz - Aye; Mr. Sherwood - Aye; Ms. Smith - Aye.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 7:50pm

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Ms. Smith, to expel Student #044A from Newaygo Public Schools for up to 180 days with a reinstatement hearing at the August regular Board of Education meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Grodus - Aye; Mr. Heinzman - Aye; Mr. Frisbie - Aye; Ms. Schultz - Aye; Mr. Sherwood - Aye; Ms. Smith - Aye.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 7:55p.m.



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Jami Schultz, Acting Board Secretary