

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
Board of Education
Regular Meeting

January 20, 2020

The Chassell Township School Board of Education met on Monday, January 20, 2020, in the library. President Roger Tervo called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Present: Randal Danison, B.J. Tervo, Carl Olson, Suzanna Tuomi (5:52 p.m.), Tanya Etelamaki, Ken Kytta, Roger Tervo

Absent: None

Guests: Jomarie & Ryan Wakeham, Angela Danison, Tricia Tervo, Trevor Clark, Nora Olson, Jane Rautiola, Rebecca Torola, Sarah & Marco Guidotti (5:47 p.m.)

Guests – Ryan Wakeham spoke to the board about the Gracie Bully Proof Program which is part of the Gracie Jiu Jitsu martial arts self-defense system. The program has proven to be the most effective and most humane system of self-defense in which a smaller person can defend successfully against a more athletic, bigger, stronger attacker. Ryan is a certified level two instructor for the program. Ryan would be interested in teaching an after school program to students ages 5-14 years old. Students from 5-8 years old would require parent participation. A regular curriculum will be designed and followed. The initial out of pocket expense to license the school as a valid site for teaching the program would cost \$1,600.00. Ryan just wanted to present the information to the board to see if there was an interest.

Jane Rautiola addressed the board and thanked the board members who have acknowledged receipt of email messages and mentioned that perhaps others who did not respond that it would have been nice to be acknowledged.

Nora Olson wanted to make a comment about the loss of several middle school students. She has heard and also been approached by local community members asking and wondering about the shift in enrollment. She mentioned that the school board should have a proactive discussion regarding the situation.

Regular Board Meeting – December 16, 2019 – Ken Kytta moved, seconded by Randal Danison, to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2019, board meeting as presented. All board members voted AYE.

Treasurer's Report – B.J. Tervo reported total revenues of \$902,507.96, Expenses of \$952,807.81, leaving a deficit Net Income balance of (\$50,299.850 for the period of July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

The General Fund Cash & Investment Balance as of December 31, 2019 was \$471,761.65. Carl Olson moved, seconded by Ken Kytta, to approve the treasurer's report, petty cash report, and to pay the December bills as submitted. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Randal Danison, B.J. Tervo, Carl Olson, Suzanna Tuomi, Tanya Etelamaki, Ken Kytta, Roger Tervo.

NAYS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- A. The sick leave bank has been depleted. The recommendation by administration is to have the sick leave bank reopened for replenishing as this year there extenuating circumstances as to why the bank was depleted.

- B. Mr. Spahn will be meeting with an education consultant from the Marquette-Alger RESA on Wednesday to discuss a new "Peer to Peer" course. This course is designed to provide support for a peer in the classroom, at lunch or on the playground, but are not responsible for their peer's behavior and are always supervised by adults. This curriculum includes content, lesson plans, assignments and grading criteria in alignment with Michigan's Department of Education Pupil Accounting Manual requirements. Mr. Spahn would like board approval to offer this program as a new class during the second semester.
- C. During the recent teacher in-service on January 17, 2020, the staff discussed the recent loss of students. As a whole, the group decided to develop a survey for students, primarily targeting the junior high students, to see what classes they would be interested in taking. The teachers will offer suggestions of classes they would be willing to teach and then the students and parents can give input on the electives and both the student and parent can sign off on the survey. January 31 is our next in-service and the staff will re-visit this issue as the surveys should be returned by then.
- D. Another discussion during the teacher in-service was regarding "being invested in our school". The teachers would like the board to take a look at the early college program and make a list of pros and cons. Is this worth the investment or should the district as a whole be looking at something else that will benefit more students.
- E. VFW's Voice of Democracy winners: Anna Jarvi, Emma Goddard and Beau Mukka.
- F. VFW's Patriot's Pen winners: Lily Etelamaki, Gracie Moyle and Oliver Turpeinen.
- G. VFW's Teacher of the Year: Sarah Guidotti

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Education Committee – B.J. Tervo reported the committee had met on Tuesday, December 17 and reviewed the NEOLA policies Vol. 34, No. 1. First draft reading presented to the board for approval.
- B. Personnel Committee – Ken Kytta reported the committee had met on Monday, January 13 and reviewed several issues. First, there was a proposal from George Stockero at the ISD who would like to offer to rent space in our building to operate a classroom or two. Currently the ISD has students at several different buildings and the logistics do cause issues with bussing and staffing, etc.

The committee also discussed the maintenance position. To-date, there has been no official hire to replace Doug Etelamaki. The committee and administration will continue to pursue this issue.

Enrollment was discussed and middle school staffing. Mrs. Markham will begin to teach an overload (7/7ths) during the second semester as she will pick up 6th grade science. Mr. Wenberg will return to the library full-time and assist with elementary P.E. classes. The middle school shop will be taught by a CTE instructor who is paid via the ISD.

- C. Foundation Executive Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 5 p.m. at SNB in Hancock.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Gracie Bully Proof – Board members discussed offering a demonstration night to see what the interest level would be before committing to an investment of \$1,600.00. During the month of March the district will be scheduling a family night activity and the demonstration could be scheduled during that event.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Replenish Sick Bank – Carl Olson moved, seconded by Randal Danison, to allow the replenishing of the sick leave bank. Per the union contract it states that the bank may be replenished once a year, during the last week of the school year. This approval to reopen is due to extenuating circumstances this year. According to the union contract members may contribute up to seven (7) sick days or 49 hours per member. The maximum to be held in the account is fifty (50) sick days or 350 hours. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: B.J. Tervo, Randal Danison, Carl Olson, Tanya Etelamaki, Suzanna Tuomi, Ken Kytta, Roger Tervo
NAYS: None

B. Peer to Peer Program – Ken Kytta moved, seconded by Carl Olson, to approve offering the Peer to Peer Program as a new class for the second semester. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.

C. Teacher overload (7/7ths) – Carl Olson moved, seconded by Ken Kytta, to approve the change in teaching staff. Mrs. Markham will begin teaching an overload schedule of (7/7ths) during the second semester. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: B.J. Tervo, Randal Danison, Carl Olson, Tanya Etelamaki, Suzanna Tuomi, Ken Kytta, Roger Tervo
NAYS: None

D. First Draft Reading – Suzanna Tuomi moved, seconded by B.J. Tervo, to approve the first draft reading of the NEOLA policies Vol. 34, No. 1. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.

E. Board Member Appreciation – Board members enjoyed coffee and donuts as January is board appreciation month. Thank you for your service.

F. February board meeting will be on Monday, February 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Ken Kytta moved, seconded by Carl Olson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: