

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
Board of Education
Regular Meeting

September 23, 2021

The Chassell Township School Board of Education met on Wednesday, September 23, 2021. President Randal Danison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Carl Olson, Randal Danison, Peter Torola, Tanya Etelamaki, Roger Tervo, B.J. (Brady) Tervo

Absent: Ken Kytta, Steve Spahn (Superintendent/Principal)

Guests: Trevor Clark, Angela Danison, Sarah & Marco Guidotti, Nora Olson, Jomarie & Ryan Wakeham, Kara LaTendresse, Tamara Pietila

Guests

Jomarie Wakeham told the board members about the upcoming Chassell Community Autumn Harvest festival that is scheduled for Saturday, October 2 from 5-8 PM. The event will include, music, games, food, petting zoo and a family photo booth. Jomarie stated that she had contacted TV6 and a reporter was coming to do an interview. Advertisements were sent to the local radio stations and the school sign will be updated with the announcement. There will be over 15 games for families to participate in. All the school activity groups will be running the games. All are welcome.

Sunrise Challenge – Lake Linden-Hubbell Schools issued a challenge to all U.P. schools to join them in watching the sunrise on Friday, September 24 (around 7:40ish in the Houghton area). The challenge was launched to join U.P. native Buggy Sailor who was closing in on a milestone of witnessing/photographing 1000 consecutive sunrises. His 1000th day will be on Sunday, September 26. Staff, students, and community members will meet in front of the school for the event. The Berry & Blend student run café will be selling coffee, smoothies and treats for the event.

Disc Golf – Trevor Clark gave an update on the disc golf course. He wanted to say thank you to all who helped to achieve this goal. The course will be open afterschool and on weekends.

Regular Board Meeting – August 23, 2021 and Special Board Meeting – September 13, 2021 – Tanya Etelamaki moved, seconded by Roger Tervo, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 23, 2021 and the special meeting on September 13, 2021. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.

Treasurer's Report – B.J. (Brady) Tervo reported an Income of \$108,153.27, Expenses of \$147,756.06, leaving a deficit Net Income balance of (\$39,602.79).

The General Fund Cash & Investment Balance as of August 31, 2021, was \$863,373.79.

Carl Olson moved, seconded by Tanya Etelamaki, to approve the petty cash report, and to pay the August bills as submitted. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Peter Torola, B.J. (Brady) Tervo, Roger Tervo, Tanya Etelamaki, Randal Danison
NAYS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- A. Daycare – The Panther Cub Daycare is full. Ages 1 year 6 months thru 2 years 6 months our capacity is 4 students. Ages 2 years 6 months thru 5 years 0 months our capacity is 16 students. The total capacity of students enabled to be enrolled in our daycare equals 20 students total. The daycare does have a waiting list.

- B. Student Enrollment – Some good news; 3 new students enrolled this week and 5 more are coming within three weeks.
- C. Driver's Education – The driver's education class in Chassell fell through for the first semester. Arrangements have been made that Chassell may contract with Dollar Bay for Segment 1. The class will run (January 17 thru February 9). Segment 2 will be taught in Chassell once Mr. Schuldt completes his training and becomes a licensed instructor. Training begins in October and is 6 consecutive weekends.

With regard to the contract for Segment 1. Our district has two options. (Option 1) Fifteen seats become open for the first fifteen students to enroll at \$450.00 per seat or (Option 2) the district pays \$8,000.00 and selects which fifteen students may be enrolled in Segment 1. The cost difference between the two options is \$1,250.00.

Driver's Ed Instructor Training – the board would be interested in offering a one-time "open for interest" offer to all teachers that the district will pay for driver's education instructor training so that we will be able to continue to offer driver's education classes to our students.

- D. Capturing Kids' Hearts – The staff completed training at the end of August. The mission of Capturing Kids' Hearts is simple. It is to win kids' hearts and to lead them to their personal best. Staff will have another day of training on Friday, October 8 which is the area-wide day of training for all schools.

Along with this – we are embracing the PBIS program (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). The program aims to establish a social culture within schools in which students expect and support appropriate behavior from one another. Seven staff members completed training this summer and continue to attend in-services throughout this school year.

- E. Bond Funds – The district recently purchased two appliances for the high school. The electric range was replaced in Room 107 where Culinary Arts, Lifestyles and our school concessions all use that room. There was also a refrigerator purchased for the former staff lounge which is where Domestic Arts and the Berry & Blend Café run out of. The total dollar amount for the two appliances was \$1,288.00.
- F. Attendance Policy – The attendance policy was reviewed. Administration felt it was important to add a statement about make-up time due to excessive absences. They felt that the policy should be either (5 days per quarter) or (10 days per semester) with the exception of medical time with a doctor's note. This policy would apply for students in 6th thru 12th grade.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel/Negotiation Committee – Randal Danison reported they had met on Wednesday, August 18 at 5:30 p.m. with superintendent, Steve Spahn. Nothing pertinent to report.
- B. Athletic Items - Kara LaTendresse, Athletic Director reported on the following:
 - Girls' Varsity Basketball Uniforms – the girls are in need of new uniforms. The uniforms run approximately \$126.00 each. If there are not enough funds available to buy both home and away she would recommend purchasing (home – whites) as they are getting pretty dingy.
 - She checked into getting signs for on the highway as you enter Chassell (both Northbound and Southbound) for the Girls Varsity Basketball Team – State Runner Up 2018. To get an approved MDOT sign they run about \$2,000.00 each.

- Sound System for Gym – Kara checked into getting a new sound system. She received a quote from AthleticSound for a “Gymnasium Turnkey PA Sound System” which covers up to 20,000 sq-ft for a total cost of \$5,001.00. The vendor is from Montesano, WA. She also contacted Range from Marquette who will be providing a quote. Range did stop on Monday, September 20. The representative did show Mr. Spahn and Mrs. Wakeham how to set the dials on the current system so that sound is better than what we have had in the past. (Dials needs to look like a smile).
- Sports Booster Food Truck – The Sports Booster would like to get rid of the food truck. It has not been used in several years and it’s just taking up space. If it gets scraped, the proceeds could go toward the purchase of a school van.
- Track Coach Resignation – Michelle Miller resigned as the Varsity Track Coach.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Plow Truck – F250 w/plow. The truck should be put up for sale on bids. It should be listed for two weeks with a statement that reads “right to accept or reject all bids”.
- B. School Van – B.J. (Brady) Tervo is in charge of looking for a school van.
- C. Cease and Desist – The board would like Mr. Spahn to contact Thrun Law Firm and ask them to write a cease and desist letter to the Rautiola family with regard to slandering the school or further legal litigation will follow.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Driver’s Education Contract– Carl Olson moved, seconded by B.J. (Brady) Tervo, to contract with Dollar Bay-Tamarack Area Schools to pay \$8,000.00 for 15 guaranteed seats in Segment 1 Driver’s Ed for the class that will run January 17 through February 9, 2022. The school district will compile a list of students who need to take the class and assign seats according to age. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.
- B. Driver’s Education Instructor Training – Carl Olson moved, seconded by Roger Tervo to offer a one-time “open for interest” offer to teachers who may be interested in taking the 6 weekend course to become a certified Driver’s Education instructor training. The district will cover the cost of the training. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Peter Torola, B.J. (Brady) Tervo, Roger Tervo, Tanya Etelamaki, Randal Danison

NAYS: None

- C. Attendance Policy – Carl Olson moved, seconded by Roger Tervo, to update the attendance policy to state that there will be make-up time assigned to students who have more than 10 days absent per semester with the exception of a signed medical release. The attendance policy pertains to students in grades 6th thru 12th. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.
- D. Sound System – Tanya Etelamaki moved, seconded by Roger Tervo, to purchase a new Gymnasium Turnkey PA Sound System through AthleticSound out of Montesano, WA at a cost of \$5,001.00 which will come out of “bond funds”. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Peter Torola, B.J. (Brady) Tervo, Roger Tervo, Tanya Etelamaki, Randal Danison.

NAYS: None

- E. Plow Truck (F250) for Sale – Carl Olson moved, seconded by Tanya Etelamaki, to put the F250 plow truck up for sale on bids. The truck should be listed for two weeks and the ad should state “right to accept or reject all bids”. Proceeds from the truck sale could be put toward the purchase of a school van. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.
- F. Cease and Desist Order – Tanya Etelamaki moved, seconded by Carl Olson, to authorize the superintendent Steve Spahn to contact Thrun Law Firm and ask them to write a letter to the Rautiola family stating that they need to cease and desist their slandering of the school district. Further litigation will follow if they do not comply. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.
- G. New Hire – Carl Olson moved, seconded by B.J. (Brady) Tervo, to hire Destiny Walstrom as a daycare aide at a rate of \$13.50 per hour. Motion carried on a roll call vote:
- AYES: Carl Olson, Peter Torola, B.J. (Brady) Tervo, Roger Tervo, Tanya Etelamaki, Randal Danison
NAYS: None
- H. New Hire – Carl Olson moved, seconded by B.J. (Brady) Tervo, to hire Rachael Keranen as a daycare aide at a rate of \$13.00 per hour. Motion carried on a roll call vote:
- AYES: Carl Olson, Peter Torola, B.J. (Brady) Tervo, Roger Tervo, Tanya Etelamaki, Randal Danison
NAYS: None
- I. Wage Adjustment – Carl Olson moved, seconded by B.J. (Brady) Tervo, to make a wage adjustment for Jen Demske, the daycare lead caregiver to \$14.00 per hour. Motion carried on a roll call vote:
- AYES: Carl Olson, Peter Torola, B.J. (Brady) Tervo, Roger Tervo, Tanya Etelamaki, Randal Danison
NAYS: None
- J. New Hire – Carl Olson moved, seconded by B.J. (Brady) Tervo, to hire Eeva Juntunen as an elementary parapro at a rate of \$10.75 per hour. Motion carried on a roll call vote:
- AYES: Carl Olson, Peter Torola, B.J. (Brady) Tervo, Roger Tervo, Tanya Etelamaki, Randal Danison
NAYS: None
- K. Resignation – Carl Olson moved, seconded by B.J. (Brady) Tervo, to accept with regret the resignation of Tamara Pietila as a special education aide. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.
- L. Special Education Aide – Carl Olson moved, seconded by Peter Torola, to hire Naomi Tervo as a special education aide at a rate of \$13.62 per hour. Motion carried on a roll call vote:
- AYES: Carl Olson, Peter Torola, B.J. (Brady) Tervo, Tanya Etelamaki, Randal Danison
ABSTAIN: B.J. (Brady) Tervo – Naomi is B.J.’s mom.
NAYS: None

- M. Wage Adjustment – Carl Olson moved, seconded by B.J. (Brady) Tervo, to make a wage adjustment for Jennifer Marshall, the Business Office Manager to \$19.00 per hour. Motion carried on a roll call vote:

AYES: Carl Olson, Peter Torola, B.J. (Brady) Tervo, Roger Tervo, Tanya Etelamaki, Randal Danison

NAYS: None

- N. Resignation – Carl Olson moved, seconded by B.J. (Brady) Tervo, to accept with regret the resignation of Michelle Miller as the Varsity track coach. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.

- O. Job Posting – Library Aide. Post with a two week deadline (October 11, 2021).

- P. Job Posting – Superintendent/Principal . Post with a two week deadline. (October 11, 2021)

- Q. Next board meeting: Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 5:30 PM in the school library.

Carl Olson moved, seconded by B.J. (Brady) Tervo, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Motion carried with all members voting AYE.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: