

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COLLINS-MAXWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARCH 16, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER The Board of Education met in regular session with President Lowell Crouse calling the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. in the Maxwell Library.

Board members present: Bryce Caple, Lowell Crouse, Justin Boege, Brad Plunkett

Board members absent: Mark Huntrods

Administrators present: Superintendent Jason Ellingson, Board Sec/Treas/Business Manager Bonnie Mitchell, MS/HS Principal Kevin Williams, Elementary Principal Chad Grandon

Visitors: Kristen West, Elaine Mohr, Seth Balke, Henry Hauptert, Jessica Allen, Deb Hartgers, Drake Caple, Jon Hand

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Moved by Caple, seconded by Boege, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried 4y-0n.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS Plunkett motioned, seconded by Caple, to approve the consent items that consist of:

- o Minutes of the February 16, 2015 board meeting
- o Financial reports for February
- o General fund and schoolhouse fund bills totaling \$79,687.04
- o Contracts and resignations approved:
 1. Cathy Weuve has submitted her letter of resignation/retirement effective for the end of the school year. The board would like to thank her for her many years of service.

Motion carried 4y-0n.

4. PUBLIC FORUM none

5. COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS Written reports were given to the board from the three administrators. Superintendent Ellingson told the board of upcoming events: April 22 is senior portfolio night; April 29th is staff recognition; and CMB communications and joint meetings dates are still being established. He also informed the board on the progress being made with the Facilities Improvement Committee. They are meeting the 2nd and 4th Monday's of each month. Minutes and also all information that the committee has requested are posted on the district website.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF REVISION OF GRADE POINT AVERAGE POLICIES Seth Balke and Counselor Jessica Allen approached the board about maybe changing the weighting of difficult classes taken off site that a few students are taking in order to earn enough credits for the honors diploma. Because these high achieving students deserved the honors diploma the credit values for challenging classes were changed a few years ago. This change affected the GPA of higher credit classes more drastically and provided a disincentive to students to take higher level classes. The board was asked to revert back to the previous GPA system of giving every class, including DMACC classes, 1.0 HS credits. By reverting back to the previous scale and rewarding students for taking challenging classes, the school district will be allowing its students to be rewarded academically by challenging themselves. The board requested that the counselor draft a document of the changes to be included in the student handbook next year.

B. NATIONAL AMERICORPS WEEK PRESENTATION BY ELAINE MOHR Elaine Mohr explained to the board about her work with AmeriCorps to support literacy learning in the elementary. In Iowa, 23% of third grade students are not proficient at reading. Research has documented that after third grade, students' transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Elaine was hired by AmeriCorps to serve eleven months as a member and a Iowa Reading Corps Literacy Tutor. Her goal is to help Collins-Maxwell K-3rd grade students become successful readers by the end of the third grade. She is working one-on-one with 15 students for 20 minutes a day at the Collins Elementary. She will also be at the Maxwell Library for a six week tutor program this summer. The board thanked for her time and her service to the elementary school.

C. APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF SPORTS SHARING AGREEMENT-GIRLS SOCCER AND

GOLF By a motion from Boege, seconded by Caple, approval was given to maintain girls' soccer with CMB, Colo-Nesco and West Marshall for the 2015-16 school year. Motion carried 4y-0n. For golf, we have to participate in class 3A and even with sharing with Colo-Nesco we are unable to find a coach or anyone to transport our golfers to Colo nor enough athletes so that makes it an extreme cost per athlete participating sport. The board directed the Athletic director to look at maybe another coop option and report back to them at the next meeting.

D. APPROVAL OF ADDITION OF BOYS SOCCER With a motion by Boege, seconded by Caple, the board approved the addition of JV Boys soccer next spring with CMB, Colo-Nesco and West Marshall. Motion carried 4y-0n.

E. APPROVAL OF 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR Caple motioned, Boege seconded, a motion to accept the 2015-16 school calendar with knowing changes may be made depending on the decisions of the legislature or the Department of Education. Motion carried 4y-0n.

F. APPROVE REVISION OF POLICIES 406.5 AND 412.3 TO ADDRESS AFFORDABLE CARE ACT PROVISIONS The Iowa School Board Association has provided new employee policies related to the Affordable Care Act. These changes in the policies are related to guaranteed benefits, which are based on the number of full-time employees. The school has more than 50 full-time employees, and we do have a guaranteed policy so we are in compliance of these new policies. Motion by Plunkett, second by Boege, to adopt the revised policies and waive the second reading. Motion carried 4y-0n.

G. APPROVAL OF MODIFIED SUPPLEMENTAL AID FOR DROPOUT PREVENTION Motion by Boege, second by Caple, to approve the application for Dropout Prevention Funds in the amount of \$18,874 to support our dropout program at the middle school and high school. Motion carried 4y-0n.

H. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE MS/HS BUILDING IN MAXWELL The superintendent discussed this agenda item in the Communication Reports.

6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED NEXT MONTH Potential facility improvements at the MS-HS building in Maxwell, golf, revision of grade point average policy and proposed budget for 2015-2016.

7. ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Caple, second by Boege, to adjourn the board meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried 4y-0n.

NEXT MEETING The next regular meeting and budget hearing will be April 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Maxwell Library. The date of the regular meeting has been moved up a week to have the proposed budget hearing before the budget due date of April 15th.

Bonnie Mitchell
Board Secretary