

**GOBLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION OPEN MEETING
MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 11, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

1. Board President, Bonnie Miller, opened the Regular Board of Education Open Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary Art Room.

2. Attendance
 - a. Board Members Present
Bonnie Miller
Brian Beam
Paula Sipes
Dan Wahmhoff
Terry Doyle
Mitch Smith

 - b. Board Members Absent
Gary Napp

 - c. Staff Members Present
Jeff Rehlander, Superintendent/Business Manager
Phil McAndrew, Middle/High School Principal/Director of Transportation
Chris Miller, Dean of Student/Athletic Director/Director of Facilities
Terry Breen, Elem. Principal/Food Service/District Grants and Reports
Damian Koob, Director of Technology and Data Management

 - d. Others Present
Visitors – 10
Press - 1

3. There was one deletion to the agenda. Under New Business, Item #2, School Safety Policies 8400, 8410, 8420 were deleted. Safety Polices are for review only and do not require Board action.

4. Mr. Wahmhoff moved, supported by Mrs. Sipes, to approve the Agenda as amended. Roll call vote:
AYES: Beam, Miller, Sipes, Smith, Doyle, Wahmhoff
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Napp
ABSTAINED: None
The motion was declared adopted.

5. Mr. Doyle moved, supported by Mr. Beam, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Open Meeting of October 14, 2013, as presented.
Roll call vote:
AYES: Wahmhoff, Doyle, Smith, Sipes, Miller, Beam
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Napp
ABSTAINED: None
The motion was declared adopted.

6. Correspondence – Mr. Rehlander called the Board’s attention to a flyer given to them and inviting them to the Scholastic Book Fair being held in the MS/HS Library this week.

7. The meeting was opened to the public for non-agenda items. Mrs. Andi Dalton, Gobles bus driver, spoke for the bus drivers. The bus drivers wanted the Board to be aware of some bus driver concerns, which a list of those concerns was given to Board President, Bonnie Miller. Mrs. Miller informed Mrs. Dalton that the Board would review their list of concerns and get back with her to set up a meeting with the appropriate committee.

8. Board of Education Reports
 - a. Mr. Breen had nothing to add to his report, but responded to Board questions.
 - b. Mr. Miller congratulated the Girls Volleyball team for winning Districts. He informed the Board that we play West Michigan Catholic at Schoolcraft tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. He informed the Board that some of our outdoor lights are out again. Maintenance is working on a way to correct this problem and he will keep the Board informed.
 - c. Mr. McAndrew had nothing to add his report, but answered Board questions.
 - d. Mr. Koob advised the Board that the front Digital Marquee has been fixed and it looks great.
 - e. Mr. Rehlander announced that today was Veterans Day and he thanked all veterans very much for their service. He advised the Board that with snowflakes in the air he wanted them to know we are prepared for snow duty. Mr. Miller and Mr. Burza will be checking the roads and making phone calls to make sure the roads are safe. Mr. Rehlander wanted to speak about how successful the First Annual Wellness event was. The thanked Jodi Winne, the Wellness Committee, sponsors, the City of Gobles and volunteers for making this happen. He also thanked McKenzie Pennell for letting us share her story. Mr. Rehlander advised the Board that he would like to have two Personnel Committee Meetings and three Finance Committee meetings prior to Christmas Break. He will get with Board President, Bonnie Miller, to schedule these meetings. He also informed the Board that there is a MASA Region VII Legislative Breakfast

scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2013 and he would like to have a Board member attend this breakfast with him. Let Mr. Rehlander know if you would be interested in attending.

9. Mr. Smith reported that the Policy Committee met on October 29, 2013. Jennifer Chandler and Wyatt Brown were there to review the Safety Policies with the Committee. Conversation went back and forth and a lot of good information was brought up, which will be used further. NEOLA Policies were reviewed by the Committee where they spent some time on the Harassment Policy as there were questions on the interpretation of the policy and where the duty should rest.
10. Mr. Beam moved, supported by Mr. Doyle, to accept the resignation from Randy Ayres as Gobles Varsity Baseball coach, effective immediately. Roll call vote:
AYES: Doyle, Wahmhoff, Beam, Miller, Smith, Sipes
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Napp
ABSTAINED: None
The motion was declared adopted.
11. A first reading of NEOLA Policies 0140, 1400, 1630.01, 1662, 2431.01, 3362, 3430.01, 4162, 4362, 4430.01, 5517, 5517.01, 6107, 6420, 6470, 6520, 8120, 8142, 8390, 8405, and 9160 was done at tonight's Board meeting with action to be taken at the next regular Board meeting. Mr. Rehlander called the Boards' attention to Policy 6520 and pointed out changes for them to make. The Board was asked to keep their copies of these policies for next month's meeting. No action was necessary.
12. Mr. Breen reported on the Great Start Readiness program informing the Board that we now have 16 full time students enrolled in this four year old pre-school program. Each student counts as 1 FTE and each FTE is funded at \$7,250. He explained that we will receive 11 monthly payments from the ISD. There are additional required costs associated with the program including an ISD Administrative fee of \$5,800, fees for Early Childhood Specialist, food services fees and professional memberships. He praised Mrs. Lower and Mrs. Kahl for the wonderful job they do in the classroom.
13. Mr. Breen reported on the Before and After School Program. He informed the Board that the BASE program has been a success. He has received a lot of positive feedback from parents of students enrolled in the program. We currently have 24 students enrolled in the program – average attendance in the morning (6:30-7:50) has been 5-7 students and in the afternoon (3:15-6:00) is 14-16 students. Financially, we are close to breaking even, but the goal was

to provide a service to the community and not necessarily to make a profit. We feel this program is a drawing tool to get more students to come to Gobles and the program should expand.

14. Mr. Breen reported on the 8-Step Instructional Process at the elementary explaining that this fall we fully implemented the 8-Step Process at each grade level. Our daily schedule was changed to include additional instructional time for English Language Arts and Math. Teachers are putting a lot of effort into this program. There are a lot of challenges and learning taking place on the part of staff and students. We will continue to monitor and adjust our organization, materials, strategies, and lesson focus to move forward to raise student achievement. Our staff has made a commitment and is excited to move forward with this program while realizing the time and effort it will take to make this program a success.
15. Mr. McAndrew reported on the STEM Program and updated the Board on the future plans being made to make this a reality. He informed the Board that on November 21, 2013 Tonya Schuitmaker will introduce Lt. Governor Brian Calley to speak to our students in an assembly to promote the governor's initiative of the importance of STEM programming in public school. The theme of the assembly will be "Catch the Spark". We will also have a past student graduate speak about his past experiences with math and science when he was a student at Gobles and how this prepared him for a successful career as an engineer. Mr. McAndrew will speak about the good and unique things that we have to offer students who attend GHS including Mr. Lisowski's Biology Club trip every other year to the Bahamas and how GHS is the only school in the country allowed to do this. He will talk about our first ever First Robotics Team headed up at Mr. O'Neil. He will also talk about how our 6th grade academy and middle school students will have the opportunity to build and work with robots and become exposed to engineering through rotation courses next school year. Mr. McAndrew informed the Board that he is in the process of building corporate partnerships with Perrigo Company and Allegan General Hospital, which will help us and possibly lead to internships for students their senior year. There are a lot of exciting things happening with the STEM program. We have a lot of work to do including training teachers, but staff and students are excited to move forward and make this happen.
16. Mr. McAndrew reported on all the exciting things going on for our 6th Grade Academy this year. Our sixth grade students will have the opportunity to explore robotics and engineering as one of the learning experiences that we can provide for them. Students' interest in Science and Math is increasing because they are excited to be involved in building bridges and basic robots. Sixth grade students will also learn about uses for technology in the learning environment and appropriate uses for technology in and out of school. In addition, they have the opportunity to be involved in band, success period, and poetic and lyrical language. He informed the Board that students are excited to have Mrs. Tubergan back from her maternity leave and she

plans to continue the tradition of taking the 6th graders to Chicago. They will have the opportunity to visit Chicago and all it has to offer in the spring. Mr. McAndrew feels the 6th grade students have fit in well to this building and we are happy to have them with us.

17. Mr. McAndrew reported on the middle/High School Eight Step Process, which he explained was quite different from the elementary program as we are dealing with core subjects. The subjects identified are Pre-Algebra, Algebra, English 7 and English 10. Every four weeks a small group of students, who have been identified by their teachers in these subjects as needing additional help to gain mastery, are given this opportunity. Fifteen students attend one of these classes every day to get help for a month and then they are retested to see where they are at. Also part of the Success Class, every other teacher has the ability to identify a small number of students in their classes that would gain from having one on one or small group time with them. These students are students who have not been identified for the remediation in Pre-Algebra, Algebra, English 7 and English 10. The remaining students who have not been identified for remediation or small group help read silently, which they seem to enjoy that down time. Students are anxious to get into these classes because they see the success other students who have received the extra help have had. We feel the program is working well and we will continue to monitor and make changes if necessary.
18. Mr. Rehlander updated the Board on Safety. He explained that we learned from our recent lockdown experience that we are doing some things right and we also learned we need to improve on some things. He established a parent safety committee made up of parents who attended a recent Board meeting to talk about our lock down procedures. They reviewed the recent lockdown experience step by step and graded each building to determine strengths and weaknesses. A couple of the members of this committee met with the Board Policy Committee to address the Safety Policies currently part of our Board Policies. Mr. Rehlander and Mr. Koob have been looking at school/parent communication vehicles which include Honeywell and School Messenger. Mr. Rehlander will be meeting with building principals to take the parent input from both meetings, as well as the findings on school/parent communication to determine how we might incorporate these suggestions into our existing crisis management protocol. He will take whatever they come up with back to the parent committee.
19. Mr. Rehlander reviewed with the Board the progress that has been made on Facility/Security/Technology Project. This began when the Board approved going forward with this project, selecting professional services for the project and identifying a steering committee to help plan the project. The Steering Committee has met September 26, September 30 and every Wednesday since. Susan Dalton and Tom Saylor are co-chairs of the committee and Rick Beam and Clark Clement have been identified as financial advisors. We have gone a

long way in a short time and Mr. Rehlander and the Committee are excited to report their progress at a Special Board meeting on November 25, 2013.

20. Mr. Rehlander reported on a Branding/Marketing Initiative Plan for 2013-2014. The concept started with our first branding/marketing plan that we implemented late spring and summer with our brochure, which was sent to residents of neighboring school districts. The ISD group of Superintendent's felt this kind of marketing was inappropriate and voted unanimously not to allow this type of advertising to take place from here forward. Legitimate things we could do would be radio/TV advertising, Advertiser and our HomeLink newsletter. A District Branding/Marketing Committee was formed and has developed a branding/marketing initiative for 2013-2014 that involves partnerships with Cosy 103.7 Radio as well as WWMT Television Channel 3/CW7. The Committee met with the radio station and Mr. Rehlander explained what would be involved and also the cost involved. The Board had many questions and requested more information.

21. Mr. Wahmhoff moved, supported by Mrs. Sipes to table the 2013-2014 Branding Marketing Initiation until the December 9th Board meeting. Roll call vote:
AYES: Smith, Sipes, Miller, Beam, Wahmhoff, Doyle
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Napp
ABSTAINED: None
The motion was declared adopted.

22. Mr. Beam moved, supported by Mr. Wahmhoff, to pay November General Fund Board bills in the amount of \$130,440.55, as presented. Roll call vote:
AYES: Sipes, Smith, Doyle, Wahmhoff, Beam, Miller
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Napp
ABSTAINED: None
The motion was declared adopted.

23. Mr. Wahmhoff moved, supported by Beam, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was declared adopted.

24. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

