

**GOBLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION OPEN MEETING  
MINUTES FOR MAY 12, 2014  
7:00 P.M.**

1. Board Vice President, Bonnie Miller, opened the Regular Board of Education Open Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle/High School Library.
  
2. Attendance
  - a. Board Members Present  
Paula Sipes  
Bonnie Miller  
Dan Wahmhoff  
Gary Napp  
Terry Doyle
  
  - b. Board Members Late Arrival  
Brian Beam (Arrived 7:22 p.m.)  
Mitch Smith (Arrived 7:15 p.m.)
  
  - c. Board Members Absent  
None
  
  - d. Staff Members Present  
Jeff Rehlander, Superintendent  
Phil McAndrew, Middle/High School Principal-Transportation Director  
Terry Breen, Elem. Principal-Food Service-District Grants and Reports  
Damian Koob, Director of Technology and Data Management
  
  - e. Others Present  
Visitors - 6  
Press - 0
  
3. Mr. Wahmhoff moved, supported by Mr. Doyle, to approve the Agenda as presented. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Miller, Napp, Doyle, Wahmhoff, Sipes  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Beam, Smith  
ABSTAINED: None  
The motion was declared adopted.
  
4. Mr. Wahmhoff moved, supported by Mr. Doyle, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Open meeting of April 14, 2014, as presented. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Sipes, Wahmhoff, Doyle, Napp, Miller  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Beam, Smith  
ABSTAINED: None  
The motion was declared adopted.

5. Correspondence – Mr. Rehlander shared with the Board correspondence he received from the State of Michigan. The State of Michigan distributed a list of Districts eligible for Section 22J, Performance Based funding. Gobles was one of the districts eligible to receive the funding because of the high school achievement in reading. In 2014-2015 we will receive \$70.00 per pupil compared to \$40.00 per pupil in 2013-2014.
6. The meeting was opened to the public for non-agenda items.
  - Mr. Lowie van Staveren, teacher-coach, congratulated the Board, Administration and the Go Forward Committee for a successful bond vote. He read a letter signed by numerous supporters who look forward to moving forward and accomplishing the goals of GPS together.
  - Lee Abernathy, Gobles bus driver, voiced his concerns about the way our bus drivers are made to feel. He wanted the Board to understand that he was speaking only for himself when he ask the Board why anyone would want to drive bus for Gobles, as other schools offer more hours, benefits, and higher pay. The answer was the loyalty our bus drivers have to our school and our students. He asked that the Board and Administration work on their communication with bus drivers and start making them feel that their job is important and respected.
  - Pam Westcott advised the Board that her AP students would be taking exams this week and ask the Board for their thoughts and prayers.
7. Administrative Reports
  - a. Mr. Breen added to his report by informing the Board that end of the year Awards Ceremony would be held June 9, 2014.
  - b. Mr. Koob informed the Board that the Attorney General’s Office would be putting on a cyber-safety program for Gobles students K-8 on Thursday, May 15 during the day and invited Board members to attend the Thursday evening presentation in the Middle School gymnasium. He informed the Board that as of last Tuesday, the Technology upgrade is underway and it will be a busy summer.
  - c. Mr. McAndrew had nothing to add to his report.
  - d. Mr. Rehlander informed the Board that the Finance Committee is scheduled to meet Monday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m. to further discuss the 2014-15 budget. We will hold a Special meeting Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to review and discuss the 2014-2015 budget with the whole Board. He also advised the Board that the end of the year P.R.I.D.E. celebration will be held June 12 from 1:00-2:00 where we will announce P.R.I.D.E. Teachers of the Year, introduce Educational Hero’s, acknowledge Years of Service and recognize retirees. Mr. Rehlander informed the Board that he has received 15 applications for the Superintendent’s Office Administrative Assistant position. We advertised for two positions but everyone applied for the one position and no one applied for the second position, therefore we will be going with only one

position at this time. And we included only one position in the 2014-15 budget that was developed. We will be setting up interviews this week.

8. Board of Education Reports

- a. Mr. Smith reported that the Policy Committee met on April 30, 2014 to review NEOLA policies concerning non-discrimination. There were a couple questions the committee asked Mr. Rehlander for clarification on regarding the age students have to be to enter Kindergarten, who has to be fingerprinted and who pays for the criminal history check. Mr. Rehlander checked into these questions and had answers for the Board.
- b. Mr. Wahmhoff reported that the Finance Committee and Administrators met on May 6, 2014 to discuss and plan for the 2014-15 budget.
- c. Regarding budget information Mr. Rehlander wanted to review a little history with the Board for the record. He had an article from M-Live dated March 28, 2012, which referenced the school board meeting the night before where former Superintendent Tom Saylor laid out a budget for the 2012-13 school year showing a projected revenue of 6.3 million and expenditures of 6.9 million leaving a deficit of \$644,800 and a projected fund balance of \$383,645. Mr. Saylor suggested that all employees take a 10% across the board pay cut to address this financial situation. The Board decided to hold off making that decision preferring to wait until the new Superintendent was on board. Two or three months after Mr. Rehlander took over as Superintendent he presented the Board with a budget that would erase approximately \$500,000 from the deficit. This budget was not approved by the Board and \$249,960 was added back into the budget. On May 6, with the direction, parameters and guidelines from the Finance Committee, Mr. Rehlander presented a projected balanced budget to the Board with a 13.79% fund balance with no staff layoffs. He pointed out that in the last two years the \$650,000 deficit has disappeared, which he felt is a lot to be proud of. Mr. Beam added for the record that the budget process this year is a month ahead of where we were last year.

9. Mrs. Miller moved, supported by Mr. Napp, to approve the resolution calling the annual election to be held Tuesday, August 5, 2014, as presented. Roll call vote:

AYES: Napp, Beam, Sipes, Wahmhoff, Doyle, Smith, Miller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

The motion was declared adopted.

10. Mr. Wahmhoff moved, supported by Mrs. Miller, to approve the proposed school calendar for the 2014-15 school year as presented. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Beam, Sipes, Wahmhoff, Doyle, Miller, Smith, Napp  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
The motion was declared adopted.
  
11. A first reading of NEOLA Board Policies 0130, 1422, 1619.01, 1619.02, 1623, 2260, 2260.01, 2370.01, 3121, 3122, 3123, 3419.01, 3419.02, 4121, 4122, 4123, 4419.01, 4419.02, 5112, 5330.01, 5517, 8142, 8321, and 8420 was done at tonight's Board meeting. Action will be taken at the next regular Board meeting.
  
12. Mrs. Miller moved, supported by Mr. Smith to approve granting 3<sup>rd</sup> year probation to Rebecca Kunselman beginning the 2014-15 school year. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Sipes, Wahmhoff, Doyle, Miller, Smith, Napp, Beam  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
The motion was declared adopted.
  
13. Mr. Doyle moved, supported by Mr. Wahmhoff to accept the letter of resignation from Bonnie Bailey Edwards as the Superintendent's Secretary effective June 30, 2014 with thanks for her 30 years of service. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Wahmhoff, Doyle, Miller, Smith, Napp, Beam, Sipes  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
The motion was declared adopted.
  
14. BOND UPDATE – Mr. Rehlander thanked the Board for their leadership in preparing for the bond vote. He reviewed the process the Board, Administration and the Steering committee went through to bring a vote for the bond to the community. He added that we have a lot of work ahead of us to meet our goals. He will present a more comprehensive report at the next regular Board meeting.
  
15. MARKETING CAMPAIGN INFORMATION – A team of teachers and administrators have come together as a committee to develop a campaign to share all the good news about Gobles in hopes of increasing student count and enrollment. Chris Quist presented the Board with details of what the committee has planned to get the good word about Gobles out to the public.

16. Mrs. Miller moved, supported by Mr. Doyle, to move into closed session based on section 8(c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268 for negotiation planning. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Miller, Doyle, Wahmhoff, Smith, Beam, Napp, Sipes  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
The motion was declared adopted.
17. The Board moved into closed session at 7:54 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:41 p.m.
18. Mrs. Miller moved, supported by Mr. Wahmhoff, to approve the minutes as read in closed session. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Doyle, Wahmhoff, Smith, Beam, Napp, Sipes, Miller  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
The motion was declared adopted.
19. Mr. Wahmhoff moved, supported by Mr. Doyle, to pay April General Fund Board bills in the amount of \$143,422.50, as presented. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Wahmhoff, Smith, Beam, Napp, Sipes, Miller, Doyle  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
The motion was declared adopted.
20. Mrs. Miller moved, supported by Mr. Wahmhoff, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was declared adopted.
21. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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Paula Sipes, Secretary  
Gobles Board of Education