

MINUTES
CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 14, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Phoebe Moore, Vice President, in the Caro Middle School Media Center.

Pledge of Allegiance – Moment of Silence

Roll Call: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore, Skelton

Absent: Gomez

Also Present: Branding, Bitzer, Bringard, Moyer, LaBerge, Hess, Weijola, Dwyer, Chapelo, Henry

II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by McComb, supported by Brunet, to approve the July 10, 2023 minutes, as written.

Ayes: Curtis, Holder, McComb, Skelton, Brunet, Moore

Motion carried.

2. Approval of Bills:

Moved by Holder, supported by Skelton, to approve the bills as follows:

Payroll: \$1,123,236.29

General Fund: \$199,179.00

Food Service: \$28.32

Total: \$1,322,443.61

Ayes: Holder, McComb, Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Moore

Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

IV. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Capturing Kids Heart:

Capturing Kids Hearts was brought to the Board to consider renewing the district wide implementation for the 2023-24 school year.

2. 2023-24 Handbooks:

The 2023-24 handbook updates were provided to the Board for their review.

3. Finance Auditor Firm:

A new contract with Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt and Doran, P.C. for financial audit services for 2023, 2024 and 2025 was presented to the Board for consideration and review.

4. Institute for Excellence in Education:

The Institute for Excellence in Education contract was presented to the Board for renewal, with the recommendation to mirror the 2022-23 contract to provide additional days of coaching to the teaching staff for the 2023-24 school year. The Board had the opportunity for their questions to be answered.

5. Solar Energy Partnership:

Two buildings, Caro High School and Schall Elementary, purchase their energy through Michigan School Energy Cooperative (MISEC), who has offered an opportunity for member school districts to participate in a green energy program. It would allow a portion of energy to be purchased through a solar facility being constructed in the Flint area. The Board had the opportunity to discuss and have their questions answered.

V. TOPICS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION:

1. Moved by McComb, supported by Skelton, to approve the purchase of Capturing Kids Hearts as a district wide program for the 2023-24 school year for \$46,600.00, as presented.

Ayes: McComb, Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Moore

Motion carried.

2. Moved by Brunet, supported by Curtis, to approve the school building handbooks for the 2023-24 school year, as presented.

Ayes: Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore

Motion carried.

3. Moved by Holder, supported by Brunet, to approve Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran, P.C. as the district's financial auditor firm for 2023, 2024, and 2025, as presented.
Ayes: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Skelton, Moore
Motion carried.
4. Moved by Brunet, supported by McComb, to approve the Institute for Excellence in Education contracts for the 2023-2024 school year for \$43,100.00, as presented.
Ayes: McComb, Skelton, Brunet
Nays: Curtis, Holder, Moore
Motion failed.
5. Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve that Caro Community Schools work through MISEC to enter into a 15 year Power Purchase Agreement for 65% of the districts' annual electricity usage with NorthStar Clean Energy at a fixed rate not to exceed \$0.075/kWh for the generation and delivery of solar electricity, with commercial operation expected to begin in June, 2025.
Ayes: Holder, McComb, Skelton, Curtis, Moore
Nays: Brunet
Motion carried.
6. Moved by Curtis, supported by Skelton, to approve the resignations of Alex Herman as IT Technician, Kraig Houthoofd as High School English Teacher, Joel Brinkman as Middle School Math Teacher, and Zach Helm as Middle School Physical Ed Teacher, with best wishes.
Ayes: McComb, Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Moore
Motion carried.
7. Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to approve the hire of Cole Romzek as High School Physical Education and Health Teacher, Elisabeth Lennox as High School and Middle School Art Teacher, Rochelle Holloway as High School English Teacher, and Shane Hood as Middle School Special Education Teacher, effective the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.
Ayes: Skelton, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore
Motion carried.
8. Moved by Holder, supported by Curtis, to approve the request of unpaid leave of absence for the 2023-2024 school year for McComb Counselor, Brian Bennett, and High School Special Education Teacher, Stefanie Eyer.
Ayes: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Skelton, Moore
Motion carried.

VI. BUILDING REPORTS:

The Board received updates from administration and had an opportunity to ask questions.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Rierson shared a brief update on the district's capital improvement project and the upcoming focus panels and surveys used to collect insight. Over the summer there was a restorative practice training and a math curriculum alignment training for the teachers, behavioral analysis technique training for the paraprofessionals, as well as the training for students at a summer leadership camp, and Where Everyone Belongs mentor training. These sessions provided a great learning experience for all of the staff and students that participated and shows the commitment to continuous improvement across the district. Superintendent Rierson shared his appreciation for the parents and staff that were willing to help with the WNEM TV5 commercial ad that was recently out for viewing. He thanked all of the staff that worked over the summer (maintenance, custodian, grounds, technology, bus mechanics, and central office staff) and all they did to prepare for the staff and students return to school. He also thanked all who participated in the Stuff a Blue Goose event and expressed his excitement for the all of the new staff that will be joining the district team for the new school year.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS:

McComb: Mr. McComb thanked all of those in the district and community for their contribution to the Fill the Blue Goose event that collected school supplies and thanked those that have helped to distribute the donations.

Skelton: Mrs. Skelton asked for clarification on teaching certificates.

Curtis: Mrs. Curtis asked if the district was fully staffed for the coming school year.

IX. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:

Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to go to closed session at 8:59 PM for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Ayes: Curtis, Holder, McComb, Skelton, Brunet, Moore

Motion carried.

Skelton left the meeting at 8:59 PM

Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to end the closed session at 10:19 PM and return to open session in the Middle School Media Center.

Ayes: Holder, McComb, Brunet, Curtis, Moore

Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to return to open session at 10:22 PM.

Ayes: McComb, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Moore

Motion carried.

Moved by Brunet, supported by Holder, to approve the nurses' compensation as discussed in closed session.

Ayes: Brunet, Curtis, Holder, McComb, Moore

Motion carried.

Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to approve the high school principal's contract as discussed in closed session.

Ayes: Curtis, Holder, McComb, Brunet, Moore

Motion carried.

Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to approve the August 14, 2023 closed session minutes.

Ayes: Holder, McComb, Brunet, Curtis, Moore

Motion carried.

X. OTHER:


None

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 PM.

Ayes: McComb, Brunet, Curtis, Holder, Moore

Motion carried.



Brian McComb, Secretary