

**MIO AUSABLE SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 11, 2023**

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PRESENT: Hoffman, Hunter, Irelan, Long, Mitchell, Wyckoff  
ABSENT: Whaley  
ADMINISTRATION: Taylor, Ahearne, Shiffer  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Marsh  
RECORDING SECRETARY: Belanger

President Irelan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of silence to remember those lost in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.

**2023-2024-25**

Long/ Hunter to approve consent agenda items:

- a) Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 14, 2023
- b) Monthly Finance

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**Bolt of the Month – None**

**TBRI Presentation** - Mrs. Beek and Mrs. Brown presented the board with information regarding their TBRI Practitioner training over the summer. The training consisted of a 10-week online course followed by a one week in person training in Grand Rapids. This special training allows Mrs. Beek and Mrs. Brown to teach others the TBRI methods. Mrs. Beek invited board members to her classroom to observe the TBRI work she is enacting with her students.

**Boiler Presentation** - Mr. Lewis presented the board with information regarding needed boiler improvements. The school uses three large boilers to heat the main building. One heat exchanger needs to be replaced. The current boilers were installed in 2005 making them obsolete at this time.

**Community Service Presentation** - Mr. Vincent Ruchala presented the board with information regarding the need for students on probation to complete community service. Mr. Ruchala asked that these students be able to complete their service hours helping with projects at the school. Mr. Wyckoff asked if the county provides supervisors. Mr. Ruchala responded that the school would be responsible for overseeing the community service work.

**Elementary Principal's Report** – Mrs. Shiffer presented the report. Mrs. Shiffer informed the board that NWEA testing is beginning. The sensory path is getting put up. The sensory room is being used regularly. MStep family reports have gone home for third, fourth, and fifth grades. A new RN will be working with Thunderbay at the end of September. The book vending machine is being used. Mrs. Shiffer thanked PIE & G for the new Friday folders. New low decibel hand dryers have been installed in the 3-5 bathrooms. Around \$1,000 is still needed for the backpack food program. Mrs. Shiffer thanked Mrs. Thompson for her work obtaining new sanitizer buckets for every room. Mrs. Shiffer thanked the Oscoda County Road Commission for new recess vests, Family Fare for bags for the backpack food program, and Mio Lions Club for stuffed animals that were handed out at the Open House night. Mrs. Shiffer thanked Cooper Standard, Daughters of the American Revolution, and an anonymous donor for school supplies. Current enrollment is 226. September's character trait is respect.

**Middle School / High School Principal's Report** – Mr. Ahearne presented the report. Mr. Ahearne announced that NWEA testing is almost complete. Mio will be hosting a Safe Talk training on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff and students will be trained. Homecoming is scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be a parade and activities before the game. There will be a middle school back to school dance September 15<sup>th</sup>. Current enrollment is 273.

**Athletic Director's Report** – Mr. Marsh presented the athletic report. Varsity football has a 1-2 record so far. JV football won against Bay City All Saints. Varsity volleyball won the JoBurg tournament. JV volleyball placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Middle school volleyball took first place at the home tournament. JV volleyball has an upcoming tournament in Mt. Morris that would require an overnight stay. Mr. Marsh reported that there is currently a referee shortage.

**Superintendent's Report** – Mr. Taylor presented the report. Mr. Taylor reported that the initial consolidated application has been submitted on time. Mr. Taylor thanked Mrs. Long for her assistance in the submission of a community center grant. The annual audit field work is complete. A representative from Weinlander Fitzhugh will present their audit report in October or November. The strategic planning retreat will be held October 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Ahearne, Mrs. Shiffer, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Holloway for their hard work in the offices. Security screen mockups were shared with the board.

**Citizen's Comments** – Ms. K. Mitchell commented on the need for community service help. Ms. G. Mitchell inquired as to the reasoning for staff assignments and what the school is doing to retain staff. Mrs. J. Mitchell commented on the first day of school for kindergarten students and how the school communicates with parents/guardians.

**Finance Committee Report** – The finance committee did not meet.

**Policy Committee Report** – The Policy Committee did not meet.

**Safety Committee Report** – The Safety Committee did not meet.

#### Action Items

##### 2023-2024-26

Long/Hoffman

accept the resignation of Cindy McAllister, special education teacher

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion carried

##### 2023-2024-27

Mitchell/Long

accept the resignation of LaNita Olsen, paraprofessional

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion carried.

**2023-2024-28**

Hunter/Long

consider the approval of hiring Amy Mandrup-Poulsen as speech language pathologist

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion carried.

**2023-2024-29**

Long/Mitchell

consider the approval of hiring Desiree Nordstrand as K-12 art teacher

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion carried.

**2023-2024-30**

Wyckoff/Hunter

consider the approval of hiring Nikkita Ferguson in food service

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion carried.

**2023-2024-31**

Michell/Hunter

consider the approval of hiring Joseph Hooper as custodian

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion carried.

**2023-2024-32**

Long/Hoffman

consider the approval of hiring Jeanette Minard in food service

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion carried.

**2023-2024-33**

Mitchell/Long

consider the approval of hiring David Barve as paraprofessional

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion carried.

**2023-2024-34**

Hunter/Long

consider the approval of purchasing security screens for the first set of main entrance doors/windows and the elementary entrance doors/windows not to exceed \$20,000.

YES: 6  
NO: 0

Motion approved.

**2023-2024-35**

Mitchell/Hoffman

consider the approval of improvements to the boiler system not to exceed \$35,000 from the sinking fund.

YES: 6  
NO: 0

Motion approved.

**2023-2024-36**

Hunter/Long

consider the approval of the order in which sinking fund expenditures are made(entrance security and parking lot) First: Entrance Security Second: Parking Lot

YES: 6  
NO: 0

Motion approved.

**2023-2024-37**

Mitchell/Wyckoff

consider the approval of an overnight trip for the Girls' JV Volleyball team to go to Mr. Morris for a weekend volleyball tournament from September 23 – September 24. Expenses to be covered by the volleyball team.

YES: 6  
NO: 0

Motion approved.

**Board Members' Comments** – Mrs. Ireland asked which positions are still open. Mr. Taylor responded that there are still openings for a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and MS/HS math/science teacher. Mr. Wyckoff asked the board to consider who is involved in staffing interviews and to consider board members being included. Mrs. Mitchell asked if the kindergarteners' first day issues had been solved. Mr. Taylor responded that policies are changing and issues are being resolved.

**Correspondence -** None

There was no other business.

2023-2024-38  
Mitchell/Hunter

to adjourn at 7:05 pm

YES: 6  
NO: 0

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Belanger, Recording Secretary



Todd Wyckoff, Board Secretary

