

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF
CASTON SCHOOL CORPORATION**

January 17, 2024

6:30 P.M.

Board President, Beth Howard, called the January 17, 2024, meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 6:30 P.M. Present were board members: Mrs. Cristie Rans, Mr. Jeff Smith, Mr. Chad Boldry, and Mr. Roger Byrum. Also present were Superintendent, Mrs. Angela Miller, Corporation Attorney, Mrs. Lauren Adley, Jr-Sr High Principal, Mr. Chuck Evans, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Gina Hierlmeier, Elementary Principal, Ms. Jennifer Lukens, Director of Guidance/CCTA President, Ms. Anita Doan, Corporation Treasurer, Mrs. Elaine Sutton, and Administrative Assistant, Ms. Colleen Diveley.

Celebrations: The elementary school held their annual spelling bee today. Kent Hinderlider placed first for the fifth grade and Olivia Robinson took second place. The fourth-grade winner was Ketni Gibson. The Caston Lady Comets are the 2024 HNAC champions. Livian Wilburn competed in the IHSGW semi-state competition on January 5, 2024. She was defeated in the first round but made quite a showing for Caston! Congratulations on her accomplishments! The Cass County Roosters Charitable Foundation donated funds to help clear outstanding meal accounts for Caston students.

Staff Spotlight: Elementary teacher and Varsity Soccer Coach, Nars Sanchez, is in the Spotlight for January. Mr. Sanchez was nominated by students who said he made them feel like a leader, he is a caring person, and "because he makes people want to come to school to see him and have a nice conversation and have fun with him." Congratulations Mr. Sanchez!

Public Comment Regarding Advertised Items: None

Consent Agenda: Cristie Rans moved, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

- a. Approve minutes of the 1-3-24 Annual Reorganization Meeting, and the Board of Finance Meeting
- b. Presentation and review of claims
- c. Resignations/Retirement:
 1. David James - Custodian
 2. Karen Byrum - Special Education Teacher
 3. Scott Wilburn - Assistant Wrestling Coach
- e. Employment Recommendations:
 1. Sam Duvall, Assistant Wrestling (from volunteer to paid)
 2. Jeremy Rentschler, Head HS Boys Golf Coach
 3. Jessica Rentschler, HS Volunteer Assistant Golf Coach
 4. Chuck Evans, Boys HS Volunteer Golf Coach
 5. Rick Phelps, JH Co-ed Golf
 6. Blake Mollenkopf, Head HS Baseball Coach
 7. Nick Stuber, Co Assistant HS Baseball Coach
 8. Steve Young, Co Assistant HS Baseball Coach
 9. Joey Spin, Assistant HS Baseball Volunteer Coach
 10. Dan Miller, Assistant HS Baseball Volunteer Coach
 11. Trey Young, Assistant HS Baseball Volunteer Coach
 12. Brandon Kinser, JH Baseball Coach
 13. Tayt Cowell, JH Baseball Coach
 14. Blair Zimmerman, Head Track Coach

15. Jon Burks, Head HS Softball Coach
16. Samantha Schanlaub, Assistant HS Softball Coach
17. Greg Zimpleman, Volunteer Assistant HS Softball Coach
18. Kinzie Mollenkopf, Volunteer Assistant HS Softball Coach
19. Maci Brown, Volunteer Assistant HS Softball Coach
20. Alanie Hipsher, JH Softball Coach
21. Vance Monical, JH Softball Coach
22. Matt Hipsher, Volunteer Assistant JH Softball Coach
23. Linda Rock, Cafeteria
24. Sharon Nethercutt, Cafeteria

f. Presentation and review of December 2023 Treasurer's Report and Revenue Report

Unanimous 5-0

Old Business: None

New Business Jeff Smith moved, seconded by Roger Byrum to grant approval for Blake Mollenkopf and Nick Stuber to attend IHSAA Baseball Coaches Association on January 18-19, 2024, Indianapolis, Indiana

Unanimous 5-0

Cristie Rans moved, seconded by Chad Boldry to grant approval for Elaine Sutton to attend the Four-Day IASBO Budget Workshop on February 21-22, 2024, and March 12-13, 2024, in Plainfield, Indiana

Unanimous 5-0

Roger Byrum moved, seconded by Jeff Smith to grant approval for Elaine Sutton to attend the IASBO Treasurer Workshop on March 6-7, 2024, and April 3-4, 2024, in Plainfield, Indiana

Unanimous 5-0

Cristie Rans moved, seconded by Chad Boldry to grant approval for Angie Miller, Elaine Sutton, and April Oberkrom to attend the 79th Annual IASBO Annual Meeting on May 8-10, 2024, in French Lick, Indiana

Unanimous 5-0

Other Business: None

Reports/Information:

ECA monthly financial report (Dec. 2023)

Principal's Report

Ms. Lukens reported the End of the Nine Weeks awards were handed out last week to the elementary students. Due to weather extremes, Caston had its first couple of days of remote learning. Both elementary and high schools reported exceptionally good attendance for this. The senior class had a 98% attendance rate for remote learning. Gina Hierlmeier and Shelly Sarver recently attended SAT Bootcamp Training. This is a program Caston will implement to help our students prepare for the SAT testing taking place March 13, 2024. Some upcoming events mentioned are the Senior's Chicken & Noodle Dinner fundraiser on January 26th, and the Varsity Girls' Basketball Sectional at South Newton. Caston will play Pioneer for the first game.

Superintendent Report:

Mrs. Miller reported some initial statistics on the E-bus’s first month of use. So far, it has used 910 KW hours and has cost approximately twenty cents a mile to drive for the first month’s use. She let the board know she attended the second Cass County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting, and that Fulton County will be holding their first meeting later this month. The Off Campus Evacuation Plan has been completed. The principals, Mr. Lowe, Officer Wilburn, Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Paschen have been key in working on the plan. Early Literacy Grant Funds (2022-23) for Caston staff of grades K-3 received \$6743.36 for performance on the IREAD3 Reading assessment. Mrs. Miller worked with Mrs. Doan, (union) and HR to identify staff for the stipend funds. Mrs. Miller gave a shout out to Treasurer, Elaine Sutton, for her work getting Caston’s appropriations numbers where they need to be. A year ago, the state changed a lot of appropriation numbers. Changing this was very tedious work, but very needed. The April 8th Eclipse and the effect of that on the school day was mentioned. The possibility of making that a remote learning day was discussed. January is School Board Appreciation Month-as a thank you to the board members, there were individual insulated tumblers filled with chocolates at each member’s seat.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment:

The Annual FFA Hog Roast will be held in the high school ag shop on February 23, 2024.

There will be a school board training on February 7, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the Bruce E Cress Boardroom of the Caston Administration Building.

The next regular board meeting will be held February 21, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. in the Bruce E Cress Boardroom of the Caston Administration Building.

The annual board retreat will be held March 7, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the Bruce E Cress Boardroom of the Caston Administration Building.

Adjournment: Jeff Smith moved, seconded by Chad Boldry that the regular meeting be adjourned at 6:54 P.M.

Unanimous 5-0

CASTON BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

