

MINUTES
CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 10, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Brian McComb, Vice President, in the Caro Middle School Media Center.

Pledge of Allegiance – Moment of Silence

Roll Call: Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer

Absent: Gomez

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

II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Curtis, supported by Sawyer, to approve the January 13, 2025 minutes, as written.

Ayes: Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Sawyer, Curtis, McComb

Motion carried.

2. Approval of Bills:

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

Payroll: \$1,104,011.39

General Fund: \$519,134.35

Food Service: \$80,948.31

Total: \$1,704,094.05

Ayes: Hart, Holder, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, McComb

Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chris Wilcox – Parent Comment

IV. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Strategic Planning:

MASB representative, Penny McWilliams provided a presentation to the Board regarding the initial stages of the strategic planning process, the different ways in which data and insight would be collected, and had a questionnaire for all present at the meeting to participate in.

2. Technology E-Rate Bids:

Bids for the 2025 E-Rate grant project were collected on January 13th and were presented for Board consideration. Grant projects included structured cabling, structured fiber cabling, fiber maintenance, and network electronics.

3. USDA Grant:

The district's application for the USDA grant was approved and was awarded a grant of \$848,462 for technology equipment. The grant agreement was presented to the Board for consideration.

4. Meet of Champions – Friend of Youth:

The Board received a list of Caro School's previous Friend of Youth honorees and were given the opportunity to discuss potential nominees for the 2025 Friend of Youth.

V. TOPICS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION:

1. Moved by Sawyer, supported by Curtis, to approve the following E-Rate Bids: for fiber maintenance from AmComm for \$12,749.27; for structured cabling from AmComm for \$50,368.00; for fiber structured cabling from AmComm for \$26,750.00; for network electronics from Vector Tech Group for \$172,525.88; for a total of \$261,152.68 in products and services, plus \$5,694.47 performance bond at a cost to the district of \$54,068.84, and E-Rate covering \$212,778.32.

Ayes: Holder, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, McComb

Motion carried.

2. Moved by Curtis, supported by Sawyer, to approve the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Agreement for a total of 848,462.00, as presented.

Ayes: Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb

Motion carried.

3. Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to table the nomination of Caro Schools' "Friend of Youth" for the 2025 Thumb Meet of Champs until the March meeting.
Ayes: Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Sawyer, McComb
Motion carried.
4. Moved by Holder, supported by Hart, to approve the hire of Dave Lester as Athletic Director, and Ryan Love as Varsity Football Coach.
Ayes: Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Sawyer, Curtis, McComb
Motion carried.
5. Moved by Holder, supported by Curtis, to approve the resignation of Greg Hollingsworth as Varsity Softball Coach, with best wishes.
Ayes: Hart, Holder, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, McComb
Motion carried.

VI. BUILDING REPORTS:

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

VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

The week of February 3rd was National School Counseling Week and Superintendent Rierson took a moment to thank all of our school counselors and for how they help our students district wide. He also thanked Matt Branding and Lindsay Bitzer for taking on some duties of the Athletic Director position while it was vacant, and thanked Pat Price for his dedication on keeping the district plowed on weekdays and weekends this winter season. He shared a brief update on the bond as we get closer to bidding the Phase I projects which include fire alarms, emergency alert system, digital clocks, and security camera systems. Bond items that continue to be discussed include the high school lockers, band instrument lockers, Schall gym auxiliary exhaust and fresh air intake units. The live tutoring services provided by Book Nook for 4-8th graders in reading and math began last week. The district will continue to monitor the Michigan State Budget updates as well as information of developments in federal education policies and changes.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS:

Curtis: Mrs. Curtis shared her excitement working with Penny McWilliams on the strategic planning process and also praised Janet Weijola and the food service department on all that they do to provide for our students.

Sawyer: Mrs. Sawyer shared that she had attended a couple MASB Winter Learning Series sessions and that it was eye opening to learn more about the current severity of cyber security.

IX. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS:

Moved by Holder, supported by Curtis, to go into closed session at 7:26 PM for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Ayes: Holder, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, McComb

Motion carried.

Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to return to open session at 8:37 PM in the Middle School Media Center.

Ayes: Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb

Motion carried.

Moved by Sawyer, supported by Curtis, to approve the February 10, 2025 closed session minutes.

Ayes: Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Sawyer, McComb

Motion carried.

X. OTHER:

A Special Board Meeting was scheduled for February 24, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Board members Curtis, Holder and Sawyer volunteered to help plan the Spring Countywide Board of Ed Dinner hosted by Caro Community Schools this year.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Holder, supported by Curtis, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM.

Ayes: Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Sawyer, Curtis, McComb

Motion carried.


Kathleen Curtis, Secretary