

**MINUTES**  
**CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**April 14, 2025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

Pledge of Allegiance – Moment of Silence

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

Also Present: Branding, Bitzer, Bringard, Warren, Johnson, Lester, Chapelo, Weijola, Dwyer, Henry

**II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve the March 10, 2025 minutes, as written.

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

Motion carried.

2. Approval of Bills:

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

Payroll: \$1,516,688.01

General Fund: \$516,356.70

Food Service: \$133,204.47

Total: \$2,166,249.18

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

Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

**IV. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Budget Revisions:

Collin Henry, Caro School Business Manager, presented information on revisions for the revised 2024-25 budget and answered Board questions.

2. USDA Grant Purchases:

Upon notice of receiving the USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant, an advisory committee of teachers from each building and the Technology Director collaborated on the equipment to purchase through the grant. The Board received material to consider and discuss the items recommended to purchase in the first phase of the grant including teacher laptops, docking stations and document cameras.

3. 2024 Bond Project Bid Pack 1:

Bids for Bid Pack 1 items including PA, bell, and clock systems as well as fire alarm systems were collected by Spence Brothers and provided to the Board for consideration.

4. MHSAA Cooperative:

Cass City High School requested a MHSAA Cooperative Agreement with Caro High School for boys and girls tennis programs.

5. Lexia Learning:

It was brought to the Board's attention that the District's subscription for Lexia Learning expires at the end of May. Data and feedback continues to be collected and will be shared with the Board at the May meeting.

6. NEOLA Policy 2266 – Technical Revision:

Notification from NEOLA was received on April 11<sup>th</sup> with guidance on the necessary technical correction on Policy 2266 and formal action to rescind Policy 2264. The Board was asked to consider the technical correction and questions were answered.

**V. TOPICS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION:**

1. Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve the revised 2024-2025 General Fund and Food Service budgets, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

2. Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to approve the purchase of teacher laptops and accessories through the USDA DLT Grant for a total of \$278,986.24, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

3. Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to approve the 2024 Bond Bid Pack 1 General Contract Bid from Gilmour Construction Inc for \$20,680.00, as presented.  
Ayes: McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Gomez  
Motion carried.
4. Moved by Curtis, supported by Sawyer, to approve the 2024 Bond Bid Pack 1 Electrical Bid from AmComm Inc for \$1,093,555.00, as presented.  
Ayes: Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Gomez  
Motion carried.
5. Moved by Holder, supported by Sawyer, to approve the MHSAA Cooperative Agreement with Cass City High School for boys and girls tennis to begin in the 2025-2026 seasons.  
Ayes: Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Gomez  
Motion carried.
6. Moved by McComb, supported by Sawyer, to approve the technical correction of Policy 2266 pursuant to Board Bylaw 0131.1 - Bylaws and Policies, as presented.  
Ayes: Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Gomez  
Motion carried.
7. Moved by Curtis, supported by McComb, to approve the resignation of Renee Dietrich as Middle School Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.  
Ayes: Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Gomez  
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 report about the district implementation team's continued training and the data that is reviewed to help guide decisions related to current and potentially future programs and resources. The District received notice from the ISD on April 3<sup>rd</sup> about the elimination of further funding for the Health Resource Advocate (HRA) Grant through MDHHS. The initial application of safety film on select building windows were completed over spring break and the remainder will be completed over the next couple of months. The district is excited to host this month's Spring Tuscola County School Board Dinner, welcoming Board of Education members from districts across Tuscola County. The District will continue to look into the 900 wing classroom currently used as the Black Box Theater and the possibilities for the future. The week of April 7<sup>th</sup> marked National Assistant Principals Week. Superintendent Rierson expressed the District's appreciation for the assistant principals and all that they do.

**VIII. BOARD COMMENTS:**

Holder: Mrs Holder thanked the number of administrators that attended the Chamber's Citizen of the Year event, and congratulated all of the students recognized; Molly Salgat as Junior Citizen of the Year and Junior candidates Emma Stapleton, Kaya Vrable, and Ethan Ransford.

**IX. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUBLIC COMPLAINT PER POLICY 9130 IN PURSUANT ON OMA SECTION 8(1(a)):**

Moved by Holder, supported by McComb, to go into closed session at 7:13 PM for the purpose of public complaint per Policy 9130 in pursuant on OMA Section 8(1(a)).

Ayes: Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Gomez  
Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to return to open session at 8:22 PM in the Middle School Media Center.  
Ayes: McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Gomez  
Motion carried.

Moved by Holder, supported by Sawyer, to approve the April 14, 2025 closed session minutes.  
Ayes: Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Gomez  
Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Hart, to deny the complaint, in accordance with Policy 9130, filed by Mr. Joslyn in regards to Mr. Rierson.  
Ayes: Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Gomez  
Motion carried.

**X. OTHER:**

The Board discussed the proper communication sequence when approached with concerns.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

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

Motion carried.

  
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Kathleen Curtis, Secretary