



Muskegon Heights Public Schools

2603 Leahy Street • Muskegon Heights, MI 49444 • Phone 231-830-3221 Fax 231-830-3560

AGENDA

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION
2603 LEAHY STREET
MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

CHRIST TEMPLE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Secretary's Report and Approval of Minutes
4. Action Items
5. Report from the Emergency Manager
6. From the Board
7. Concerns of Parents/Citizens and Recognition of Guests
8. Adjournment

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
of the
SCHOOL DISTRICT
of the
CITY OF MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013
6:00 PM**

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

1. **The Regular Board Meeting, Christ Temple Apostolic Church, 412 E. Sherman Boulevard, Muskegon Heights, Michigan, was called to order by President Scott at 6:04 p.m.**
2. **President Scott, instructed Secretary Brewer, to call the roll and note Board Members and Administrative Staff present.**

BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Trinell Scott, President; Mr. Franklin Brewer, Secretary, _____ Vice President; Mrs. Peggy Selmon, Treasurer; Mrs. Cassandra Kitchen, Trustee; Mrs. Marjorie Cook, Trustee; Mrs. Estelita Rankin, Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Estelita Rankin, Mrs. Cassandra Kitchen

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Dr. Donald B. Weatherspoon,
Emergency Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT:

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of **September 9, 2013**, be approved and placed on file.

M **Franklin Brewer** MOVED and m **Peggy Selmon** SECONDED the adoption of the resolution:

ROLL CALL Yes Scott Yes Brewer ABS Kitchen
Yes Selmon ABS Rankin Yes Cook

4. ACTION ITEMS

5. REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGER

Gary Britton: We are working on the transition plan; Dr. Weatherspoon is working with District Administration so when he leaves things will still keep going we will still have contracts with vendors, with educational service providers with the stuff he has set up, with regards to making sure that our testing and everything Mosaica does and PA does is sufficient to make sure the information you have is available. Dr. Weatherspoon wants to be able to transition out of here but based upon what our financial situation is that is not fixed yet. There remain substantial liabilities. So the chances are the Governor will appoint a new Emergency Manager and the new Emergency Manager will pick up where Dr. Weatherspoon left off. But what we have been trying to do with the staff that is working with Dr. Weatherspoon is to a clean transition so we can basically have a number of things in place to have a seamlessly move so he would not have any big changes. Hopefully, you will notice next school year things will have gone well with the PSA and they will still have 3 years under their contract. There will be some difficulties but with the things put in place by Dr. Weatherspoon we should be able to get over all of the bumps. Gary stated he is concerned about the whole financial situation with regards to the City of Muskegon Heights and the school district but we do not have a lot of control but there is nothing we can do about that. All we are trying to do through this process is make Muskegon Heights our sole goal. The transition is going smoothly. Dr. Weatherspoon is constantly coming up with new ideas about new and exciting things that might happen here. By next year you should see a change and hopefully students of Muskegon Heights will get much more than they have gotten in the past.

Question by Mrs. Scott: Talking about the bumps with the PSA are we still talking about the same thing we discussed in the last meeting?

Gary Britton: The first year was a little bumpy. In recent years we had issues with discipline and performance which was not necessary new problems but a new entity working with them. From the start of school this year, it looks a thousand percent better and as far as issues coming across Dr. Weatherspoon's desk, it has been really pretty good and he thinks everyone has been working together. Overall it has been pretty good. Dr. Weatherspoon thinks we are going pretty smoothly at this point.

Question by Mrs. Selmon: Why would the Governor appoint another Emergency Manager if you already have one?

Attorney Britton answered: The question is whether or not Dr. Weatherspoon would stay here. He does wish to transition. We cannot transition out because our fiscal position does not allow us to do that. We still have several millions of dollars out there although we are working on it and we have the 40 year payoff on the final debt. So for some period of time, we will have an Emergency Manager or depending on what we decide we will have sort of a committee or board to monitor us according to PA 436. However, he does not see that happening for a few years.

Dr. Weatherspoon states in regards to Mrs. Selmon's question:

- A. All emergency managers serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Under PA 436 there is an 18 month life term of an emergency manager. This board has the opportunity by 2/3 votes to say we don't want an emergency manager; we do want him or don't vote at all. If the board votes no, not to keep an emergency manager, within 10 days the board must have a plan to address the debt and if you do not have a plan to address the debt the state will appoint another emergency manager.
- B. The financial liability of the district: We have reached the debt ceiling based on the access value of the city/district. We need approximately 2 million dollars to take care of some long term debts (particular ORS) all other vendors have been restructured and stretched out over a period of time. If you have 1% increase in the revenues for the taxes (not homestead taxes) the amount it takes time to require that debt is reduced by 50%. If you have a decrease in the current revenue base of 1% you will have the same time frame which is 30 years as of today. The combine debt with the school and the debt of the high School is still about 26 million dollars.
- C. The start of school year we have focused on academic programming and deliverance of academic services and the monitoring of progress of the students. The State Department of

Education has combined efforts in terms of monitoring the oversights of the progress of students. List of resources to help debt in terms of academic are: providing consulting services to every district that has a priority school in the state. Dr. Jim Morse – from Michigan State University, Ron Schneider from the Department of Education. We are also contracting with learning.com for K-5 in math and K-2 in reading to monitor student progress as the base line of where the child is, how much progress the child is progressing and measure are for MEAP/ACT which is the only test the state uses. No results will be known until December. Mosaica has responded to concerns and has documents that they have incorporated their materials through curriculum crafter within that we can tract data, what's going on in the classroom and what teachers need to do to intervene. Through the Department of Education and the consulting from Michigan State University, we will know what intervention has occurred and what type of professional development needs to be provided to the teachers. You will not see data on individual students but you will be able to see reports. My meeting today discussed trying to eliminate disruption in classrooms with all the consulting coming in. An understanding has been established that any one designated by the Emergency Manager is allowed to enter the classroom but there will be no surprises to Mosaica.

D. The last comment about our finance, we do not have sufficient line of credit to address the operating deficit and we are still working on that.

Question from Ms. Selmon: What will make the state give us more line of credit? Is that the 1%?

Emergency Manager for example if we had more non-homestead taxable companies within the city such as another business it will increase your homestead liability. Every property owner is still paying for the debt for the High School.

6. FROM THE BOARD

7. CONCERNS OF PARENTS/CITIZENS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Doris Rucks - 343 Cross, Muskegon, MI

Joe Warren - 1413 Harvey, Muskegon, MI

William Watson - 109 East Cleveland, Muskegon Heights, MI

Joe Moore - 3359 Lemuel, Muskegon Heights, MI

Vernonell Smith - 716 Overbrook Dr., Muskegon Heights, MI

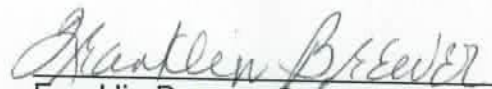
ADJOURNMENT

RESOLVED, that the Regular Board Meeting for Monday, October 7, 2013, adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

M Marjorie Cook MOVED and Peggy Selmon SECONDED the adoption of the resolution:

YEAS – 6 NAYS – 0

Respectfully submitted,


Franklin Brewer, Secretary