MARTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MARTIN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 18, 2019

THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE MARTIN BOARD OF EDUCATION, MARTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Allegan County was held in the Martin Central Office Conference Room at 1556 Chalmers St., Martin, MI on the above date.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President VandenBerg for the purpose of conducting the monthly business of the Board of Education.

Members Absent –

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Trustee Pallet led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

Other Staff Present – Samantha Ball, Dave Hardenburgh, Barb Schipper, Becky Lautenschleger, Cathy Bogdan, Nancy Monroe, Robert VandenBerg, Dr. Harnish and Chris Blauvelt

VISITORS/GUESTS – Alice Kelsey, John Edgerton, Harold Wykstra, Ike Warner, Don Rambadt, Floyd Caswell, Darcy Dozema, Bob Benedict and Austin Marsman

PUBLIC COMMENTS – The Martin Area Veterans presented the State of Michigan flag and the United States of America flag to the district, which will be placed in the new auditorium. It was also noted that this group was started about 10 years ago as they work to support the Community Memorial Park.

BUSINESS MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA:
Trustee Pillars moved, supported by Trustee Tuinstra, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented and approval of the 1/21/19 board meeting minutes. The only addition to the presented agenda was to add appointment of a new ACSBA member, and there were no deletions to the meeting agenda.

VOTE: Yes – unanimous Motion carried. CONSENT AGENDA

Samantha Ball reviewed the financial reports for the period ending January 31, 2019 and answered questions.

Trustee Jager moved, supported by Trustee Tuinstra, to accept the payment of Board bills in the amount of $12,029.44.

VOTE: Yes – unanimous Motion carried. BOARD BILLS
Trustee Conley moved, supported by Trustee Andrews, to appoint Julie Pallett as the district’s Allegan County School Board Area (ACSBA) representative replacing Jason Moored who is no longer on the Board.

VOTE: Yes – unanimous  Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Recommendation to Approve MASB Board of Director Representative:**
Trustee Conley moved, supported by Trustee Pillars, to cast a vote for Donald Meyers for the position of Representative to the MASB Board of Directors for Region 6 (two-year term).

VOTE: Yes – unanimous  Motion carried  MASB BOARD OF DIRECTOR REP. 18-19

Nays:

**REPORTS:**
Dr. Harnish updated the Board with the following items:

- Reported to members that back in December he was made aware that during an inspection of the Great Start Readiness lead dust particles were discovered. He contracted with the same company who conducted the original test for lead particles, to test three additional rooms in the same area. The additional rooms were found to be clear of any lead. Additionally, two children were tested for lead and both tested negative. Dr. Harnish feels that it was a good $750.00 to be spent.

- He briefly discussed the new drafting curriculum work by Barb Schipper. The work will be brought to the Board in the next few months. Also, notified members that the mathematics council is working to align the new Envision 2.0 edition online math component along with adjusted written activities within the current K-5 math curriculum.

- Regarding curriculum, the district will migrate away from using Study Island and better utilize IXL, which will hopefully assist to improve math scores.

- Regarding bullying which was brought to his attention, he noted that K-12 staff did receive mental health training of awareness at the beginning of the school year. He feels this is important as the district 60% free and reduced and 95% At-Risk may be indicators for social emotional needs. Programs such as the “Be Nice” program and “PALS” programs were discussed with members and staff in attendance. The district, in the past, has decided against the MIBLSI program (supported by the MDE), due to certain financial requirements. Dave Hardenburgh also chimed in that his previous district had used the “Be Nice” program.

- Dr. Harnish shared that he had visited a vape shop and that this is a rising issue in the country, not just MPS. Students caught vaping, could possibly receive an MIP if law enforcement is involved. Students these days act in an adult like behavior yet, however, they may not be aware of the long-term consequences. Dr. Harnish has been in contact with Deputy Knapp who will assist in bringing in a speaker to inform students of the dangers of vaping and long-term effects.
Stated that he under spends the budget yearly and would recommend that the district hold on to the bond contingency funds for a year or so to see what needs the district may be. The storage barn will need to be replaced for fall 2019, and he hopes that with support of volunteers, the total cost would be reduced.

The fall had been good to the district in reference to snow days used. Since then, the district has experienced 11 snow days, for a total of 12. Three of the snow days will be forgiven as the David applied for a waiver which has been accepted. He will problem solve with the teacher association to address the additional days needed.

He met Governor Whitmer recently at a MASA conference and was impressed with her. She updated superintendents on the meaning of State of Emergency.

Dr. Harnish also provided members with the most current bond contingency balance.

David shared his tenure here at Martin with members. Over the last year he has become tired, with the workload, and is concerned about his health. He has decided to resign from his position as superintendent/principal effective June 30, 2019. He also believes the district would benefit from a part-time superintendent and a full-time middle/high school principal. Staff members have stated that they need a “principal” and he feels that this is a bigger need, as oppose to a superintendent. He feels the superintendent position is the easier of the two positions and hopes the Board will consider different ideas for restructuring. Mr. VandenBerg, AD/Dean of Students, could focus on the athletic director piece with the support of a full-time principal. David informed members that he would be available to work part-time and still make a third of his current income (FAC) and would be happy to work as a part-time superintendent for the district.

Acceptance of Superintendent/Jr.-Sr. High School Principal Resignation:
Trustee Pillars moved, supported by Trustee Conley, to approve the above said resignation of Dr. David Harnish, Superintendent/Jr.-Sr. High School Principal effective June 30, 2019.

VOTE: Yes – unanimous Motion carried

Nays:

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Robert VandenBerg discussed his findings regarding vaping with members.

Becky Lautenschleger informed members that 133 girls attended the Annual Father-Daughter Dance this year. She also distributed Board member invites to the upcoming Prom. Thanked the Board for their time and dedication.

Barb Schipper stated that she was happy to see the walking track is now open to the public and thanked those who put in the effort to getting it up and going, as it was a selling point to the community.

Alice Kelsey spoke about sustaining the new addition and the additional cost that it could cost the district. She also mentioned that she would love to help reinstate the PALS program. Alice mentioned
that she read an article in the paper about Otsego Public Schools who is now researching the solar initiative.

Art Shook, community member shared that Otsego Public Schools also has the “Be Nice” program. He also stated that back when he served on the BOE they didn’t have the level of issues that are in today’s world. He thanked the Board members for all that they do and the issues that they are facing. He is proud to have a fifth generation attending MPS.

MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:

**Trustee Andrews** – Thanked the veterans for donating the flags to the district. Thanked the O.M. coaches and stated that they did well. Also, gave a shout out to the band members who attending Solo & Ensemble. She worried about Dr. Harnish and the burnout rate and hoped to have made the position work. Stated that she appreciated all that he did for the district.

**Trustee Conley** – She shared some thoughts with members regarding the “Be Nice” program. In reference to Dr. Harnish’s resignation, she stated that he was one of the most “hands on” superintendents that had been in this district. She thanked him for his years of service. Self-care is important! He has done a lot of work and also a lot of hard work over the past few years. Gave a shout to the Odyssey of the Minds teams who competed at Regionals and to the teams who would move onto the State competition. She always congratulated the students who competed at Solo & Ensemble, her son being one of them moving on the State. Noted that is great to see the sports teams doing awesome!

**Trustee Jager** – Thanked Dr. Harnish for his years of service. He welcomed Julie and Melanie to the Board as he missed their first meeting as members. Thanked the veterans for the donation of flags.

**Trustee Pallett** – Thanked Dr. Harnish for his years at the district! She also congratulated the Odyssey of the Mind teams. Her team did well although they will not move on, they placed third out of six.

**Trustee Pillars** – David gave the district direction. He thanked him and hopes that he will be part of this district as it continues. Thanked the Board for the flowers sent to his dad’s memorial.

**Trustee Tuinstra** – He has been through four superintendents and never meant one who worked as hard as Dr. Harnish. Dr. Harnish brought life back to the community and district. David has been a visionary for the district. The solar project happened because of David, the curriculum happened because of David, and the Bond project happened because of David. He helped get us to the next level. He hopes that the district will continue to pursue the CHP project that David wants to pursue. He isn’t ready for Dr. Harnish to leave, he wants more from him. Vince congratulated the Power Lifting Club who competed over the weekend! The club is doing very well, with Robby Martin and Quinn Gorton taking 1st place and Christopher Tuinstra placing 3rd.

**Trustee VandenBerg** – Stated that the district at one point was on the brink of closing the doors and now look at what a great facility we have! All seven Board members need to brainstorm together to decide the direction the district should go with the recent resignation of Dr. Harnish. He stated that the Improv show was great this year! Shared an article from the Plainwell newsletter about a staff member’s son, and how she should very proud of him. Thanked Dr. Harnish for his years of service.
ADJOURNMENT:
Trustee Conley moved, supported by Trustee Tuinstra, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

VOTE: Yes – unanimous Motion carried. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Pillars, Secretary