

**Board Briefs**  
**Meeting of the East Maine School District 63 Board Of Education**

March 1, 2017

**The Board of Education approved the following items:**

- Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting, February 1, 2017
- Minutes of the Closed Session, February 1, 2017
- Accounts Payable for March 1, 2017 (\$569,523.50)
- Fund Balance Report for January 2017 (\$48,016,516)
- Gross Payroll (\$2,475,067.92) and Board Share Expenditures (\$509,573.76) for February 2017
- Payroll Accounts Payable for February 2017 (\$1,319,148.35)
- Appointment for Staff at ESC, Mark Twain, Melzer and Stevenson
- Resignation for Staff at ESC, Melzer and Washington
- Retirement for Staff at Gemini
- Lane Changes
- Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session
- Freedom of Information Act Report for February 2017
- Resolution BR15-16/17 Authorizing the Abatement from the Working Cash Fund into the Operations and Maintenance Fund and the Transfer from the Operations and Maintenance Fund into the Capital Projects Fund
- Appointment of Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
- Accept Summary of First Responders Meeting
- Intergovernmental Agreement with Niles Township District for Special Education #807 for the 2016-2017 School Year
- Student Fees for 2017-2018
- Paper Bid
- Dental Insurance Renewal

**President's Report**

President Kaczkowski reported on the following items:

- Attended the Nelson PTO Family Night at Panera
- Attended the Mark Twain PTO meeting where Dr. Clay presented the Facilities Master Plan
- Attended the 37th Annual School Law Seminar presented by Scariano, Himes and Petrarca

**Board Member Reports:**

**Member Simmons**

- Attended a Foundation meeting

**Member Zec**

- Attended the Nelson PTO Family Night at Panera
- Attended the Niles Lights On Afterschool Tile Art Project Unveiling Ceremony

**Member Brook**

- Attended the last STEM meeting
- Attended the Mark Twain PTO meeting where Dr. Clay presented the Facilities Master Plan
- Attended the 37th Annual School Law Seminar presented by Scariano, Himes and Petrarca
- Attended the Washington Family Movie Night

**Member Gluzkin**

- Attended the Gemini PTO meeting where Dr. Clay presented the Facilities Master Plan

- Attended the 37th Annual School Law Seminar presented by Scariano, Himes and Petrarca

### **Member Urban**

- Attended the Nelson Fun Fair
- Attended the Gemini PTO meeting where Dr. Clay presented the Facilities Master Plan
- Attended the 37th Annual School Law Seminar presented by Scariano, Himes and Petrarca
- Attended Mark Twain's McTeacher Night
- Attended a Technology Task Force meeting
- Attended an Insurance Committee meeting

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Clay reported on the following items:

- We are moving forward with STEAM at the junior high next year. FUSE is the program selected and we have submitted a grant to help with the cost.
- I've visited preschools in Districts 59 and 62 in preparation for planning our new Second Steps Preschool.
- I've been presenting our Master Facilities Plan at PTO meetings. The presentations are going well and I have received a positive reaction with many good questions. The latest issue of 63 Success is on its way and also covers the facilities plan.
- After reviewing applications and holding two rounds of interviews, we had a clear choice for our new Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. He is a familiar face and you will be talking to him soon, prior to voting on his placement.

### **Presentation – Coding Club**

Students from Stevenson School used block coding through Code Studio & Scratch to program their Dash and Dot Robots. The twenty-four Robots, including multi accessories and curriculum subscriptions were purchased through an ETIP grant.

Benefits of Dash and Dot include critical thinking, problem solving skills, collaboration, and exposure to computer programming; all part of the rapidly growing field of computer science. Students programed their robots to perform various tasks such as playing the xylophone, dancing, laughing, throwing ping pong balls, and to follow a track on the floor.

### **Presentation – Gemini Soccer Field Proposal, Peter Wirtz, Athletic Director, Gemini Jr. High**

How a turf field can benefit Gemini and the District

- Who uses the field?
  - Kinetic Wellness classes which include over 700 students; in the near future that number will go up with the inclusion of 6th graders.
  - Gemini student athletes which number around 250 for both the fall and spring.
  - We host games/meets that include 9 other schools.
  - Outside groups obtain permits to use our field throughout the year
- Safety concerns
  - The KW teachers' and coaches' main concern is the safety of our students, student athletes, and those athletes from other buildings.
  - Due to years of use of the fields, the construction by Ice Land, and the expansion of the retention pond there are now patches of dead grass, various holes/sinkholes, and uneven playing surfaces which can lead to potential injury.
- Impact of weather on classroom activities
  - After a moderate rain we are typically unable to use the fields for 1-2 days, a heavy rain for up to 4 days.
  - By installing a turf field these limitations due to weather would be greatly decreased.

- Gemini has a very strong athletic program (multiple conference championships and 250 students involved) that is affected by the field conditions. There have been many times that we have not been able to make up a game that was lost due to weather because of tight schedules and poor field conditions for soccer and softball.
- Additions to the curriculum
  - The addition of a turf field will open up opportunities to strengthen our curriculum with both new units (tennis, outdoor cardio activities, and more) or give us more locations to use for current units like the new cricket unit.
- Future benefits
  - Landscaping costs would diminish and time spent marking the fields for various sports would be much easier and quicker as lines wouldn't be lost due to grass being cut.
  - Students with allergies would not be affected by a turf field (as they are now).
  - The installation of a turf field may also deter geese from flocking to our land.

Dr. Clay presented the idea of rolling the cost of the field into the construction project at Gemini. Initial drawings for the field project will be presented with the first set of drawings for the addition at Gemini.

### **Presentation – Special Education Audit**

Dr. Greg Bublitz presented information on a Special Education Audit that will be conducted through the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC). The last ten years have brought a tremendous amount of change in the area of special education at District 63. This audit will provide direction to the district in areas that we will need to pursue. This may include further support for our students, universal design, initiatives, and future professional development. The audit will also highlight our accomplishments as a district as we successfully adjusted to the dissolution of Maine Township Special Education Program (MTSEP), implemented the inclusion model, Response to Intervention (RtI), and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

The audit will start March 14 and end approximately April 19, 2017.