

**ZEELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
March 20, 2017  
Zeeland West High School Cafeteria  
3390 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
6:00 PM**

PRESENT: Board of Education: Todd Brennan, Linda Bush, Rick Dernberger, April DeWitt, Ron Scott, Mark Snyder  
Administrators: Cal De Kuiper, Lynn VanKampen  
ABSENT: Board of Education: Tom DenHerder  
GUESTS:

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Ron Scott  
Cal De Kuiper
- A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:  
B. RECOGNITION: Craig Greshaw, Creekside Middle School Principal  
Jakob Gilleylen (Creekside - 8<sup>th</sup>) will be honored by the board for winning the regional spelling bee for the second year in a row. - postponed til April as student was out ill.

C. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

**II. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Michael VanDuinen is now a finalist in the National Merit Finalist. You may recall meeting Michael a few months ago when he was a semi-finalist. This is a major accomplishment.

**III. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

None are anticipated at this time.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes of the February 20, 2017 regular board meeting were approved.  
B. Approved second year leave of absence for Erika Boehm, Woodbridge teacher.  
C. Approved bills paid as of February 2017. Checks #117613-117915

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:	\$1,085,769.79
PAYROLL:	<u>\$3,658,534.65</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,744,304.44</b>

Mark Snyder moved and Todd Brennan supported the motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented.

VOTE: All Yes (6)

**V. DISCUSSION**

A. Zeeland East High School Office Furniture [Bid](#) and [Recommendation](#)

Perhaps most importantly, this office is the last of our schools to have the safer entry completed - a major component of the bond referendum. This project will be complete before the start of the 2017-18 school year.

As recommended for full board consideration by the Finance Committee on Tuesday, March 7, I recommend you approve the attached bids for office furniture for the new Zeeland East High School office area. This construction and furnishings were part of the February, 2015, bond referendum. This project is currently ahead of schedule and is under budget. The construction is scheduled to be finished in late May, with the offices open for summer business soon after school concludes this June. I have included a [graphic of the office arrangement](#).

B. [Consumers Energy Settlement](#)

This topic was discussed in detail at the March 7, 2017, Finance Committee meeting. The City of Zeeland recently settled a tax appeal with Consumers Energy. I confirmed with City Manager, Tim Klunder, that it is now appropriate to give you a public update. Mr. Klunder indicates that all parties and the tax tribunal have signed off on the settlement.

As background, Consumers Energy filed a legal challenge in 2014 that their Zeeland plant should have a taxable value less than 50% of the City of Zeeland's assigned taxable value. The City of Zeeland, as defendant, did contest the suit on behalf of all of the taxing entities, including ZPS, that receive taxes from Consumers Energy. The City of Zeeland was the defendant because they assess the taxable value. As part of the litigated settlement, the new taxable value is approximately 90% of the original assessed value. You may recall that ZPS was a contributor to the legal costs and was part of many conversations leading up to what really is a very good settlement. ZPS is very appreciative of this cooperative and community values partnership.

Resulting from the settlement, these are the approximate future reductions to three ZPS funds on an annual basis. It should be noted that these losses could have been significantly more. ZPS officials and the Finance Committee see this as good outcome for all parties.

Recreation Fund	\$24,500	(annual millage based budget is \$700,000)
Building & Site Fund	\$61,000	(annual millage based budget \$1.5 million)
Debt fund	\$439,000	(annual debt payment is \$11 million)

The recreation and building and site funds will be a true decrease or loss to available budgets. The debt fund, however, is what pays the "mortgage" payment on

our construction and properties. This mortgage must be paid in full - all other taxpayers must make up the difference. If Consumers Energy pays less, everyone else pays a little more. As a result, our ZPS millage rate for most homeowners and for most others will increase about .23 mills. However, some good news - ZPS refinanced 2008 construction bonds about two months ago (just like refinancing your home at a lower interest rate). The refinancing lowers the ZPS tax millage about 0.4 mills. If you balance the Consumers Energy settlement with refinancing our 2008 bond, taxes will still go down next year about 0.17 mills.

During the litigation tax years (2014, 2015, and 2016) Consumers Energy paid additional taxes because IFT's were revoked. As part of the settlement, ZPS will need to pay back a total of \$149,613.31 from the Building and Site Fund and \$59,845 from the Recreation Fund. Under the guidance of Director of Finance, Lynn VanKampen, ZPS had been planning for a wide range of potential adjustments to these funds, this falls in the better end of our planning.

C. 2016-17 Annual Education Report – Ginger Smith

This annual report is required through legislation. Ginger Smith works with building principals and directors to update the data. We will provide you with a brief overview. The annual report may be found, as linked to zps.org: [Annual Report](#)

**VI. ACTION:**

A. ZEELAND EAST HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE FURNITURE BID APPROVAL

Mark Snyder moved and Todd Brennan supported the motion to approve the bids for the Zeeland East high school office furniture as discussed above.

ROLL CALL:      YEA: Brennan, Bush, Dernberger, DeWitt, Snyder, Scott  
NAY:

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

**VIII. CLOSED SESSION 6:15PM**

Linda Bush moved and Mark Snyder supported the motion that the Board of Education of the Zeeland Public Schools convene in closed session for evaluation of the Superintendent per Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act.

Policy requires that I make the board aware of timelines and requirements for evaluation of the superintendent. This process started in January, much of the work was completed in February, including a closed session, and a closed session was recommended for this evening. Each year, if renewal of contract is not recommended, the board of education must review the evaluation in open session at a

Board of Education meeting by April 1. If that is not the case, the review in open session may be held at a later date.

VOTE: All Yes (6)

The board returned to open session at \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.

The regular meeting of March 20, 2017 adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.