

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES – January 25, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Midland Public Schools, Midland, Michigan, was held at the Midland Public Schools Administration Center, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, Michigan, on Monday, January 25, 2010, beginning at 7 p.m. in accordance with the requirements of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1 et seq. effective July 1, 1996, and the policies established in How Midland Schools Work.

**1. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL** President

Board members present:	President Rouse, Vice President Mault, Treasurer Trombka, Member Baker, Member LaCross, Member Ohle,
Board members present:	Secretary Wasserman
Central staff present:	Superintendent Ellinger
Directors present:	Blahunka, Cline, Ellison, Verlinde
Visitors present:	14 staff, citizens and guests

President Rouse announced that the “Public Hearing” section of the agenda would be moved ahead of the “Presentations to the Board” section.

President Rouse announced that nominations are now being accepted for this year’s Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Awards. To submit your nomination, visit the MPS website at [www.mps.k12.mi.us](http://www.mps.k12.mi.us).

**2. HEARING**

The DVD, *Understanding HIV and AIDS*, has been reviewed and approved unanimously by the Advisory Board on Instruction in Sex Education and Birth Control for use during seventh grade HIV/AIDS prevention presentations. The video that is currently used is nearly twenty years old. Although the information is still accurate and pertinent, the age of the video sometimes causes students to pay more attention to the dated hairstyles and clothing than the important information that is being communicated. After reviewing a collection of potential replacements, *Understanding HIV and AIDS* was chosen by the middle school Physical Education teachers as a

replacement for the current video. Trustee Lynn Baker is a Board representative on this committee. Recommendation for action will be requested on February 8, 2010.

Individuals with questions about these materials may contact Mr. Jeff Pennex, Coordinator of Physical Education and Health at 923-7945.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ohle/LaCross moved that the Consent Agenda items be approved.

3.1 Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of Monday, January 11, 2010.

3.2 The following teachers were recommended for employment for the 2009-10 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Leane Priest	Teacher, Parkdale Elementary	Nov. 23, 2009
Jennifer Ruegsegger	Teacher, Midland High School	Nov. 2, 2009

3.3 The following staff members announced their resignation effective as of the date indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jeanna Cronk	Teacher, Midland High School	June 11, 2010
Cindy Munro	Work Station Technician, Administration	Jan. 22, 2010
Michelle Vouaux	Paraprofessional, Northeast Middle School	Jan. 21, 2010

3.4 Approval for payment of the school system's bills for the month of November 2009, as listed in the check register prepared by Ms. Laux, in the total amount of \$6,965,956 was recommended. The distribution of obligations, by fund, was as follows:

3.4.a	<u>Through 11/15/09</u>	<u>Through 11/30/09</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund	\$1,183,290	\$455,733	\$1,639,023
Capital Projects	---	---	---
Sinking Fund	120,212	41,626	161,838
Middle School Science Lab Renovation	---	---	---
Technology Grant	---	3,970	3,970
School Services:			
School Stores	9,300	19,561	28,861
Kindergarten Complement	6,816	7,049	13,865
Athletics	56,799	59,728	116,527



Food Service	2,629	213,203	215,832
Student Activities	<u>\$ 42,951</u>	<u>\$ 31,069</u>	<u>\$ 74,020</u>
Subtotals	\$1,421,997	\$831,939	\$2,253,936
Federal Withholding			440,349
State Withholding/Sales Tax			153,913
Social Security/Medicare			627,602
Payroll Transfers			258,476
ACH Transfers			2,531,121
ConnectCare Transfers			392,552
Consumers payments paid electronically			112,575
PESG payroll (contracted substitutes)			85,354
Purchase Card Transactions			<u>110,078</u>
Total November Distributions			<u>\$6,965,956</u>

The following financial reports were submitted:

- 3.4.b Investment Report for the month of November 2009 was prepared by Ms. Laux.
  - 3.4.c Listing of Purchase Orders exceeding three thousand dollars (\$3,000) or more for the month of November 2009 was prepared by Ms. Schmidt.
  - 3.4.d Listing of Purchase Card transactions exceeding three thousand (\$3,000) or more for the month of November 2009 was prepared by Ms. Schmidt.
- 3.5 Approval for payment of the school system's bills for the month of December 2009, as listed in the check register prepared by Ms. Laux, in the total amount of \$8,861,492 was recommended. The distribution of obligations, by fund, was as follows:

3.5.a	Through <u>12/15/09</u>	Through <u>12/30/09</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund	\$1,350,400	\$564,739	\$1,915,139
Capital Projects	---	---	---
Sinking Fund	70,837	33,275	104,112
Middle School Science Lab Renovation	---	---	---
Technology Grant	---	46,784	46,784
School Services:			
School Stores	5,238	9,884	15,122
Kindergarten Complement	5,532	11,863	17,395
Athletics	62,179	92,482	154,661
Food Service	1,591	181,799	183,390
Student Activities	<u>\$ 4,969</u>	<u>\$ 84,974</u>	<u>\$ 89,943</u>
Subtotals	\$1,500,746	\$1,025,800	\$2,526,546
Federal Withholding			466,595
State Withholding/Sales Tax			157,531

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Social Security/Medicare	637,653
Payroll Transfers	329,230
ACH Transfers	3,851,059
ConnectCare Transfers	589,025
Consumers payments paid electronically	138,375
PESG payroll (contracted substitutes)	61,739
Purchase Card Transactions	<u>103,739</u>
Total December Distributions	<u>\$8,861,492</u>

The following financial reports were submitted:

- 3.5.b Investment Report for the month of December 2009 was prepared by Ms. Laux.
- 3.5.c Listing of Purchase Orders exceeding three thousand dollars (\$3,000) or more for the month of December 2009 was prepared by Ms. Schmidt.
- 3.5.d Listing of Purchase Card transactions exceeding three thousand (\$3,000) or more for the month of December 2009 was prepared by Ms. Schmidt.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

- Ms. Colleen Wardin, 5330 North Sturgeon, addressed the Board of Education with regards to closing five schools and the transition schedule for this summer.

#### 5. **PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

##### **For Information:**

- 5.1 Mr. Ellinger read aloud a "Special Tribute" from Senator Tony Stamas and Representative Jim Stamas, thanking the Board of Education for their service. Mr. Ellinger also thanked the Board of Education for their dedication and commitment to children and Midland Public Schools.

Representative Stamas personally thanked the Board of Education for their service and the hours they put in. He announced an upcoming summit that will be held on Monday, February 8 from 1-4 p.m. at Saginaw Valley State University's Ott Auditorium. The summit is called "Seeking Solutions for the Economics of Education: A Great Lakes Bay Regional Summit" with a focus on putting students first.

The summit brings together individuals from the Great Lakes Bay Region to learn more about the economic situation facing the state and our schools. In addition, summit participants will help develop possible solutions that will be presented to state legislators.

Stamas said the summit is especially appropriate for parents, school leaders, school board members, legislators, community and business leaders and university leaders. All are invited to attend the summit.

5.2 Superintendent's Report from Mr. Ellinger:

- Mr. Ellinger, again, thanked the Board for their dedication and service in honor of January being "School Board Recognition Month."
- Mr. Ellinger shared with the community, meetings that have taken place between Administration and the Midland City Education Association (MCEA) over the last couple of weeks. The two groups met three times on January 13, again on January 21, and have had ongoing collaborative meetings over the last several weeks to discuss building consolidation issues and staffing for the 2010-11 school year.
- Mr. Ellinger announced that he and the directors have been meeting with each building to present a Draft Vision Statement for MPS. The meetings have been well attended and we are receiving positive feedback from staff members.
- Mr. Ellinger announced the upcoming launch of the new MPS website, which will be up and running on February 8, 2010. Mr. Brandon Kish has put in a tremendous amount of work and has done an outstanding job with the new website. The old website will still be available for a period of time while people get used to the new website.
- Mr. Mault announced the launch of 179 scholarships in the amount of \$280,000 that are available through the Midland Area Community Foundation for high school seniors, college and non-traditional students. The application process will run from February 1 to March 5.

5.3 Mr. Verlinde addressed student transportation for Mills students. An express bus is being looked at for after school, which would run from Seibert directly to the North Midland Family Center. This option will be made available if there are enough students to take advantage of it.

Mr. Verlinde also addressed the transportation option for Cook students who are on the west side of Sturgeon creek. From Dublin Road to the creek, there are approximately 165 students who live on the other side of the creek. There is no "cross over" bridge for the creek and the route around it to school is a longer walk. That area can and will be covered with existing bus runs for those students.

**Recommendation for Action:**

LaCross/Mault moved that the following items be approved.

5.4 Mr. Blahunka requested that Administration accept the recommendation for Woodcrest North which was presented at the January 11, 2010, meeting. A one time offer for the current 60 students (44 families) that were reassigned to Siebert (north of Letts Road) would be grandfathered in to Woodcrest Elementary. A letter will be sent to these families

giving them first priority to remain at Woodcrest through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents will be responsible for transportation. This grandfather offer is only for existing students currently attending Woodcrest and does not guarantee a place for incoming siblings.

Mr. Blahunka clarified the 5<sup>th</sup> grade transition of students who attend Adams Elementary. At the January 11 meeting, he stated that all Adams students feed into Jefferson Middle School. The boundary lines will remain the same as in the past. Students who live on the west side of Swede in the Adams area transitioned into Jefferson Middle School. Students who live on the east side of Swede in the Adams area move to Northeast Middle School. Students who are transitioning from Parkdale to Adams will also feed into Northeast Middle School.

- 5.5 Mr. Blahunka requested that Administration accept the recommendation for Schools of Choice for 2010-11 school year, which was presented at the January 11, 2010, meeting. A modification to the School of Choice was requested on behalf of Parkdale Elementary students. Parkdale is unique because they are the only school that will be split three ways when it closes. Students will be divided up between the following three schools: Adams, Chestnut Hill and Plymouth Elementary. There are 47 School of Choice students at Parkdale that would relocate back to their home school. Mr. Blahunka requested that these 47 students have the option to go Adams, Chestnut Hill or Plymouth so they remain with their classmates.

- Timelines for *residence* SOC are:
  - ♦ Application begins February 1, 2010
  - ♦ Application deadline March 1, 2010
  - ♦ Lottery date March 15, 2010
  - ♦ Notification date March 31, 2010
  - ♦ Resident students must register by April 15, 2010
  
- Timelines for *non-residence* SOC are:
  - ♦ Application begins April 1, 2010
  - ♦ Application deadline April 30, 2010
  - ♦ Lottery date May 14, 2010
  - ♦ Notification date May 28, 2010
  - ♦ Resident students must register by June 11, 2010

Motion passed unanimously.

**6. CURRICULUM and INSTRUCTION****Study Committee Chair – Ms. Baker**  
**Staff Resource Person – Dr. Ellison****For Information:**

- 6.1. The “Curriculum and Special Services (CaSS) Study Committee Report” was read aloud by Ms. Lynn Baker (chair). The meeting was held on January 18, 2010. Members present were: Ms. Lynn Baker, Mr. Ken Mault, Mr. Carl Ellinger, Mr. John Blahunka and Dr. Kathy Ellison. The meeting was held at H. H. Dow High School.

*Curriculum and Special Services Study Committee Minutes from January 18, 2010, are as follows:*

Michigan Profile Healthy Youth Survey

*Mr. Blahunka reviewed the plans for the secondary schools to take the Michigan Profile Healthy Youth (MiPHY) survey that is given to students in grades 7, 9 and 11 every other year. This voluntary questionnaire is designed to gather data that will create an accurate picture of behaviors associated with the leading causes of injury and death among adolescents.*

*All surveys will be completed by the second week in February. Results of the survey help us make data-driven decisions in the use of Title IV Safe & Drug Free Program funds. The 30-40 minute online survey is anonymous, confidential and voluntary. All parents of 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> grade students have been sent a letter explaining the nature of the survey.*

ESA Updates

*Mr. Blahunka explained that at the last Superintendent’s ESA meeting, Mark Moody provided information and answered questions regarding the costs of the Post Secondary Moderate Cognitive Impaired (MOCI) program at the Community Center. Subsequently, the superintendent’s decided to transfer the program to the ESA for the 2011-12 school year.*

New School Improvement Process

*Dr. Ellison described a new method for completing the school improvement plans. The State of Michigan is requiring the use of a new electronic system to create and submit the district and all buildings’ school improvement plans. At the first meeting for this school year, the District School Improvement Committee examined the process and will review a draft plan at the next meeting. Building principals and their school improvement teams are also in the process of completing their plans electronically.*

World Language Graduation Requirement

*Dr. Ellison reminded the committee that the Class of 2016 is the first class to be impacted by the change in graduation requirements. Norm Neher, World Language Coordinator, has created an explanation of the requirement and ways in which it can be met. (See below.)*

IB Update

Marilyn Brooks and Amy Hutchinson presented a brief update on the International Baccalaureate program. The information shared included the number of students who have earned IB certificates, the number who have earned the IB Diploma, and testimony from students, parents and teachers about the program. Committee members then visited the Dow High Theory of Knowledge class and spoke with students about what they had learned and what they would present in their end-of-the-year projects.

The next CaSS meeting is scheduled for February 15 at the Juvenile Care Center.

Midland Public SchoolsWorld Language Graduation Requirement Guidelines

Starting with the Class of 2016

July 16, 2009

Starting with the class of 2016, the State of Michigan will require that all students complete two credits of a world language other than English or demonstrate a two-year equivalent proficiency in order to graduate from high school. This document outlines the ways a student may meet that requirement.

World Language Requirement for Class of 2016 (as explained by the State of Michigan):  
[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/WL\\_Guidelines\\_FINAL\\_206823\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/WL_Guidelines_FINAL_206823_7.pdf)

Instructional Options for Midland Public Schools Students:

Midland Public Schools students may meet the world language graduation requirement in the following ways:

1. Earning two (2) full-year credits in the same world language offered by the Midland Public Schools in grades 7 through 12. World language classes taken in grades K-6 do not qualify as high school graduation credits. Language classes taken in grades 7 and 8 do fulfill the high school world language requirement because students take the same common assessment at the end of the class. High school transcripts will indicate world language credits earned any time between seventh and ninth grade.
2. Earning two (2) full-year credits in the same world language offered online by Michigan Virtual High School (only for languages not offered by the Midland Public Schools unless special permission is granted by the Coordinator of World Languages).
3. Earning equivalent credits in another American high school and credited to Midland Public Schools as transfer credits.
4. Earning credits in a college level world language course if approved by the Coordinator of World Languages. One college year is equal of one year of high school language.
5. Earning equivalent credits through formal study abroad in grades 7 through 12 in a language other than English and accepted as transfer credits.
  - a. A translated, official school transcript documenting continuous and successful school experiences of at least one academic semester in which classes were conducted in the language for which credit is sought will equal credit for one year.

- b. *A translated, official school transcript documenting continuous and successful school experiences of at least one academic year in which classes were conducted in the language for which credit is sought will equal credit for two years.*
- 6. *Students who have attained proficiency in a world language other than English in any other way may demonstrate proficiency in the language in the following ways:*
  - a. *Earning a grade of Novice Mid level on the STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) world language assessment equals credit for level 1 of the world language (cost of assessment is paid by the student).*
  - b. *Earning a grade of Novice High level on the STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) world language assessment equals credit for level 2 of the world language (cost of assessment is paid by the student).*
  - c. *Earning a grade of Intermediate Low level on the STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) world language assessment equals credit for level 3 of the world language (cost of assessment is paid by the student).*
  - d. *Students wishing to obtain credit for the International Baccalaureate level class will need to obtain a passing grade of 4 on a test equal to the International Baccalaureate exam.*
  - e. *For languages not offered by the Midland Public Schools and for which there is no STAMP proficiency test, a student may pay for an examiner to give a proficiency test. The school district will make every effort to help obtain a qualified examiner in the world language for which the STAMP test is not available. A score of Novice Mid level will equal credit for one year. A score of Novice High level will equal credit for two years. If no qualified examiner can be found and if proficiency cannot be verified, the district will not give credit.*

7. **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Study Committee Chair** – Ms. LaCross  
**Staff Resource Person** – Mr. Verlinde

7.1 The following staff members announced their retirement effective as of the date indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jean Pearson	Administrative Asst., Plymouth Elementary	June 22, 2010
Kathy Miller	Office Professional, Juvenile Care Center	June 22, 2010
Doris Lane	Media Specialist, Central/Jefferson	Jan. 29, 2010
Connie Deitsch	Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary	June 10, 2010
Ruth Draves	Paraprofessional, Mills Elementary	June 10, 2010

8. **FINANCE**

**Study Committee Chair** – Mr. Trombka  
**Staff Resource Person** – Ms. Cline

**For Information:**

8.1 The “Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Report” was read aloud by Ms. Suzii LaCross (sub for Joe Trombka). The meeting was held on January 18, 2010.

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Members present were: Ms. Suzii LaCross, Mr. Rick Ohle, Mr. Jerry Wasserman, Mr. Carl Ellinger, Ms. Linda Cline, Mr. Gary Verlinde and Ms. Carol Laux. Others in attendance were Mr. Dave Kostus.

***Finance, Facilities and Operations (FFO) Study Committee Minutes from January 18, 2010, are as follows:***

*Mrs. Laux presented the financial statements for November and December. She stated that the November ConnectCare transfer was very small and that interest rates are low. Mr. Wasserman noted that when comparing 1998-99 to 2009-2010 that spending on instruction has increased from \$44 million to \$56 million while spending in other areas has increased very little. This is evidence of the emphasis that MPS places on student instruction.*

*Mr. Kostus reviewed possible bus drop off and parking lot improvements at some of the elementary buildings. For the summer of 2010, to enhance student safety, administration plans to recommend at the February 8 meeting increasing the bus drop off areas at Chestnut Hill and Siebert and adding parking spaces at Woodcrest. Pending city approval of the preliminary plans, the estimated total cost for all three projects will be \$107,000. Money has been set aside in the Sinking Fund to cover the one-time expenses associated with building consolidations.*

*Plans are underway to completely vacate the State Street building by the end of February so that the temperature can be dropped to 50° for the remainder of the year. In order to accommodate the changes to staff work areas in the Administration Center, additional air conditioning needs to be added to the TV station in the middle of the building. Overheating of equipment is already a problem in this area. The estimated cost for this is between \$8,000 and \$18,000.*

*Mrs. Cline reviewed the list of properties owned by the district and their appraised values. Since the appraisals are more than a decade old, Mrs. Cline is going to contact an appraiser about updating the values. She reminded the group that it is a legal requirement that the district must receive fair value (not fair market value) for any properties that are sold. The only exception is that properties may be sold to another unit of government for a nominal amount. She also stated that using the proceeds from one-time sources of revenue for ongoing operations, while providing very limited one-time budget relief, cannot be considered a prudent long-term solution to our budget issues.*

*The group discussed the financial challenges facing the district in the preparation of the 2010-2011 budget and the effects these challenges could have on compensation decisions.*

*The next meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on February 15, 2010.*

8.2 The following gifts, which total \$7,025.89, were received and processed:

	Donor	Purpose	Amount
(1)	Midland County ESA	Gerstacker Teacher Mini Grants	\$ 1,310.50
(2)	Parkdale PTO	24 Sand Trays	\$ 63.64
(6)	Music Parents Organization of Jefferson Middle School	ShowKit for Disney's Alice in Wonderland for Show	\$ 673.50
(7)	Chestnut Hill PTO	30 Calculators	\$ 284.85
(8)	Parkdale PTO	Fifth Grade Field Trip to Greenfield Village & Henry Ford Museum	\$ 2,629.00
(9)	Parkdale PTO	Fourth Grade Field Trip to State Capitol & Historical Museum	\$ 1,520.00
(9)	Parkdale PTO	Third Grade Dictionaries	\$ 81.60
(10)	Parkdale PTO	Brain Gym CDs for Special Education Resource Room	\$ 109.83
(12)	H H Dow Booster Club	Digital Camera	\$ 352.97

**For Acceptance:**

Trombka/Ohle moved to accept the following gifts totaling \$18,124.18:

	Donor	Purpose	Amount
(3)	H H Dow High Booster Club	Flex-roll Floor Mats for Competitive Cheer	\$ 5,200.00
(5)	The Dow Chemical Foundation	MHS CTE Program	\$ 5,000.00
(11)	DHS & MHS Music Parents	Support for extra-curricular music programs	\$ 7,924.18

An appropriate thanks to the donors was recommended.

Motion passed unanimously.

**10. STUDY-DISCUSSION SESSION**

This portion of the agenda is utilized by the Board to introduce topics for future study, to discuss school district-related matters, to complete professional association business and to relate items of interest. No action is taken during this time. Occasionally closed sessions are scheduled to discuss confidential personnel, negotiations or property matters.

10.1 Hearing from Board Members: thank you to Mr. Ellinger and the Directors for recognizing the Board this evening for Board of Education Recognition Month; thank you to Senator

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Stamas and Representative Stamas for the framed “special tribute” for Board of Education Recognition Month; we are pleased with the attitude and tone of our community who have rallied together with the announcement of school closures; there is a feeling that we are ready to move on and do what’s best for children; we are looking forward to the Education Summit on February 8 from 1-4 p.m. at Saginaw Valley; this summit is open to everyone and we encourage our parents and community to attend; congratulations Lolita Pfeiffer, a former Board member, and the article printed about her in the Midland Daily News; our condolences to the family of Rachel Wakeman, a student at Central Middle School who passed away Friday evening; good luck to the high school Pom Pon teams who are participating in the regional competition this weekend in Saginaw; good luck to students who are taking exams over the next couple of days; thank you to our teachers who are going above and beyond and spending extra time with students to help them prepare for exams; it will be a busy summer with transitions and school closings; we are confident that we will be ready for staff and students on the first day of school; thank you to the Midland Area Community Foundation for providing scholarship opportunities for our students; we are looking forward to re-focusing on the visioning process, strategic planning and goal setting; we are pleased to hear that we are receiving positive feedback from staff with regards to the Draft Vision statement; we appreciate the generosity from our community for their gifts and monetary donations that help support students and our schools; and thank you to the PTO’s, parents and staff who are stepping up and helping with the transition planning.

- 10.2 Announcements from Superintendent Ellinger: Mr. Ellinger announced the Midland Area League of Women Voters meeting which will be held on March 24, 7 p.m. at the Midland County Education Services Agency in conference room A and B; and, he will be attending the Superintendent’s Winter Conference at the end of this week.

Mr. Ellinger highlighted great things that are happening in our schools:

- Student members of the Midland High Chapter of Business Professionals of America who showcased their skills at the recent conference on January 9. Twenty-one students will advance to State Competition! The top two teams qualified for state level competition in March. Congratulations to the following teams:
  - ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Financial Analyst Team
  - ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Web Application Team
  - ♦ 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Presentation Management Team
  - ♦ 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Small Business Management Team
- A huge thank you Dow High who donated school supplies for the South African primary school.
- Congratulations to the Dow High varsity cheerleaders who competed at the Oiler Invitational in Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, January 16. In round two and three, they took second. Overall, the cheerleaders had a season high second place score of 681. The overall competitive cheer record is 11-2. Their next competition is Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Dow High starting at 6 p.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

President: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Rouse

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald L. Wasserman

Approved by the Board on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
cs 8-Feb-2010