

Regular Meeting of the Houghton Lake Community Schools Board of Education was held Monday, April 20, 2009 in the Board of Education office.

Members Present: Harned, Burger, Duquette, Dean, Scherer, and Maiani.

Members Absent: Fry

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Injasoulian, Lisa Sutton, Mary Harrison, Stan Gardner, Lori Warson, Sally Cotterman, Alicia Ciaramitaro, Susan Tyer, Matt Lewis, Pam Akin, Arlene Jury, Jack Kramer, Deb Markiewicz, Karen Demers, and Coreen Julin.

Visitors: Melissa Johnston, Emily Cotterman, Bill Trahan, John Julin, Billy Trahan, Jordan Howell, and Bill & Cindy Wachowiak.

Press: Cheryl Holladay, Houghton Lake Resorter
Jeff Patrus, Roscommon County Herald News

Board President Harned called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Citizen's Request to Address the Board of Education

Lori Warson - addressed the Board stating that if a decision on trimester scheduling at the high school would be made at tonight's meeting – would they please consider all the comments/remarks that have been brought to the Board before making their decision.

Bill Trahan - addressed the Board to suggest that when the construction work/repairs begin they may want to look into repairing the high school parking lot – it desperately needs repaving. Also, more handicap parking spaces are necessary.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Injasoulian informed the Board of the following:

- A reminder that the Joint COOR Board's Dinner/Meeting is next Monday, April 27, 2009.
- This week (*April 20-24, 2009*) is Michigan School Support Staff Week, and the first week in May (*May 4-8, 2009*) is National Teacher Appreciation Week. He has recognition plans for both.
- May 5th is the annual school election - the school district will be asking the voters to restore the Headlee Rollback on the ballot.
- The bids have been received for the General Contractor Company for our Bond Issue projects. The lowest bid came from Beckering Adviser, which is a very dependable and trustworthy company out of Grand Rapids.

Financial Report

Matt Lewis informed the Board of the following:

- ◆ The rules and regulations for the stimulus funds are still being developed.
- ◆ Our annual Set-Seg Workers Compensation walk-thru took place today. The district received high marks and has a very good safety record, for that we can thank John Earley and Stan Gardner.
- ◆ The three lowest bids for the Bond Issue Project were:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Beckering Adviser Inc. | \$1,211,590 | Grand Rapids, MI |
| Grand Traverse Construction | \$1,218,700 | Traverse City, MI |
| Lakewood Construction | \$1,227,301 | Holland, MI |

Beckering Adviser will be awarded the bid; they have a lot of experience and have done a great job in many school districts. Our local company's will have another chance to submit bids and work with the General Contactor.

Discussion Items

Administrative Board Reports

The Administrative Board Reports were reviewed.

Scheduling Trimesters/Semesters

Discussion took place on whether the high school should continue with trimesters, or change back to semesters for next school year. According to the student surveys, the students prefer trimesters. Merry Maiani investigated the parent concerns –but found out that the same problems/concerns will still exist with either semesters or trimesters. Board reviewed data which illustrated there has been academic improvement by switching to trimesters.

District Wide Grading System

A second reading took place on the district wide grading system. Since no further discussion is necessary, the Board will take action at tonight's meeting.

Board Presentations –

Lisa Sutton ~ Green School Awards

Lisa Sutton and her students addressed the Board to inform them that the high school and middle school have received the "Green School Award". Indicating that the Ecology Club began in 1991, then distributed a list of events and activities that they have participated in over the years. Mr. Bill Wachowiak addressed the Board and presented a large flag – banner to both the high school and the middle school representatives, congratulating them and stated that they have won two of the three "Green School Awards" Good Job !!

Mary Harrison ~ Middle School Enrichment Days (2009/2010)

Mrs. Harrison addressed the Board to first receive their support on allowing the students to take over night trips during middle school enrichment days next school year – prior to doing all the immense amount of work involved. She is proposing a Chicago trip or a trip to Washington D.C.. The 4th and 5th grade students and the 6th and 7th grade students would alternate the trips every other year so that they could participate in both trips.

Arlene Jury ~ MEAP Results

Mrs. Jury addressed the Board and began a power point presentation detailing the MEAP scores. She provided many charts/graphs breaking down a vast amount of data, comparing the surrounding districts with COOR, ISD, and the State. The data illustrates that our students have improved significantly.

Citizens Second Request to Address the Board

Deb Markiewicz - addressed the Board stating that she wanted to offer a big thank you to Arlene Jury publicly. Stating that the staff appreciates her leadership and guidance with the NCA/School Improvement process. And thank you for challenging me, and others to always go above and beyond when it comes to our students and making HLCS a great place to live and raise our families.

Action Items

Consent Agenda

Motion by Duquette, supported by Maiani to approve the consent agenda as presented, the minutes of the regular meeting held March 16, 2009, and the special meetings held March 27, 2009, March 28, 2009, March 31, 2009, April 3, 2009, April 13, 2009: along with the following expenditures for the month of March 2009: General Fund \$603,938.46, Food Service \$71,257.19, and Athletics \$897.31.

Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

District Wide Grading System

Motion by Dean, supported by Duquette to adopt the above district wide grading scale to allow for uniform grading standards for grades K-3, and 4-12, as recommended by the HLCS Curriculum Council. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Personnel Recommendations ~ Probationary/Tenure Status

Motion by Duquette, supported by Scherer to offer the following teachers **2nd year probation** according to Tenure Act Amendments: 38.83a and 38.92: Alicia Ciaramitaro, Amber Sergeant, Darren Barnes, Angela Dalak, Chris Worley, and Jeannette Murphy. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Motion by Maiani, supported by Scherer to offer the following teachers **4th year probation** according to Tenure Act Amendments: 38.83a and 38.92: Elaine McDaniel and Amy Paris.
Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Houghton Lake High School Trimester/Semester Scheduling

Additional discussion took place, again noting that some of the problems that the parents notified the Board with - would still exist whether scheduling for semesters/trimesters.

Motion by Scherer, supported by Dean to allow the Houghton Lake High School to continue trimester scheduling for all students in grades 8-12 next school year as recommended by the Houghton Lake High School and the Houghton Lake Community School Curriculum Council. The Board of Education shall re-examine again next school year if any and/or more problems occur.

Motion carried. Yes 5, No 1. (Burger stated there was too much uncertainty)

Summer Tax Collection ~ Agreements

Motion by Duquette, supported by Maiani to approve the summer tax collection agreements as presented. (Markey and Lake Township - \$2.50 per parcel, and Richfield Township - \$2.30 per parcel)

Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Administrative Contracts ~ Renewal/Extension

Motion by Duquette, supported by Scherer to extend all administrative contracts through the 2010/2011 school year. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Superintendent's Contract ~ Approval

Motion by Duquette, supported by Harned to offer Mr. Kevin Murphy the superintendent contract as presented for Houghton Lake Community School, and to welcome him to our district.

Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Correspondence - none

Closed Session ~ Negotiations

Motion by Duquette, supported by Dean that the Board of Education go into closed session (at 9:14 p.m.) after tonight's meeting for the purpose of discussing negotiations.

Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0. Board took a short break prior to going into closed session.

Motion by Duquette, supported by Dean to come out of closed session at 10:35 p.m.

Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Motion by Duquette, supported by Scherer to offer Matt Lewis Assistant Superintendent position and contract. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Board discussed having a ceremony to honor the Sports Boosters for their years of support. Matt will take care of getting a plaque and setting a date.

Motion by Duquette, supported by Burger to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 p.m.

Motion carried Yes 6, No 0.