

Regular Meeting of the Houghton Lake Community Schools Board of Education was held Monday, March 16, 2009 in the Board of Education office.

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

Members Absent: Scherer

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Injasoulian, Susan Tyer, Stan Gardner, John Earley, Lori Warson, Matt Lewis, Holly Mueller, Coreen Julin, Gail Harned, and Frank Schultz.

Visitors: Joe and Regina Romo, Mr. Ignat and son.

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**

*Joe Romo* – addressed the Board with concerns on the attendance policy at the high school. He asked the Board if they would please review the policy. That it does not seem fair that a student could have his/her grade lowered after six absences even when the absences are excused.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Injasoulian updated/informed the Board on the following:

- ❖ He will be attending the 2009 Legislative Conference on March 18, 2009 in Lansing. Merry Maiani and Matt Lewis will also attend.
- ❖ Representatives from Baker College have been invited to tonight's meeting to talk to the Board about offering (on-site) college classes to our students. He stated it was his desire to bring back dual enrollment for the high school students next school year. This has also been a topic of interest at the COOR Superintendent's meetings.
- ❖ This week will be the first bid week for the Bond Issue projects.
- ❖ The pilot grading system for the middle school is on tonight's agenda.

### **Financial Report**

Matt Lewis updated/informed the Board on the following:

- ❖ The stimulus proposal is moving very very slow. There is a possibility that the district's per pupil foundation could remain the same (\$7,316) for the next three years, which is good news, no increases are better than the district getting hit with a decrease every year.
- ❖ The cost to maintain Merritt and Prudenville Elementary school buildings is approximately \$50,000 a year. Both buildings would need to be brought up to code prior to the district leasing or selling the buildings because the buildings have been closed.
- ❖ The district has purchased a 2003 truck for the Maintenance Director to use, instead of using his vehicle and getting paid mileage. This is a savings to the district.
- ❖ The cost of the NCA program to the district is approximately \$44,000 per year counting the salary of the director.
- ❖ Janis Pendrys will be retiring April 1<sup>st</sup>, and will return one month later as a contracted service employee working two days a week in the accounting office. Board members asked to be notified if it becomes necessary to increase the two days a week – did not want central office to be understaffed.

### **Board presentations were moved up on the agenda to this time**

#### ***Baker College ~ Dual Enrollment***

Mike Tisdale and Maynard Thompson, Baker College representatives from Cadillac, addressed the Board

to inform them of all the college classes they could offer on-site to our high school students. They currently provide dual enrollment to thirteen school districts. A breakdown of the cost, along with a list of the classes/courses available, and a document on transferring credit was circulated. Superintendent Injasoulian stated that he intended to arrange advanced courses for our students prior to his leaving the district. Having dual –enrollment with Baker College and Kirtland Community College will provide that.

#### ***Middle School Natural Helpers***

School Social Worker, Holly Muller and Middle School Student Mike Ignat addressed the Board to describe how the Middle School Natural Helpers operate. Mrs. Muller stated that the Natural Helpers began in 1999, and was created by Sue Benander, the Middle School Counselor at that time. The program is “*students helping students*” - how to deal with issues/problems that concern them. (Sometimes they do not want to talk to an adult). Students receive training, they develop listening skills, problem solving methods, and they offer encouragement and walk the student through the problem/situation.

#### **Discussion Items**

Administrative Board Reports were reviewed.

Board President Harned questioned if any funds became available to print another “Bobcat Newsletter” and if a survey had been developed yet for the participation of student enrollment in a JROTC program?

Superintendent Injasoulian stated that he is currently waiting for a response from the credit union if funds will be available. Also, the JROTC survey has not been completed as of yet, but will be this week. He then informed the Board that the grant that Tracy Wilson has been working on to support the School Based Health Clinic has been approved and will be provided for 6 years. The district now needs to communicate that wonderful news and inform district parents/students that the clinic is open all year, not just when school is in session and to promote the use of the clinic.

Board President Harned stated that he has been receiving telephone calls from parents with complaints about trimesters, such as large holes in the system, large class sizes; it is not good for the alternative education students, etc. and was told the presentation on trimesters was not a true picture. He was also told that there are not enough desks, books, and that in one situation - half of the kids were out in the hall while the other half of the students took a test in the classroom and then they had to switch - Why didn't the teacher take all the students to the auditorium and test all of the students together - at the same time?

#### ***Second Reading ~ District's Vision-Mission-Beliefs and Expectations***

Board Vice-President Dean distributed revised statements for the Board to review on the district's Vision, Mission, Beliefs, & Expectations. Board tabled action until this could be brought to the district NCA School Improvement Committee members for review.

#### ***Second Reading ~ Curriculum Council Recommendations:***

Board discussion took place on the following curriculum recommendations: the Middle School Grading System, purchase a new 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies text, add two new Senior Math courses – and purchase the new Senior Math textbook that goes along with the new courses.

#### **Citizen's Second Request to Address the Board of Education**

**Joe Romo** - expressed concerns with trimester vs semester; stating the old system was working.

**Reginia Romo** – stated that high school students learn/study differently then college students, and that trimesters are more appropriate at college level.

**Lori Warson** – questioned if students could take a Baker College course but not for college credit? She then stated that she is bothered by all the independent studies with trimesters.

**Coreen Julin** - expressed concerns about her daughter having gaps between first and third trimester.

Board President Harned stated that the Board will need to decide in April what direction the district should go in; should the high school continue with trimesters or return to semesters next school year.

## **Action Items**

### ***Consent Agenda***

Motion by Duquette, supported by Fry to approve the consent agenda as presented, the minutes of the special meeting held February 9, 2009, the regular meeting held February 16, 2009, and the work session held March 2, 2009: along with the following expenditures for the month of February 2009: General Fund \$636,055.95, Food Service \$186,330.48, and Athletics \$9,663.52. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

### ***Joint COOR Boards Dinner/Special Meeting***

Motion by Duquette, supported by Maiani to hold a special meeting April 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of holding the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Boards' dinner/meeting. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

### ***District's Vision-Mission-Beliefs and Expectations Statement***

The Vision-Mission-Beliefs and Expectations Statement for the district was discussed, and then tabled, no action will be taken by the Board, until the School Improvement Committee can review and agree to the revisions. Board Secretary Maiani will express the above to the committee.

### ***Middle School Grading System***

Motion by Maiani, supported by Harned that the Houghton Lake Middle School staff be allowed to pilot a change in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade reporting during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> marking periods of the 2008-09 school year to include letter grading on a scale of A-E of all standards taught during the marking period and an additional traditional summary letter grade for each subject area derived from averaging the grades on the standards. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

### ***Senior Math ~ Personal Finance***

Motion by Duquette, supported by Maiani that the Houghton Lake High School Mathematics Department add a ½ credit of one trimester/semester senior math course entitled "Senior Math – Personal Finance" beginning in the 2009-10 school year. This math elective will be open to seniors only and will satisfy the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirement for completion of four years of mathematics, as recommended by the Houghton Lake Community School Curriculum Council. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

### ***Senior Math ~ Business Applications***

Motion by Dean, supported by Fry that the Houghton Lake High School Mathematics Department add a ½ credit of one trimester/semester senior math course entitled "Senior Math – Business Applications" beginning in the 2009-10 school year. This math elective will be open to seniors only and will satisfy the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirement for completion of four years of mathematics, as recommended by the Houghton Lake Community School Curriculum Council. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

### ***Senior Math Text***

Motion by Maiani, supported by Duquette that the Houghton Lake High School Mathematics Department adopt Lang, Walter H. and Temoleon G. Rousos. Mathematics with Business Applications. Glencoe, 2007 as the basic text for new courses "Senior Math – Personal Finance" and "Senior Math – Business Applications", as recommended by the Houghton Lake Community School Curriculum Council. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Text***

Motion by Duquette, supported by Fry that the Houghton Lake High School Social Studies Department adopt Dallek, Robert and Jesus Garcia and Donna Ogle and Frederick Risinger. American History Beginnings to 1914. McDougal Littell, 2008, as the basic text for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies course, as recommended by the Houghton Lake Community School Curriculum Council. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

## **Correspondence**

The Board members received an invitation to attend the National Honor Society inductions on March 31, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the H.S. Auditorium.

The Roscommon County Community Foundation sent acknowledgement that a donation was made to the Houghton Lake Community School District Support Fund, in honor of the Board of Education from Kathryn Hall.

Our Lady of the Lake school communicated that they would like to inquire if the district could offer additional curriculum for their students next school year.

***Closed Session ~ Negotiations***

Motion by Maiani, supported by Duquette that the Board of Education go into closed session after tonight's meeting for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Board took a short ten minute break at 8:45 p.m. prior to entering closed session at 9:02 p.m.

Motion by Duquette, supported Fry that the Board of Education come out of closed session at 9:50 p.m. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of trimesters; will survey staff, students, and parents.

Motion by Duquette, supported by Maiani to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Motion carried Yes 6, No 0.