

Regular Meeting of the Houghton Lake Community Schools Board of Education was held Monday, October 19, 2009 in the Board of Education office.

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

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Murphy, Susan Tyer, Stan Gardner, Matt Lewis, Brent Cryderman, Pam Akin, Heidi Palatka, Gail Harned, Anjanette Rusmisl, Arlene Jury, Alicia Thompson, Coreen Julin, Mary Harrison, Lynne Gellerman, Curt Schaiberger, Sally Cotterman, and Kathy Serum.

Visitors: Tom & Leslie Bowman, Vickie McDonald, Jan Manley, Barb & Meredith Sny, Pete Injasoulian, and Kathryn Hall.

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

Vickie McDonald - owner of North Star Driving School addressed the Board to announce that she can offer a Driver Education Program to our students. She stated that she is in the Lake City area, which makes it convenient - close by for the students and parents. She is interested in using one of our classrooms to teach the students, like the other driving school company has been allowed. She indicated that she would like to make the community aware that they have another choice when looking for a Driving Education School.

Anjanette Rusmisl - addressed the Board with concerns of the new Superintendent spending money on substitute teachers for the purpose of meet and greet. Stating that the last 8 superintendents were able to do the same without costing the taxpayers dollars or depriving children of educational time. Also, that she supports STAR Reading, but what gain can come from the STAR Reading Program vs the Developmental Reading Assessment?

Tom Bowman – addressed the Board stating that he is here on behalf of the community and the township. Since Merritt Elementary School is being sold, the community and township would like to have the playground equipment returned, since they donated approximately \$20,000 to purchase the equipment and place it on school property. The community and township board would like to have the playground equipment removed from the school property and placed on township property. The Assistant Superintendent will check into it.

Board President Harned stated that an action item regarding the finance committee receiving an offer to purchase Merritt and Prudenville Elementary Schools would need to be added to the agenda. The rest of the Board will have the opportunity to discuss the topic prior to any action.

Superintendent Murphy stated that the **“Building Spotlight”** will be on the High School this month. While Mr. Cryderman was setting up his power point presentation - the Middle School Principal began with her building report.

The Middle School –

Susan Tyer stated that the enrollment at the middle school is currently at 438 students. She then updated the Board on the middle school sports program, the first week of MEAP, the parent/teacher conferences, and student pictures. Also, November 6th is the end of the first quarter and the new teacher award program at Wal-Mart this year will be changed. Instead of one teacher receiving 1,000 dollars, ten teachers will each receive a \$100.00 gift card.

Collins Elementary School –

Pam Akin stated that the Bart’s Halloween Party went very well and her students stated that this was the best day of their life. She then updated the Board on the following: The Writing Project, that she had 65 families participate in family night, teachers and students are preparing for the

MEAP, and the students that study all week will be treated to a trip to Kirtland Community College to watch Jungle Book. Also, parent/teacher conference is this Thursday 4 to 7 p.m.

High School –

Brent Cryderman stated that their parent/teacher conferences are Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m., he then introduced Meredith Sny, Student Senate who shared with the Board that on October 1st they had a blood drive and 51 pints of blood were donated, which will save 153 lives. Also, on December 22nd they will have a penny drive for leukemia. Mr. Cryderman began his power point, covering the first day of school, and other activities, Mr. Cryderman stated that one of the high school goals is to reduce student failure, their current enrollment is at 675 students, and all but three teachers have their grades posted on the website.

Adult/Community Education –

Heidi Palatka indicated that they too had parent/teacher conferences, and that on November 9th their first term ends. The Day Care instructor and the children took a field trip to Bart's Halloween gathering, and they have had several of their students participate in the YAK advisory.

Curriculum Council –

Curriculum Director, Arlene Jury, provided the Board with a curriculum council update, and a curriculum report on fine arts. She then indicated that they have been working on getting signs and banners with the district's new mission logo.

Superintendent Murphy stated that he would like to address Anjanette Rusmiser concerns, that he is concerned with the very low reading level at the high school. He then stated that he wouldn't waste peoples' time or money if he didn't feel it was worth it.

Overnight Trip Requests:

Lynne Gellerman and her SADD student addressed the Board to give an update on the high school students being mentors to the middle school students. Then she gave details about the 24th Annual State Leadership Conference trip that they would like to take.

Mrs. Harrison addressed the Board to inform them that she would like to take the 6th and 7th grade students to Washington D.C. during the middle school enrichment days in February 2010. There will be 58 students going, with 10 parents, and 3 chaperones.

Mr. Lonnie Cook addressed the Board to update them on how our Wrestling Team has been keeping in touch with the other Wrestling Teams. As well as to request permission for the Wrestling Team to take an overnight trip, this would leave another opportunity for the teams to meet up with each other again.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Murphy informed the Board that Gary Long from Long Forestry will be thinning the Merritt Forest Property. Also, it will be necessary for the Board to have a first reading on the Homeless Assistance Act and adopt it as Board policy at the next meeting.

Financial Report

Mr. Lewis informed the Board that the \$165.00 cut per pupil is indeed fact, which will amount to a loss of \$270,000 in revenue. However, next year there still may be a \$600,000 cut. The district's that have begun to participate in shared services will not receive cuts.

Discussion Items

Shared Services with West Branch was discussed.

Discussion followed on purchasing new financial /student software for the district called (SDS) Specialized Data Systems Inc. The plans are for the new program to be in place January 1st - which would allow time for cross-training - then the program would be up and running by July 1, 2010 - to start the new school year.

The contract between the Teamsters and the Houghton Lake Board of Education has been agreed upon and has been settled as a three year contract.

First reading took place on the following curriculum council recommendations:

HLHS Social Studies Course Sequence

HLHS New Course Proposals ~ five ½ credits in Social Studies Electives
(World Geography, Advanced Economics, Humanities, Michigan History, Abnormal Psychology)

Request for Approval of New Text *World History*

HLMS Grade Reporting

First reading took place on the Board Policy for the Homeless Assistance Act.

First reading took place on the 2009 Project Three: H.S. Technology Area/Board Room.

Discussion of new staff member Heather Lamoureux took place. She is the new interventionist, which helps a small group of “At-Risk” students that are below grade level. She works one on one with the students to bring them up to grade level.

Finance Committee Member Ron Duquette updated the rest of the Board that an offer of \$200,000 for both Merritt and Prudenville Elementary buildings has been received. The purchaser would make one down payment of \$50,000 and then another \$50,000 every four (4) months with 5% interest. This would be a lease agreement for one year, and once the down payment is paid, the renovations can start. Discussion followed on 75 feet of the Prudenville Elementary School property. The Finance Committee recommends that the Board accept the lease and purchase agreement for the two school buildings.

Superintendent Murphy informed the Board that Tracy Wilson is requesting permission from the Board to take a hand full of students that are involved with the School Based Health Centers to Frankenmuth Michigan to attend the *Project Voice* youth conference. It will only be a day trip, but to be on the safe side, she wanted to bring it to the Board for their approval: the students might want to go down the night before the conference and stay at the Zehnder’s Splash Village. Mid-Michigan would pay the total cost of everything for all the students. Since this came before the Board late, no action will be taken by the Board to approve an overnight trip. The trip will be a day trip and not an overnight trip.

Citizen's Second Request to Address the Board of Education

Tom Bowman - addressed the Board to inquire about an agreement made years ago between the Township, the County, and the School, pertaining to closed roads through the Merritt School property. The agreement made by the Board and Church allow the roads to be used.

Ruth Clemens - addressed the Board stating that she would check into the Merritt School property road use agreement.

Board Opportunity to make Comment/Statement - None

Action Items

Consent Agenda

Motion by Duquette, supported by Scherer to approve the consent agenda as presented, the minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 21, 2009, and the Special Meetings held September 28, 2009 and October 5, 2009; along with the following expenditures for the month of September 2009: General Fund \$629,711.70, Food Service \$3,755.35, and Athletics \$24,720.48. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Shared Services ~ Resolution

Motion by Scherer, supported by Duquette to approve the Shared Services Agreement/Resolution between Houghton Lake Community School District and West Branch/Rose City School District effective November 1, 2009 as presented. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Specialized Data Systems, Inc. ~ Software

Motion by Scherer, supported by Maiani to authorize the purchase of Specialized Data Systems, Inc. (SDS) new student data/accounting software for the district. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Teamsters Contract – Ratified

Motion by Duquette, supported by Fry that the Board of Education ratify the contract/agreement between the Houghton Lake Community Schools and Teamsters Local 214 effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Fry Yes, Duquette Yes, Maiani Yes, Scherer Yes, Burger Yes, Dean Yes, Harned Yes. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Heather Lamoureux ~ New Staff

Motion by Duquette, supported by Dean to offer Heather Lamoureux a teaching contract for the 2009-2010 school year and place her on step 1 of the salary schedule with all the benefits of the Master Contract. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

SLS/SADD 24th Annual State Leadership Conference Overnight Trip Request

Motion by Maiani, supported by Duquette to approve the request for the SLS/SADD Students to attend the 24th Annual High School State Leadership Conference at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan on November 7-9, 2009 or alternate dates if necessary. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Wrestling Team Overnight Trip Request

Motion by Duquette, supported by Fry to approve the request for the Houghton Lake High School Wrestling Team to take a trip to East Detroit High School to participate in their Team Tournament on Saturday, January 9, 2010, or an alternative date if necessary. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Washington D.C. Enrichment Days Overnight Trip Request

Motion by Duquette supported by Scherer to approve the Middle School Enrichment Days overnight trip request to Washington D.C. on February 17th ~ 20th 2010, or alternate dates if necessary. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Merritt Elementary and Prudenville Elementary

Motion by Duquette, supported by Dean that the Board accept the offer of lease and purchase agreement as presented to the Roy Medical and Tech. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Correspondence – Michigan Department of Education gave recognition to our district for increasing our school breakfast count, indicating that this is great – because breakfast helps kids perform better in school.

Closed Session ~ Negotiations

Motion by Duquette, supported by Fry that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:42 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0. (The Board took a short break prior to going into closed session at 8:53 p.m.)

Motion by Duquette, supported by Fry that the Board of Education come out of closed session at 9:02 p.m. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Discussion took place on the following:

- Tom Bowman's concern over the playground equipment at Merritt and use of the driveway.

- Although we will allow a Driver's Ed program(s) to use the high school, we will not endorse any one particular program.
- The resolution passed prior to Closed Session with respect to Matt's collaborative services agreement with West Branch was amended to reflect the creation of the position of "Executive Director of Collaborative Business Services" in place of the position of "Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations" as this wasn't previously stated when we voted in favor of said resolution. Motion by Duquette, supported by Fry. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Motion by Duquette, supported by Fry to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.