

**HOUGHTON LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Work Session – September 14, 2009**

Present: Harned, Dean, Maiani, Duquette, Scherer, Burger

Absent: Fry

Admin/Staff: Kevin Murphy, Matt Lewis, Stan Gardner, Brent Cryderman, Susan Tyer, Pam Akin, Arlene Jury, Heidi Palatka, Brenda Collins, Jim Mueller, Gail Harned

Media: Cheryl Holladay

Visitors: Robin & Randy Seymore, Nancy Walter, Ruth Clemens

President Harned called work session to order at 7:00 p.m.

Citizen's Request to Address the Board of Education: None

Superintendent's Report

- Student Achievement – Discussed AYP as it relates to the alternative ed. program
- Opportunities for Students / Community – Someone is interested in purchasing the Merritt or Prudenville buildings to be used as an 8-12 school for students wishing to go into the medical field.
- Communications – High student count in class rooms in high school, middle school and Collins. Aid hours may be added as specified in Teachers' contract. High school is working it out for the 1st Trimester.
- Finance / Facilities / Forward Thinking – so far we are ahead dollar-wise with the bond monies including additional interest to be gained on unspent funds.

Discussion Items

- ✓ Work Session topics and develop "top ten list" for the 09/10 school year – Suggestions: Contingency planning for funding reductions; 5 yr. strategic plan; measurable goals for superintendent and set dates for review; discuss possible collaborative efforts; look at possible ways to convert stimulus funds to grant money; goals for the Board; Neola policy; efficiency through the use of technology; continual review of funding; keep abreast of state health care proposals.
- ✓ Purchase cards v. purchase orders/ check request – Matt suggested we look at using purchase cards to streamline the means by which smaller purchases are made; will be able to monitor purchases online and will make employees sign a contract stating they will be responsible to reimburse district if cards are used for anything other than what they are intended.
- ✓ Driver's education offerings for our students – discussed the benefits of outsourcing our driver's ed program, including less cost to students and not having to maintain vehicles. A financial analysis was distributed by Matt
- ✓ Policy on individuals being dishonest on the initial volunteer request form (ie background check) – First reading; language added to policy: ***If permission to run a check is granted and the results indicate the individual misrepresented the truth, admittance will be denied.***

- ✓ Redundancy of paperwork filled out by parents – discussed ways to streamline the filling out of documents by parents at the start of school. Perhaps formerly submitted info can be printed off and given to parents to make any changes.
- ✓ Prudenville Elementary and Merritt Elementary School Building Appraisals – Ron Duquette talked to 3 different appraisers about cost to appraise buildings; will go with the lowest bid of \$1200 as we are most interested in a fair market value of the buildings.
- ✓ Other – memo submitted by Brent Cryderman regarding online credits, personal curriculum and a change to our high school athletic policy with respect to suspensions. Instead of 2 game suspensions, we will be returning to the mandatory one game suspension.

Board Presentation - None

Citizen's Second Request to Address the Board of Education

Ruth Clemens, 1244 W. Houghton Lake Dr, Prudenville; expressed that time was of the essence in the Board's decision to sell Prudenville/Merritt buildings requested by her client. She also encouraged us to consider the possibilities for the community in our decision.

Randy Seymore, Chemical Bank; reiterated what Ruth Clemens said and assured us this was a “real deal.”

Jim Mueller, 3573 S. Townline Rd, Houghton Lake; expressed his concerns about outsourcing our Driver's Ed program. He asked us to find out if there will be any additional fuel charge and times it would be offered.

Correspondence - Thank you note from Ambassadors of Music for allowing them to use the building for a fundraiser; thank you note from Mark Vick for allowing him to use the middle school gym to run his basketball clinic

8:37 p.m. Motion by Duquette, supported by Dean to go into Closed Session; motion carried 6-0

9:53 p.m. . Motion by Duquette, supported by Scherer to come out of Closed Session; motion carried 6-0

A brief discussion took place regarding Board members having the option to make a statement and/or comment after the citizen's address the Board of Education for a second time at the meetings.

Dave cautioned Matt on not releasing too many purchase cards; also mentioned that if anyone wanted anything on Monday's agenda to submit before Thursday, 9/17.

10:06 p.m. Motion by Duquette, supported by Dean to adjourn; motion carried 6-0