

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

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

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Murphy, Stan Gardner, Matt Lewis, Brent Cryderman, Gail Harned, Deb Markiewicz, Sally Cotterman, Ken Warner, Kathy Serum, Patty Caswell, Heidi Palatka, Arlene Jury, Alicia Thompson, and Anjanette Rusmisl.

Visitors: Jan Manley, Marvin & Irma Austin, Bruce Dunn, Craig Cotterman, and Kathy Sergent.

Press: Cheryl Holladay, Houghton Lake Resorter

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

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

*Anjanette Rusmisl* - addressed the Board, stating that she would like to follow up on all the concerns she shared with the Board at the last meeting. She distributed several unbiased articles regarding the STAR Reading Program that came from different research firms. She stated that the answers she received from Superintendent Murphy on her questions came out of these articles. She highlighted the answers that she had received. Anjanette then indicated that she also has concerns with the new Superintendent micro-managing and doing the work of the building principals.

*Deb Markiewicz* - addressed the board with concerns about Superintendent Murphy questioning the Middle School Staff regarding an issue pertaining to Collins Elementary. He should have gone to Collins School Staff with his question.

### **Board Presentation**

*Bruce Dunn* – addressed the board, giving an overview of the 2008-09 audit, stating that our fund balance is currently at 11%, which averages out to about \$1,000 per student. Student enrollment dropped from 1757 to 1684. The district's assets are high due to the 7 million dollar Bond Issue that was approved by the voters.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Murphy indicated that he is planning on meeting with 10 parents, 10 business owners, and 10 politicians during the months of November and December - to find out the pulse of the district. He then invited Mr. Cryderman to talk about the Veteran's Day Program. Mr. Cryderman stated that he was impressed. It was an outstanding program. Over 300 breakfasts were served.

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Lewis discussed declining enrollment. Next year the district may need to make cuts. We were lucky that we didn't have to make cuts this year.

### **Building Reports**

#### **Houghton Lake Community Education (Adult/Alterative Ed)**

Heidi Palatka informed the board that they follow the Michigan Merit Curriculum and they participated in the Professional Development Activities today. Teachers worked on 6-8 pacing guides and report cards. November 10<sup>th</sup> their new term begins. She stated that they are having a lot of problems with their phone system.

#### **High School**

Mr. Cryderman talked about his new lower class size numbers and attendance appeals. Out of 18 appeals, 7 were granted. His staff reversed their roles during their Professional Development and became learners, instead of teachers for the day.

## **Curriculum director**

Arlene Jury commented that the district's Professional Development Day covered a "process" to become better readers. She then stated that they are working on getting the "pacing guides" on the web site.

## **Discussion Items**

Superintendent Murphy informed the board that there would be a work session on December 7<sup>th</sup> - just on the topic of trimesters and semesters. Mr. Cryderman stated he has three surveys - one from the students, one from the teachers, and one from all the other stake-holders. He will share the results with them at that meeting/work session.

First Reading took place on the district's 403b Plan Document.

First Reading took place on the district's Bond Issue Change Format.

Second Reading on the Agenda Format/Outline took place.

Second Reading took place on choosing a School District Audit Firm.

Second Reading took place on the Band Trip to the Holland Tulip Parade.

Second Reading took place on the curriculum recommendation on Social Studies Sequence of Coursework and the Houghton Lake Middle School Grade Reporting.

Two work sessions will need to be scheduled for the Mid-year and Year-end Evaluations of the superintendent - January 11<sup>th</sup> & June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion on the Prudenville School Property Title took place.

Board Vice President Dean requested job descriptions for all the employees in the school district.

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

### **Action Items**

#### ***Consent Agenda***

Motion by Dean, supported by Scherer to approve the consent agenda as presented, the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 19, 2009, and the Special Meeting held November 2, 2009 with the following corrections/adjustments: From ~~hey rides~~ **hay rides**, to carving pumpkins, etc. and to add under the ***Board Opportunity to make Comment/Statement: Board Vice President Dean requested that at the May 2010 work session meeting, the Board would like to receive a report from HLHS Social Studies Department as to how they will use writing in assessing student's achievement in each of the five new classes for 2010-2011;*** along with the following expenditures for the month of October 2009: General Fund \$684,765.03, Food Service \$78,419.15, and Athletics \$8,996.96. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

#### ***Agenda Format/Outline***

Motion by Maiani, supported by Fry, to approve changing the agenda format to add other topics prior to the Board Meeting being adjourned and/or right after the Board comes out of closed session. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

#### ***Band Trip ~ Holland Tulip Parade***

Motion by Maiani, supported by Burger, to approve the request for the Houghton Lake High School Band to take a trip and to perform in the Holland Tulip Parade, on Friday and Saturday, May 7-8, 2010, or alternative dates if necessary. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

#### ***School District Audit Services***

Motion by Dean, supported by Maiani, to continue with Maner, Costerisan, & Ellis, P.C. from Lansing, for the school's annual audit service. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

#### ***Curriculum Recommendation ~ Social Studies Sequence of Coursework***

Motion by Scherer, supported by Dean, to adopt the HLCS Curriculum Council's recommendation to change in the sequence of HLHS Social Studies courses to include teaching ½ credit each of Civics and Economics in grades 9, 1 credit of United States History in grade 10, 1 credit of World History in grade 11, and ½ credit of Social Studies electives in grade 12. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

***Curriculum Recommendation ~ HLMS Grade Reporting***

Motion by Burger, supported by Fry, to accept the HLCS Curriculum Council recommendation to change the grade reporting practices for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Houghton Lake Middle School to include the use of an A-E scale for reporting student progress in grade level content standards and a summary letter grade designation for each subject. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

***Mid-year and Year-end Evaluation ~ January 11<sup>th</sup> & June 14<sup>th</sup>***

Motion by Dean, supported by Fry, to hold a work session on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Office for the purpose of the Superintendent's Mid-year Evaluation and to hold a work session on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Office for the purpose of the Superintendent's Year-end Evaluation. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

***Prudenville School Property Title ~ Resolution***

Motion by Maiani, supported by Dean, to approve the attached Resolution from Thrun Law Firm, P.C. regarding the quiet title for the Prudenville School District Property as presented. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

***Correspondence ~ 2009 Football Camp***

Tom Blanchard, the football coach, submitted a booklet of activities of the football team from boot camp through playoff season.

***Closed Session***

Motion by Maiani, supported by Fry, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:19 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

(The Board took a short break prior to going into closed session at 8:32 p.m.)

Motion by Maiani, supported by Fry that the Board of Education come out of closed session at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Board President Harned stated he would draft a letter in response to Wendy Heinig's letter to Superintendent Murphy, showing support and direction given to Superintendent Murphy by the Board.

Burger suggested a plaque to honor Pete Injasoulian's work in getting the district back on track. Dave cautioned that we would need to consider the others involved in that process as well.

General, positive comments made about our annual Veteran's Day Program.

Maiani inquired about the timeline involved in changing the date of our school elections. Lewis will talk to Thrun.

Motion by Maiani, supported by Fry to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0.