

Special Meeting of the Houghton Lake Community Schools Board of Education was held Monday, December 7, 2009 in the Board of Education Office.

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

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Murphy, Stan Gardner, Matt Lewis, Brent Cryderman, Gail Harned, Ken Warner, Susan Tyer, and Heidi Palatka.

Visitors: None

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 -None**

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Murphy informed the Board that Mr. Wade, the new owner of the Northway Lounge (Bowling Alley) came into the Board Office. Mr. Wade would like permission from the school district to begin a Bowling Club for the students. He has already contacted the surrounding school districts and there is an interest for the students to start a bowling club and participate in bowling tournaments among school districts. Several years ago, the Equestrian Team came before the Board to request to become a club and the Board approved.

Mr. Cryderman addressed the Board to share the results of the surveys that took place on whether the district should continue with trimesters or semesters. The staff is in favor of continuing with trimesters (65 % yes ~ 35 % no), the student survey indicated that 75 % prefer to continue with trimesters. There is data to support that academically the students did better, trimesters brought the failure rate down. Mr. Cryderman recommends the district continue with trimesters and continue to collect data. He stated that for the Board to really get correct results, four (4) years of data is necessary.

He also indicated that our students are below the ACT State Average, that we need to be at least State Average. Only 6 % of our students are at C level and that is not good. The ACT Prep Classes will begin.

Discussion followed on Independent Study numbers and current trimester class sizes. Mr. Cryderman stated that the Chemistry Class size is down to 28 students which is much better, however, there are still only 24 labs.

Discussion regarding the Board of Education Finance Committee and the sale of the Prudenville and Merritt Elementary School Property took place. Mr. Lewis indicated that the amended lease and purchase agreement offer does not change anything – it is the same amount of money, the same amount of time involved, the same agreement, the only change is that it will now be a land contract.

Motion by Duquette, Support by Maiani to accept the amended lease and purchase agreement received for the Prudenville and Merritt Elementary School Property. Motion Carried. 6 Yes, 0 No.

**Correspondence - None**

#### **Closed Session**

Motion by Duquette, supported by Scherer that the Board of Education go into closed session at 7:40 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 7:57 p.m.)

Motion by Duquette, supported by Scherer that the Board of Education come out of closed session at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

- Discussed amount of teacher prep time K-7.
- Murphy informed the Board that Michigan Works has requested to present before the Board.
- Harned let us know that the President of the Ithaca school board called him for a recommendation for Carl Hartman.
- Thrun has let us know that it's OK to replace a Clerk's position (union) with a Secretarial position (non-union).

Motion by Duquette, supported by Scherer to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0.