

Regular Meeting of the Houghton Lake Community Schools Board of Education was held Monday, April 21, 2008 in the Board of Education office.

Members Present: Maiani, Haf, Stuck, Harned, Burger, Dean and Duquette.

Members Absent: None

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Injasoulian, Susan Tyer, Pam Akin, Patti Caswell, Lynne Gellerman, Matt Lewis, Gail Harned, and Stan Gardner.

Visitors: Rod Lewis

Press: Cheryl Holladay, Houghton Lake Resorter
Jeff Patrus, Roscommon County Herald News

President Harned called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m., Superintendent Injasoulian informed the Board that the district's expenditures have increased from the boost in fuel cost, and a couple of long-term substitute positions, and our student enrollment being down. Business Manager, Matt Lewis, addressed the Board and begun the Budget Amendment Hearing – he stated that he is in the process of correcting the accounting codes, so he was unable to print out an accurate ledger at this time, then indicated some of the short falls within the budget, such as with the long winter, the snow plow account was \$20,000 vs the \$10,000 that was budgeted, also, the audit expense came in at \$15,000 more than what was budgeted. He noted that Food Service is making money this year, but small school districts have a very hard time building fund equity. He shared his future plans of implementing “Responsible Spending” where each building can keep the year-end fund balance and start building up their building budgets. The Board gave thanks to Matt for all his hard work and long hours.

Citizen's Request to Address the Board of Education

Rod Lewis – addressed the Board and then asked the Business Manager about an expense in the amount of \$17,000.00. Business Manager, Lewis informed him that the expense had been recorded under support services. Mr. Rod Lewis then asked the Board several questions specifically related to the expense.

Superintendent's Report

- Congratulations go to the Adult/Community Education for receiving a grant in the amount of \$12,000 for their Early Childhood Program.
- Superintendent Injasoulian was in Lansing this week and spoke on behalf of the School Based Health Clinic.
- Superintendent Injasoulian received many thanks from the student's for the pool party at the Comfort Suites Inn, which was provided for those students who improved on the MEAP testing.
- Superintendent Injasoulian stated that over one thousand people attended the musical performance (*Grease*) he and the Board members gave thanks to all those individuals that worked so hard to make this happen – and that everyone did a great job.
- There will be a meeting this afternoon between the principal's and the union to work on the calendar for next school year - the proposed calendar will be brought to the Board at the May work session.
- The Principals Evaluations have been completed and are available for the Board to review.
- May 6, 2008 is Election Day, please remember to vote, also, May 6, 2008 is National Teacher Day
- The 27th Annual Joint C.O.O.R. Board dinner/meeting is next week - April 29th (The Superintendent will have the school van available for those who would like to drive together)
- The Board Retreat has been scheduled for May 17th (Saturday) and will begin at 9:00 a.m., the location will need to be decided upon.

Discussion Items

Administrative Board Reports were reviewed.

The First Reading of the Curriculum Council Request for a new Economics Text Book took place.

The First Reading on the Curriculum Council Request for the district wide Grading Scale took place.

Personal Curriculum was discussed; the new graduation requirements may make it difficult for some students to graduate. If students can not pass and they meet the certain criteria they may request a personal curriculum which is a similar program that has been slightly altered. There will be two types, one for General Education and one for Special Education. The Board would like to have this on the Board Retreat Agenda for further discussion.

The Board approved the following topic to be added as a discussion item on tonight's agenda as well as on the agenda for the Board Retreat. - The Board of Education supporting the staff on the curriculum adopted by the Board of Education. Discussion on what the Board can do to help the administrators and the teachers improve student achievement followed, also, the Board will implement the curriculum that the Board adopted and that the curriculum council recommends. Board Member Haf then informed the Board that in the near future, the Michigan Department of Education will require all ISD's to go into schools and monitor/observe to make sure school improvement is successfully being achieved/accomplished.

Board Presentation

SADD – Lynne Gellerman addressed the Board to update them on the student leadership services – some of the activities they had planed did not work out, but they have alternative projects that are coming along very well. They have approximately 100 to 150 students participating.

H.S. Handbook – Sue Milner addressed the Board to inform them that due to the trimester change at the High School, the handbook will have to have some revisions made on the attendance policy. She then explained how the attendance procedure would work with trimesters.

Citizen's Second Request to Address the Board of Education-

Rod Lewis addressed the Board again stating that he would like to receive an answer from the Board on his question from last months meeting, regarding the middle school assistant principal position.

Action Items:

Consent Agenda

Motion by Dean, supported by Duquette to approve the consent agenda as presented - minutes of the regular meeting held March 17, 2008: along with the following expenditures for the month of March 2008: General Fund \$1,759,223.86, Athletics \$1,331.52, and Food Service \$62,561.54. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Band Overnight Trip

Motion by Duquette, supported by Maiani to approve the request for the Houghton Lake High School Band to take a trip and perform at Cedar Point, on Friday and Saturday, May 9-10, 2008 or alternative dates if necessary. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Budget Amendment ~ Resolution

Motion by Duquette, supported by Haf to approve the attached 2007/2008 Budget Amendment as presented. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Annual Summer Tax Collection Agreement

Motion by Duquette, supported by Maiani to approve the summer tax collection agreement as presented. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Equity Funding ~ Resolution

Board of Education decided to table adopting the resolution until the next meeting, after they gather more information about the group.

Correspondence –Superintendent Injasoulia informed the Board that the Postmaster from the Houghton Lake post office brought in U.S. Passport applications/kits for anyone who is interested in obtaining a passport. Also, the “Teacher Mini-grants” will be available again this year.

Administrative Contract

Prior to taking action on the administrative contracts, Board Vice-President Dean suggested going into closed session to discuss and review the evaluations, Board members agreed.

Motion by Dean, supported by Duquette to go into closed session at 8:30 p.m. to review and discuss the administrative evaluations, prior to voting on the renewal of the Administrative Contracts. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Motion by Maiani, supported by Haf to come out of closed session at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0.

Motion by Duquette, supported by Maiani to extend all administrative contracts through the 2009/2010 school year. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Motion by Burger, supported by Haf to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0.