

Minutes of Regular Meeting

December 20, 2010

Houghton Lake Community Schools

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Houghton Lake Community Schools was held Monday, December 20, 2010, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Technology Hub and Staff Training Center.

Members Present: Dave Harned, Tom Dean, Ron Duquette, Dave Johnson, Merry Maiani, Tim Scherer, Paull Fry

Administration/Staff Present: Kevin Murphy, Brent Cryderman, Heidi Palatka, Susan Tyer, Pam Akin, Chavon Nihls, John Earley, Jared Socia, Stan Gardner, Gail Harned, Jen Murphy, Paula Youngberg, Liz Warner, Carol Chidester, Cindy Laur, Mary Harrison, Mary K. Murphy, Lori Warson, Michelle Johnson

Visitors: Joyce Beattie, Mark Souder, Brodie Souder, Cam Warner, Zach Burnside, Vicki Burnside, Elise Brotebeck, Kristi Carrick, Cortnie Talbot, Jonathan Talbot, Lori Sajdak, Mel Sajdak, Miranda Gardner, Patrick Gagne, Jennifer Mendham, Judy Boudrie, Tenny Hamel, Lonnie Cook, Betty Guldner, B. Forbes, Tracy Wilson, Carissa Bonner

Press: Cheryl Holladay, the Houghton Lake Resorter

1. **Call Regular Meeting to Order - Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting - November 22, 2010 Regular Meeting**

Motion by Duquette, supported by Scherer, all in favor, motion carried. 7 yes, 0 No.

3. **Citizen's Request to Address the Board of Education**

Tracy Wilson introduced the new school Nurse Practitioner, Carissa Bonner.

4. **Superintendent's Report**

High School/Brent Cryderman – liked having the alumni here. Discussed ACT. Composite score is below national average in all content area. Thanked department chairs for the work they are doing. Boys are under performing. We have some work to do. Great day yesterday at the Palace. Girls won, boys lost. Both concerts are tonight and tomorrow.

Middle School/Susan Tyer – looking for fun on Wed. at 2 – student and staff basketball

Collins Elementary/Pam Akin – exciting – shop with a cop - students had a great time. Concert was very good. Thanks to Donna Pettyjohn. 90 students and 10 staff with perfect attendance.

Alternative Ed/Heidi Palatka – festive place down there. 1st GED Christmas party. Daycare will have their Christmas party next.

Transportation/Stan Gardner - EPA Grant to upgrade busses for environmental concerns- will take care of 11 busses.

5. **"It Matters Because You Matter"**

A. **Joyce Beattie - Multiplication "Dog Bones"**

4th Grade Grandma – Volunteer at the middle school. She has made multiplication “bones” flash cards and knitted a winter hat for every 4th grader for years. Mr. Harned said Mrs. Beattie is an example of the thing he loves so much about Houghton Lake; everybody is a part of the community.

6. Board Presentation

A. Building Spotlight - Middle School

Presenter: Susan Tyer

North Central Area Credit Union has teamed with the middle school to open a "branch" in the middle school building. Students are running the operation with a representative from the Credit Union overseeing the operation. The goal is to have student branches in all of the area school districts. Set up in the MS library, The students interviewed for the jobs. Goal is to open new accounts with deposits as little as \$.25.

B. Returning Graduates

College Readiness

Returning grads – Miranda Gardner, Patrick Gagne, Jennifer Mendham, Cameron Warner, Zack Burnside. Study skills and writing were lacking for most of the students who spoke. It is not just students from Houghton Lake who are struggling in these areas. Mr. Murphy's remarks to the past students: I feel that our staff and administrators are not going to feel like they are being criticized but we can learn from this.

C. Technology

Jared Socia gave a presentation on the technology that the district is implementing . Network switches, district wireless, projector for every classroom, document camera, Mobi and interactive whiteboards, teacher workstations in each classroom. Mobi is a piece of equipment that every teacher will have in their classroom. This technology will be completed this year. Wireless infra structure will be in place by the end of January. PD to help the teachers in small groups and grade levels. The teachers love them. There is a lot of positive feedback.

7. Discussion Items

A. Second Reading - HS Science Curriculum

B. First & Second Reading - Overnight Wrestling Trip

C. First Reading – Overnight Wrestling Trip (Negaunee)

D. First & Second Reading - Summer Tax Collection

Summer tax collection - \$2.50 collection fee. Requesting that they keep us there.

E. First Reading - MS Field Trip/Enrichment Days

Mary Harrison and Carol Chidister – Cranbrook and tour the exhibits. 60 students. 2 children per adult. \$105 for students and \$115 for adults. Furnish the board with a final number.

F. First Reading - Special Education Millage

Dialog at COOR ISD districts involved. \$600K decrease in our funding. Each board would have to pass a resolution by January to have it on the ballot in May. Superintendents within the COOR ISD area are discussing raising a millage to replace some revenue lost. Working with the finance committee to explore this process.

8. Open Meetings Act

Have had questions concerning our last Closed Session. Asked what the media understands and what we understand to be the proper way to do things. We received a letter from the HL Resorter.

9. Quarterly Board Work Sessions

Some feel like we are not getting enough board face-to-face time. Do we go back to monthly work sessions, or try quarterly work sessions. We are going to reschedule the meeting that had to be cancelled. Board members felt that the work sessions and more time together made the board more cohesive.

January 10th @ 6:00 pm

March 14th @ 6 :00 pm

May 9th @ 6:00 pm

June 13th @ 6:00 pm

10. Citizen's Second Request to Address the Board of Education

Paula Youngberg addressed concerns with the tech person. Problem has been solved. Leonard Natowski regarding Coach Floyd Carter –Football? Has anything been done? Has the job been posted yet?

11. Board Opportunity to Make a Comment/Statement

Dave Harned - Don't schedule concerts on the night of a board meeting.

Tom Dean – Board was invited to attend the Christmas luncheon at Alternative Ed. Thank you Heidi and her staff for putting this program. Thank you to the community for their donations and gifts donated.

Merry Maiani – encourage each to check out www.studentsfirst.org . You do not have to join to check out the site.

12. Action Items

A. Consent Agenda

Motion by Duquette, support by Scherer to approve consent agenda as presented. All in favor, motion carried. 7 Yes, 0 No.

B. HS Science Curriculum

Motion by Dean, support by Fry to approve HS Science curriculum as presented. All in favor, motion carried. 7 Yes, 0 No.

C. Overnight Wrestling Trip

Motion by Duquette, support by Maiani to approve overnight trip to Escanaba by the Wrestling Team as presented. All in favor, motion carried. 7 Yes, 0 No.

D. Summer Tax Collection Agreement

Motion by Scherer, support by Duquette to approve the Summer Tax Collection Resolution as presented. All in favor, motion carried. 7 Yes, 0 No.

13. Correspondence

Letter from the Resorter regarding a possible violation of the Open Meetings Act.

14. Adjourn

Motion by Duquette, support by Maiani to adjourn Regular Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm. Yes 7, No 0