

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

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

Members Absent: Duquette

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Injasoulian, Jack Kramer, Pam Akin, Susan Tyer, Ken Warner, Rob Kunik, Stan Gardner, John Earley, Tonja Hinkston, Matt Lewis, Kristi Decker, Sue Benander, and Mike Shaltz.

Visitors: Jan Manley Becky Tinney, Sharon Carnahan, Brigitte and Matt Doehring, and Katrina Linkhart.

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

Board President Harned called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

***Katrina Linkhart*** – addressed the Board with concerns that she is not able to have lunch with her daughter because of a background check. Stating that she has paid all her fines, and what she did is all behind her – so she does not understand why that is keeping her from having lunch with her daughter.

***Brigitte Doehring*** – addressed the Board with the same concerns. Stating that she has been banned from Collins Elementary, and that other parents have told her that the same thing happened to them. She has tried to resolve with the principal and superintendent, but that didn't work so her and her husband pulled their twin daughters out of Collins Elementary and have enrolled them in Skeels.

***Sharon Carnahan*** – addressed the Board and said the same thing has happened to her at Collins. Over something she did 30 years ago, she is not allowed to have lunch with her grandchildren. Stating that the parents are just trying to lend a hand (helping the children put on coats and gloves) these same parents always helped out - the same way at Head Start and they were welcomed there. She finished with the following comment - that it is not fair to hold something she did 30 years ago against her now and to not let her volunteer in the building – that is wrong.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### ***Michigan School Principal's Week***

Superintendent Injasoulian stated that last week (February 9-13, 2009) was ***Michigan School Principal's Week*** but he preferred – and thought it would be much better to honor his administrators today. He read the Michigan – State Board of Education Resolution acknowledging their leadership, challenges, and valuable contribution they make to ensure the success of our students. He then gave thanks and distributed gifts to the administrators that were present Jack Kramer, Susan Tyer, and Pam Akin. He then gave recognition to the administrators that were absent Mrs. Milner, Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Palatka, and Mrs. Jury, stating that he appreciates all of his administrators very much.

#### ***Jr. ROTC Update***

Superintendent Injasoulian dispersed a document outlining what will be necessary for the district to begin a Jr. ROTC program. To name a few - Students must remain in the program the entire school year, (not just for a semester); space requirements would be one very large classroom or two if medium-small. The military will provide the equipment necessary, pay half of the cost of the instructor, (approx \$200,000 is awarded for the program – annually). Before an application is submitted, the students should be surveyed to make sure we will have enough students enrolled/interested. At this time, Harrison and West Branch school districts are offering this program.

Superintendent Injasoulian also noted that an excellent *Professional Development* occurred in the district today. And that the Bond Issue Committee once again had a great meeting. As soon as material is available, it will be shared with the Board.

## **Financial Report**

Matt Lewis addressed the Board stating that he would like to make it known to the public – that the only money spent from the Bond Issue so far has been the \$15,000 to cover the cost of the required survey.

Then updated the Board on the following:

- ✓ The state is planning to distribute \$300,000 per year – for the next 2 years for Title I (At-Risk), and IDEA (Special Ed.). This is a one time offer – however, districts are required to spend the same amount on these two programs consistently year after year, and districts will not be able to duplicate that amount.
- ✓ The MEA Retirement Incentive Plan is a very terrible idea and districts have been contacting legislators to tell them what the true cost is and that this will be a huge burden down the road so it should not be allowed.
- ✓ The stimulus package of \$41 billion for infrastructure school districts were told they would receive – is out the door, instead – the Governor of each state will receive the funding, and they get to individually choose which projects need to be completed.

## **Discussion Items**

### ***Administrative Board Reports***

The Administrative Board Reports were reviewed. Board President Harned stated that a discussion item regarding the Bond Issue would need to be added onto the agenda. The Board needs to prioritize – according to importance and/or urgency, making a detailed list of which projects need to be completed first, along with an accurate cost for each project so that the district will know exactly where we stand.

### ***First Reading ~ Civil Rights Complaint Procedure***

Board President Harned stated that if the other Board members felt no further discussion was necessary on the Civil Rights Complaint Procedure that the Board could take action on it tonight. Board members agreed, and motion was made by Maiani to move the Civil Rights Complaint Procedure to an action item to be approved/adopted by the Board tonight.

### ***Annual Election ~ Headlee Rollback***

Board President Harned stated that the district will thoroughly have to inform the voters that the district can **never** collect more than the 18 mills, and that this is not a vote for new – additional tax. That this .25 mill is only to allow the district to collect what is lost from headlee rollbacks.

### ***First Reading ~ District's Vision-Mission-Beliefs and Expectations***

Board President Harned stated that after the Board members review the preliminary district vision-mission-beliefs & expectations, if they have any thoughts or ideas they would like to add, let the Superintendent know. Superintendent Injasoulian remarked - those who worked on this did an excellent job.

### ***First Reading ~ Curriculum Council Recommendations:***

Board discussion took place on the curriculum recommendations of changing the Middle School Grading System, purchasing a new 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies text, and adding two new Senior Math courses – and purchasing the new Senior Math textbook that goes with the new courses.

## **Board Presentations**

***Middle School Grading System*** ~ Susan Tyer, Middle School Principal, addressed the Board and explained the current grading system they have been using at the middle school. After several parent meetings the consensus was to switch grading with numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) and use letter grades instead – (A, B, C, D, E). This grading system will be a pilot to make sure all agree this is better.

***High School Trimester Review*** ~ High School Principal, Jack Kramer, addressed the Board stating that there are many rumors floating around about the Board canceling trimesters. He then distributed a document listing the student pass/failure rate comparison between semester vs trimester. As well as listing the positive and negative observations that the students and staff expressed to him. The positive responses outweigh the negative remarks, and was consistently advantageous to the students. The consensus was to continue with the trimesters, and to work on offering additional courses, and lowering some of the class

sizes. High School Student, Becky Tinney, spoke on behalf of the senior class, stating that everyone feels that in the long run, the trimesters are better and they prefer to not go back to semesters. Teacher's Ken Warner & Rob Kunik spoke in favor of having the trimesters remain, as well as the counselors, Kristi Decker and Sue Benander. The high school staff all agree that trimesters create more work, but it is worth it for the students to succeed.

### **Citizen's Second Request to Address the Board of Education - none**

#### **Action Items**

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

Motion by Dean, supported by Maiani to approve the consent agenda as presented, the minutes of the regular meeting held January 19, 2009, and the work session held February 2, 2009: along with the following expenditures for the month of January 2009: General Fund \$912,400.44, Food Service \$88.16, and Athletics \$3,463.65. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

##### ***Annual Election ~ Resolution***

Motion by Maiani, supported by Fry to approve the attached resolution "Calling Regular School Election" as presented. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

##### ***Civil Rights Grievance Procedure***

Motion by Fry, supported by Scherer that the Board of Education adopt the Civil Rights Grievance Procedure for Houghton Lake Community School District as presented. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

##### ***Faculty Coach***

Motion by Fry, supported by Maiani to approve the request to hire Rob Kunik, a faculty member for the Softball Head Coach position for the 2008/2009 school year. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

#### **Correspondence**

##### **Closed Session**

Motion by Maiani, supported by Fry that the Board of Education go into closed session after tonight's meeting (9:43 p.m.) for the purpose of the Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation and for negotiations. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Motion by Dean, supported by Fry to come out of closed session at 11:05 p.m.

Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0.

Board President Harned expressed concern over the fact that several faculty members were left waiting outside the high school Monday a.m. as the doors were still locked; and that the school walkways weren't shoveled although the public library walks were. Harned also suggested for the Board to talk about doing a newsletter at our next meeting.

The outcome of the Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation:

- A.** Relationship w/Board – Exceeds Expectations
- B.** Relationship w/Community – Exceeds Expectations
- C.** Superintendent/Staff Relationships – Meets Expectations
- D.** Business and Finance – Exceeds Expectations
- E.** Educational Leadership – Exceeds Expectations
- F.** Personal Qualities – Meets Expectations
- G.** Achievement of Goals Determined by Board -- Since it's not the end of the year, this one's still in progress. However at this point in time, he is meeting the expectations.

Motion by Maiani, supported by Fry to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 p.m.

Motion carried Yes 6, No 0.