

Special Meeting of the Houghton Lake Community Schools Board of Education was held Tuesday, June 10, 2008 in the Board of Education office.

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

Members Absent: None

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Injasoulian, Matt Lewis, Gail Harned, Stan Gardner, John Earley, Deb Markiewicz, Jill Songer, Anjanette Rusmisl, Patti Caswell, Bob Barney, Ralph Harrison, Sally Cotterman, and Gloria Owaski.

Visitors: Jim Gibson, Brian Hogan, Julie Markiewicz, Richard Dietrich, Mrs. Barney, Wendy Heinig, and James Tweedie, John Allen Mike Bransted.

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

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 and stated that if a board member is no longer living in the school district, that they would be ethical and do the right thing.

Patti Caswell – addressed the Board to ask why the superintendent's contract went from a ten month salary contract – up to a twelve month salary contract.

Jim Gibson – addressed the Board and stated that he would wait and ask questions after the presentations because some of his concerns/issues maybe covered, and he will have his answers at that time.

Sally Cotterman – addressed the Board to see if the custodial employee's offer was discussed by the whole Board and not just by the committee; also, if the Alternative Education program has made cuts.

Richard Dietrich – addressed the Board and asked how could the Board break the union contract they have with the custodial employees? Also, how does George Major receive a full pay for staying home?

Deb Markiewicz – addressed the Board with concerns on a custodial service coming into the district. She questioned if the Board talked to any teachers in other districts and not just the administration, and then stated - locks will need to be installed on the classroom doors and the teacher's desk. Also, why has an administrator been added to the Middle School?

Gloria Owaski – addressed the Board stating they need to find a better way to make the budget balance, then asked if Chartwell's has been charged for a facility use fee for the use of the kitchen, ovens, and utilities.

Wendy Heinig – addressed the Board and questioned if the Board has identified the amount the district needs to save? Stating - lets get together and try to reach that amount. These folks have been in this district for many years, they do not want to lose their jobs.

Jim Gibson – addressed the Board stating he did not envy the Board members, and that he has concerns with security and safety issues bringing in a custodial service.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Injasoulian informed the Board about the following:

- A committee met to review the teacher mini-grants for next school year, and 9 grants have been awarded.
- There were 71 school employees that received invitations to attend an “*attendance appreciation party*”; 8 employees in the district had perfect attendance.
- Susan Tyer’s daughter’s fiancé passed away unexpectedly.
- Tomorrow evening, Helen Wiggins will be receiving the Lyle Spaulding Award at COOR.
- An explanation was given on the 750,000 budget shortfall – lost 50 students during the 2007/2008 school year, and there will be 45-50 less students coming into kindergarten next fall - than the number of students that just graduated this school year. Stating that it is very difficult coming up with areas to cut without jeopardizing any more academic programs for our students.

Presentations

West Michigan Janitorial Company – Mike Braisted addressed the Board stating that they have been in business for forty years – approximately 200 employees, with 30 customers. Four of the facilities are school districts; they also service Grand Valley University. **

Hi-Tec Building Services – Brian Hogan addressed the Board stating that they have been in business for forty eight years - approximately 586 employees, with 160 customers. Many of them are school districts. They own their own supply and equipment company. **

D.M. Burr Facilities Management, Inc. - John Allen addressed the Board stating that there company covers all of the facility management. They clean several school districts and community colleges. Customer service is #1 and is the very most important objective in operating their business. **

** The Board asked each of the above three companies several questions pertaining to how there business operates, as well as safety issues, cleaning supplies, cleaning equipment, customer retention/employee retention, and what type of salary/benefit package would be offered to the custodians. Each company operated very very similar with the starting wage at \$9.00 an hour for one company and \$8.50 for the other two.

Citizen's Request to Address the Board of Education
(Pertaining to the above agenda items only)

Deb Markiewicz – addressed the Board again stating that her sister-in-law works at a school district where the custodians have been outsourced and that she has had items stolen from her classroom/desk.

Dave Bowman – addressed the Board stating that he has been in education for 35 years and that the custodial staff is a significant part of the system. Many times, these employees become mentors to the students. If they are willing to sit down with you and try to make this work – why wouldn't you.

Wendy Heinig – addressed the Board and stated that everything that you just heard that these companies will offer you - you already have! You already have good workers, with 100% retention, staff who know all the names of your children/students, staff that has already been trained, as well as fluent in set-up/teardown for events, they all have had background checks, you already have staff that is supportive and was there when the district had an emergency (flood in the gym), therefore, I should hear from the district tomorrow and we should be able to get together and wrap this up.

Discussion Items

Matt Lewis distributed a new worksheet that he and the union had just created prior to tonight's meeting, with further concessions from the custodial group. A brief discussion followed with Board President Harned stating that no decision would be made at this time and that the Board would need time to review the new material.

Action Items

2008 Property Tax Levy / Millage Request Report

Motion by Maiani, supported by Duquette that the attached Millage Request Report L-4029 for the 2008 property tax levy for General Fund Operations of the Houghton Lake Community Schools, Roscommon County be approved as presented. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

2008 Budget Hearing / Special Meeting

Motion by Dean, supported by Maiani to change the Budget Hearing scheduled for June 16, 2008, and hold a special meeting on June 30, 2008 at 6:30 for the Budget Hearing.
Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Motion by Maiani, supported by Haf to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.
Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.