

Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 22, 2010

Houghton Lake Community Schools

Board Members Present – Merry Maiani, Tom Dean, Dave Harned, Paull Fry, Dave Johnson, Tim Scherer, Absent - Ron Duquette

Administrators and Staff – Kevin Murphy, Pam Akin, Susan Tyer, Brent Cryderman, John Earley, Heidi Palatka, Stan Gardner, Gail Harned, Jenny VanDuinen, Lori Warson, Sally Cotterman, Paula Youngberg, Jim Mishler, Sue Williams, Carla Gerner, Jared Socia, John Burnett, Pam Reitmeyer, Maureen Whidden, Patti Caswell

Visitors – Marc Milburn, Lowell Souder, Parker Seiler, Jim Haf, Nicole Bruce, Bill Trahan, Adam Fry, Bo Bradley, Scott Bockelman, Pinky Randall, Carolyn Pietchak, Mel Bankov, Velda Curns, Diane Skop, Sarah Gentry, David Hutko, Mike Wagner, Dawn Freshwater, Adam Fry, Bo Bradley, Gwen Bush, Sue Nielsen, Diane Tompkins, Sandy Egbers, Terry Parker, Jason Caswell, Dominique Csapo, Randi Kaminski, Paige Wisniewski

Press – Cheryl Holliday

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Houghton Lake Community Schools was held Monday, November 22, 2010, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Technology & Training Center.

1. Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting - 10/25/10 Regular Meeting

Motion by Dean, support by Fry to approve minutes of the previous meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
Yes 6, No 0, Absent 1

2. Citizen's Request to Address the Board of Education –

Jim Haf – read a prepared statement addressing his concerns on the release of Coach Carter.

3. Superintendent's Report -

A. Patti Caswell – Anti Bullying Presentation

Presentation for the middle school and high school students as well as parents scheduled for December 9th and 10th in the high school auditorium. The presentation is titled “Gabe & Izzy. The speaker is endorsed by Governor Granholm.

B. Maureen Whidden, AD –

Introduced soccer coach Scott Bockelman and players Adam Fry and Bo Bradley. The team was 13-9 overall. Adam and Bo among a few others won many awards and recognitions for their accomplishments during the soccer season. Bo is being recruited by a college in Indiana.

Ms. Whidden went on to describe Volleyball 2-10, Football 5-2 in the Jack Pine, Soccer 13-9. Two teams used Saturday busses. Coach Bockelman stated that the decision to let the students in for free was a great idea and helped increase attendance at the games.

C. Committee Reports

1. Personnel Committee – Paull Fry

Have begun working on SMART goals for the superintendent.

2. Finance Committee –

Dynamic Budget Program hosted by MSBO. Recommended the purchase of security cameras using bond funds. Recommendations for: transportation/grounds to purchase a new truck not to exceed \$20,000; stipend pay to 3 main campus building administrators, Technology Director, and the Assistant Technology Coordinator.

3. Policy and Planning Committee – Dave Harned

This is combined with agenda planning. Addressed the policy that was brought into play this year. Personnel issues should first follow the chain of command. Address the concerns to the personnel committee with our without representation. Contact the personnel committee and they will set up a meeting with you or it can be held in open or closed session. Delegates met in Grand Rapids for the MASB conference. Bullying was the bulk of what was covered.

4. Recognition – Superintendent Murphy

Jenny VanDuinen completed a big milestone. She received her Master's Degree. The subject of her thesis was the well pay portion of the HLEA master agreement. Thanked Mr. Murphy for help and information.

Sue Williams received a plaque from State Superintendent Mike Flanagan for her successful participation in the breakfast program. Mr. Murphy stated that she is a great supervisor, and has a great team.

4. "It Matters, You Matter"

A. "It Matters, You Matter" – Dave Johnson

HL Lions Club – Certificates given to 18 members in recognition of their contributions to organizing and hosting the annual Halloween at Bobcat Field event.

Miss Houghton Lake – Certificates given to 7 attendees in recognition of their efforts in organizing the annual Miss Houghton Lake scholarship competition. Miss Houghton Lake Paige Wisniewski, Miss Prudenville Randi Kaminski, and 2nd runner up Dominique Csapo were in attendance and were introduced to the audience.

Anti-Bullying Initiative/"Pink Day" – Certificates given to Carla Gerner and Lynne Gellerman for their work in organizing the "Pink Day" anti-bullying day in the school district.

5. Board Presentation

A. Building Spotlight – Melisa Akers – Alternative/Adult Ed

PowerPoint presentation highlighting what their different programs entail, statistics on the students enrolled in these programs, and the teachers who teach them.

B. Special Education Update – Jim Mishler

Short staff at the beginning of the year. There will be speech therapy during the summer. New IEP system in place. Developing a procedure manual. State requirements may not be met.

6. Discussion Items

A. Stipend Pay

Recommended by the finance committee to issue stipend payments to the 5 staff members mentioned. The three main campus building administrators, Technology Director and Assistant Technology Coordinator.

B. Fleet Vehicle

Looking for an upgraded truck to be used by the transportation and grounds for plowing. Need to look for the best deal, not the cheapest deal. Currently looking locally and the surrounding area. Dave Harned stated that Mr. Gardner should head up the search since his department will be the one utilizing and servicing the truck.

C. Director of Finance

Chavon Nihls has been doing the job for the last two months. Finance committee recommends to extend Ms. Nihls working as the replacement for Matt Lewis through June 2011. They will revisit the issue at that time. Ms. Nihls is working with Shay Anderson at Roscommon Area Public Schools, Bruce Dunn at the auditing firm of Maner Costerisan, as well as COOR ISD. Mr. Murphy stated that with our audit trail we want to be conservative. He endorses Ms. Nihls 100%. Dave Harned stated he knows where we have been and is concerned that we don't go back to where we were. He would like the district to keep looking and to open the discussion back up at the end of the year.

D. High School Science Curriculum –

Pam Reitmeyer and John Burnett were on hand to discuss the proposed changes to the high school science curriculum. Would love to have one student and one teacher edition of the new text book. He could make it work.

E. 2nd Reading - SBHC Curriculum

Discussion on new curriculum. When it will begin, which grades will receive instruction?

F. Board Work Session

Mr. Harned would like to have a Work Session on December 13th. Mr. Murphy would like to turn the board goals into SMART goals language. Setting up a strategic planning/steering committee to create 8 essential questions. Dave Harned stated that he feels the lack of meetings is causing a lack of "face

time” between all the board members. Would like to discuss starting up the monthly work sessions again. One thing that has made them strong as a board is being able to discuss things face to face. Work Session will be held December 13, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

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

Cheryl Holiday – Regarding the collaboration with Roscommon; has there been any discussion in regards to working with them?

Dave Harned – We have contacted them and are waiting to hear from the school board at Roscommon.

8. **Board Opportunity to Make a Comment/Statement –**

Tom Dean – Senate Bill 1581 & 1582 on revisions on evaluations tied to student growth.

Brent Cryderman – Would like to see the administrators go ahead and make the change on the evaluation instrument. What is there now is damaging to self esteem. “Growth expected with support and coaching”.

Tom Dean – We are doing some things very right. Would like to encourage all board members to take advantage of the conferences offered.

Dave Harned – Would like to show that the community is one of the most important parts of our schools.

9. **Action Items**

A. Consent Agenda –

Motion by Fry, support by Scherer to approve the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 6, No 0, Absent 1

B. Stipend Pay for Collins Elementary Principal, Middle School Principal, High School Principal, Technology Director, and Assistant Technology Coordinator –

Motion by Dean, support by Maiani to approve the stipend payments as recommended by the Finance Committee to the full Board of Education as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes 5, No 1, Absent 1

C. Fleet Truck Purchase –

Motion by Maiani, support by Fry to approve the purchase of a fleet vehicle (truck) for use by the Transportation and Grounds Departments as recommended by the Finance Committee to the full Board of Education as presented. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 6, No 0, Absent 1

D. Director of Finance –

Motion by Maiani, support by Scherer to approve the appointment of Chavon Nihls as Director of Finance from November 23, 2010 to June 30, 2011 as recommended by the Finance Committee to the full. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 6, No 0, Absent 1

10. **Correspondence –**

11. **Closed Session –**

Motion by Maiani, support by Johnson to go into Closed Session. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 6, No 0, Absent 1 8:30 pm. Closed Session began at 8:43 pm Motion by Fry, support by Maiani to come out of Closed Session at 9:40 pm. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 6, No 0, Absent 1

Maiani requested that Board members fill out HLCS Internet Agreement forms in keeping with Board policy 7540.03. Some concerns were aired with Superintendent Murphy regarding communication.

12. **Adjourn –**

Motion by Maiani, support by Scherer to adjourn Regular Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 6, No 0, Absent 1