

# Minutes of Special Meeting

## The Board of Trustees Houghton Lake Community Schools

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A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Houghton Lake Community Schools was held Monday, June 7, 2010, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Board of Education Meeting Center with seven members present.

**Board Members Present:** Tom Dean, Dave Harned, Bill Burger, Merry Maiani, Ron Duquette  
Paull Fry, Tim Scherer

**Administrators and Staff:** Kevin Murphy, Brent Cryderman, Heidi Palatka, Pam Akin, Susan Tyer, Stan Gardner, Gail Harned, John Earley, Marilou Mackenzie, Lori Warson, Deb Markiewicz, Paula Youngberg, Coreen Julin, Martha Hauch, Sue Williams, Sally Cotterman

**Visitors:** Glen Bromm, Sarah Bromm, Dee Bromm, Matt Tibbe, Tim Heine, Mary Scott-Rom, Jill Songer, Herbert Ripke, Vicki Burnside, Leonard Natkowski

**Press:** Cheryl Holladay – Houghton Lake Resorter

### **Call Special Meeting to Order** - *Pledge of Allegiance*

President Harned thanked Brent Cryderman and Heidi Palatka for the great graduation ceremonies.

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings** – Motion by Duquette, support by Maiani to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2010 and May 28, 2010 meetings. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 7, No 0

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

**Nicole Ruthamel**, Uniserve Director, MEA Houghton Lake Office – Addressed state funding for schools, fund balances in the bank rather than being spent on students, consider no layoffs after all of the retirements, board room being paid for with maintenance money.

**Deb Markiewicz** – Addressed concerns on the layoff of teacher aides.

**Herbert Ripke** – Questioned his bid not being the low bid for the HS mechanical and restroom project.

### **Board Reports – Buildings**

**Collins** – Blessings in a Backpack – backpacks filled with food for needy students at no cost each weekend during the school year. Program is funded through Meijer's. Mary Scott-Rom from St. Vincent's Society is seeking the approval of the superintendent and board to begin. Year end events – field day, Hartwick Pines, hot dog roast, safety day, handbook to board for approval. Thank you to Bill Burger for being so supportive.

**Middle School** – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade awards, 13 students with perfect attendance, beginning locker clean out, 9<sup>th</sup> is 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> awards, 10<sup>th</sup> is field day, Friday is final walk led by the retirees.

**High School** – Sarah Bromm won a statewide contest for Doodle for Google. Graduated 112 seniors and 52 students attended Baccalaureate. Thank you to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for organizing this program. 2010 senior class received over \$660,000 in scholarship money.

**Alternative Ed** – Students taking finals this week. Graduated 15 high school students and 37 GED recipients. GED testing on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent presented Martha Hauch, a Chartwells employee in the high school, with a certificate from the Michigan Department of Education for 25 years of service to students in the food service area.

**Finance Committee** - There have been questions on the RAT program and why we are hiring back if we are trying to save money. This is a way to enhance our programming at a savings to the district. Finance committee meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Committee does not want to give false hope or wrong information prior to decisions being made.

**Bond Committee** – Matt Tibbe reported that the body of work and the reputation of Ripke Construction are not in question. Ripke appeared to be low bidder on the HS mechanical and restroom project. During an additional interview it was discovered that certain demolition was not included in the bid. This additional work took changed the bid amount, making Grand Traverse Construction the low bidder. Committee feels it would like to work with Porath Contractors to get playable fields for less money. They would like to have discussions to see what can be adjusted.

**Grievance Committee** – 10 sub-committees dealing with issues. Received some feedback from union leaders. HLEA: 7 grievances last year, 7 this year. 5 settled last year at this point, 4 settled this year and solved the 2 remaining from last year. Transportation: 0 last year, 1 this year which has been settled. HLESPA: 3 this year, all unsettled and going to arbitration.

**Neola Committee** – commended the board for addressing the board policy. There are 3 committee members – should be completed and ready for board vote in July or August. Board policy will be online and searchable. Bullying in school is not addressed in current policy, and is currently being looked at by the legislature. Committee is on task to have this ready for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Textbook Committee** – held their final meeting for the year. Researching a new textbook series. \$250,000 to purchase. Committee decided to purchase supplemental materials. They identified the gaps in Kindergarten. Will decide on supplemental next year. Great group.

**Evaluation Committee** – Board has copies of the instrument. Thank you to Ken Warner, Amy Peterson, Tom Dean and Kevin Murphy. There are 4 domains, with different strata in each.

## **Discussion Items -**

**GMB Bid Recommendations** – Matt Tibbe has already discussed each of these issues.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Tax Levy L-4029**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – MHSAA Renewal** – No additional information

**Student Handbooks** – Collins submitted changes, middle school submitted full handbook and described new look and layout, first year for a handbook for Alternative Ed which will mirror much of the high school handbook, high school will send proposed changes to board and superintendent for review. Handbooks will all be available on the website.

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

**Herbert Ripke** – Bid the job based upon the information that he was given. He does not understand why he is not getting the project. He lives in Houghton Lake, pays taxes, his children and grand children all graduated from Houghton Lake.

## **Board Opportunity to Make a Comment/Statement –**

Bill Burger thanked Ms. Scott-Rom for the wonderful work her organization is doing.

## **Action Items -**

**GMB Bid Recommendation – Porath Contractors – New Ball Fields**

Board discussion and questions on whether the project needs to be re-bid. Suggestion that the issue be tabled and re-visited at the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bond committee will meet at 4:30, will change the closed session to a special meeting at 6:00, and then go into closed session for the Superintendent's evaluation.

**GMB Bid Recommendation – Grand Traverse Construction – HS Mechanical and Restroom Work**  
Motion by Duquette, support by Dean to approve the Grand Traverse Construction bid. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

**MHSAA Membership Renewal –**

Motion by Duquette, support by Fry to approve the renewal of the MHSAA Membership for 2010-2011. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

**Correspondence -**

**Adjourn -**

Motion by Duquette, support by Fry to adjourn meeting at 8:24 pm. All in favor, motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.