

# Minutes of Regular Meeting

## May 23, 2011

### Houghton Lake Community Schools

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

**Administrators and Staff Present** – Susan Tyer, Brent Cryderman, Pete Injasoulian, Camie Hansen, Coreen Julin, John Earley, Lisa Earley, Darlene Roberts, Lori Warson, Alicia Thompson, Karen Hunt, Jill Trahan, Pat Bigford, Jan Pendrys, Gail Harned, Jared Socia, Mary Murphy, Melisa Akers

**Visitors Present** – Barbara Natkowski, Leonard Natkowski, Rebecca Purvis, Renee Britvec, Allison Hood, Lori Sajdak, Stacey Barnes, Lucy Stanislawski, Joe Wagner, Marc Milburn, Amy Stimac, Jim Haf, Rod Lewis, Jack Kramer, Betsy Mead, Dan McGregor, Marvin Austin, Irma Austin

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Houghton Lake Community Schools was held Monday, May 23, 2011, beginning at 6:30 PM in the high school cafeteria.

#### **1. Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting - 5-9-11 Work Session**

Motion by Duquette, support by Fry to approve the *5-9-2011 Work Session minutes* as presented. All in favor, motion carried.  
Yes - 7, No - 0

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

**Stacey Barnes 5581 Old Orchard Road Prudenville**

Houghton Lake Community Schools Board of Education, I was careful not to allow any personal thoughts or emotions enter into this since I wrote it because I have been accused by the board of being a friend of Kevin Murphy, and I don't want your ability to hear my legitimate concerns clouded by that assumption. At the last meeting, you approved an overnight golf trip. As I am sure you will recall, there was some opposition from the audience regarding the approval of this expense. Before voting to approve the trip, Mr. Harned stated this is something that the superintendent started. What is something that the superintendent started? Are you implying that the superintendent set precedence? Just moments before that, it was stated that you handle these events on a case by case basis so as not to set precedence. How does someone start something over which they have no authority? Does the superintendent make these decisions, or does the board make these decisions. If the superintendent makes these decisions, why did this request come to the board? If the board makes these decisions, why are you not taking responsibility for the decisions that you have made. I recently expressed some concern for no one educating the community about the special education millage, and if you had, perhaps it could have passed. I was told it is the job of the superintendent to educate the community in these matters. Whose job was it to educate the community about the millage between the dates of March 28<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>? Do you feel this was a critical time, the six weeks leading up to the election, to be communicating with the community about the millage. Given the current circumstances, did you ever feel a sense of obligation to your community to try to educate us about the upcoming millage election? Do you feel it would have been in the best interest of our children to educate the community about the millage between March 28<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>? Does the district need the \$385,000 that we would have gained through this millage? Was your decision to not educate the community about the millage, between March 28<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>, made with the students and the well being of the district at heart? You told me it is never the board's responsibility to run the district. Is it also never the board's responsibility to be sure parents are informed about important matters, such as their child's principal being on leave? Is it never the board's responsibility to be sure parents are informed about who is running their child's school? Is it never the board's responsibility to gather and under all the facts before authorizing expenditures of taxpayers' dollars? Obviously, I am frustrated. You are under a microscope. Everything you say and everything you do is being picked apart and scrutinized. Especially at times like this, you need to be extra careful; you need to be overly cautious, overly conscientious and overly concerned. Perception is reality, and my perception is that at least some of you are allowing your own personal thoughts and emotions to interfere with your duty as a board member to make sound, educated decisions, and to be responsible, accountable and impartial. Thank you.

**Joe Wagner 314 Toller Drive**

I heard a report on the news that the State of Michigan has found an abundance of money. They said that instead of cutting \$300 per pupil it would more like \$200 per pupil. If school signs up for a financial aid workshop, they can receive an additional \$100 per pupil. Has the board talked about this or are you aware of this? Is the board aware of this and is anything going to be done as far as taking this class?

**Georgia Tasker 124 Henry Street**

We are all about children. This has nothing to do with the millage. I was advised to come to this meeting. My daughter got thrown off the bus. It all boils down to a sucker stick. I have had trouble over the last 2 years. Bus driver leaves the bus with no lights, no key in it and nothing happens to the driver. I was cut down as a parent and the way I raise my children. What my child does outside the school district has nothing to do with this. I did not appreciate being cut down as a parent in front of my daughter. I am a single mother who graduated. I am not dumb. My daughter would not pick up a sucker stick, and the driver wanted her to sweep

the bus for three days. Stan agreed that my daughter did not have to do that and I congratulate him for that. When she refused to pick up the sucker stick Stan threw her off the bus for 5 days. During a meeting with Stan, the driver, and the interim superintendent, I was told that my son, who has nothing to do with this, is nothing but trouble. The superintendent said "I can see I am going to have trouble with you the rest of the year." Someone came to me, and the same thing happened to her daughter. She was not suspended, and she was not told to sit up front. If this is a situation where they are picking on my family, it needs to stop. Is the incident being checked where the driver was not on the bus? The superintendent was screaming at me and I told him that he would not scream at me and should respect me. I am surprised the school didn't hear him screaming at me, that is how loud it is. That is not the first time, either. Consequences should be equal. Why are we disciplining my child but we don't discipline bus drivers when they do something wrong. I don't appreciate being downgraded in front of my children.

### 3. Superintendent's Report

The first order of business is to recognize an outstanding board member. Mr. Tom Dean has been the Vice President of the board for the several years now. He has done a lot for us in negotiations, but he has also taken the opportunity to get lots of training through the Michigan Association of School Boards. I think this is something that every board member should strive for; to enhance their knowledge, and to understand all aspects of school business. He has completed 197 hours of board training; everything from school finance, curriculum instruction, labor relations, technology, school budgeting, serving on committees, delegates assembly representative. Mr. Harned, would you do the honors of presenting his MASB award? Mr. Harned read the certificate and presented an Award of Merit pin and a HLCS Level I Certification pin.

I wanted to talk about a lot of things happening in the last two weeks of school: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition dance, senior exams, choir concert, senior awards banquet and ceremony, Baccalaureate ceremony, graduation practice, commencements, Alternative/Adult Education commencements.

We had a special education meeting with Camie Hansen, Rugg Dozzi, Jim Mishler and myself. I had an excellent meeting with Second Chance Academy. This year there are 23 students in that program. They run a summer program. Jodi Blanchard does an excellent job with that program, and we have a couple of wonderful teachers; Matt Murray and Dottie Dull. We will try to re-schedule Dr. Gedeon for a future board meeting. We received one bid for the renovation work in the cafeteria. The schools will benefit from the \$500 million that the state found. It looks like the retirement costs contribution might be going up 2% instead of 5%.

### 4. Board Presentation

**Dave Harned** Before we have the board presentation I would like to add to the discussion items a committee report from the finance committee. We will now have a presentation on TSDL (Teacher Student Data Link).

**Brent Cryderman** Introduction - Frank Schultz and the Teacher Student Data Link (TSDL) program.

**Frank Schultz** Presentation on the Teacher Student Data Link. Every child that attends a school in Michigan has a unique identification code (UIC) that stores quite a bit of demographic information. It will now be a tracer number that links student performance with teacher performance. The common theme that you see in the Michigan School Reform Law is student growth. A new department will be created called the Registry of Educational Personnel (REP). At the end of 2012 all educators will have their evaluation based on part of this report. The framework for this is a collaboration effort between the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Education Association, The American Federation of Teachers and The Michigan Association of Secondary School Boards. Part of the data that comes back to us will have some regional aspects to us. There is still some local control as to what kind of local information we put into the report. This report will go through the CEPI. The slide presentation was borrowed from the Michigan Department of Education. Each of our buildings is at a different level of readiness for this. We feel that we can accomplish this. There are a ton of things that have to be entered. All of this information will go to the state of Michigan and the federal government.

**Dave Harned** Thank you Frank for all of the work you have done on that. Also, I was contacted by a member of the Roscommon Area Public Schools board. They are still interested in getting together to discuss collaboration. Maybe we can get together sometime to continue those discussions.

### 5. Discussion Items

#### A. First Reading - Raising Academic Standards for MS and HS Student Athletes

**Maureen Whidden** Addressed the issue of raising the academic standards for our students. Believes that we have the tools here to make this work. According to Mr. Johns, nearly one third of our students are using our after school tutoring program. We can continue to push this standard among star student athletes. Mr. Dean requested a written proposal on this.

#### B. First Reading - Increase Athletic Event Ticket Price

##### Home High School Athletic Events from \$4.00 to \$5.00

The current admission price is \$5.00 for any tournament and game. We let our students get in free. It is currently \$4.00, and has been for the last ten years. Gate receipts have had a downward trend. The Jack Pine recommends that we stay at \$4.00. Roscommon is at \$5.00. The concession revenues have increased \$2,000 over the past year. Gate receipts are down \$5,000 from last year. Mr. Dean requested a written proposal on this.

#### C. Second Reading - 2011-2012 Middle School Student Handbook

Mrs. Tyer stated that they need the approval by June. School lunches and milk went up \$.10. The lunch costs were mandated by the state.

## **D. COOR ISD Budget Resolution**

Mr. Jones offered a description of the proposed budgets for the 2011-2012 school year. Two of the three budgets do not need local board approval. The General Fund budget does, by law, require local board approval. Mr. Jones also described some accounting applications of the GASB 54 requirements. Mr. Bush went into further detail on the history and differences in the budgets this year. Services provided by COOR ISD include Special Education, General Education, and Career Tech services. About four or five years ago we added Early Childhood Development. COOR also offers employment services (talent bank, unemployment services and education).

**Pete Injasoulian** We have tried to get some cooperation between our schools. Hopefully that will begin to happen.

**Bob Jones** We did some studies in the past and there wasn't a taste for it at that time. We are ready to do that without an agenda, but to fill in the gaps.

**Ron Duquette** You are establishing a fund balance. How much is that?

**Greg Bush** 2010-2011 \$328,000. For 2011-2012, we are restoring the fund balance by adding \$158,000.

**Bob Jones** There is no financial crisis that is a naturally occurring crisis. It is a manmade or government made crisis. We finally got an increase. The school aid fund money is going to be used to balance the General Fund. They can argue that it is legal, but is it ethical?

**Dave Harned** Your voice is best heard by contacting your congressmen. Let them know what you feel about that.

**Bob Jones** We have their contact information.

## **E. MS and HS Cafeteria Renovation Bid**

Pete –We placed an ad in the newspaper and, with the economy and a little competition, we were hoping for more than one bid. We have the money and we have to spend it, or we lose it. The bid we have is a combination of different vendors and businesses that will be doing the work. We are excited about the work, especially at the middle school, which we desperately need. We will be putting in a hood at the high school with more to follow next year. The food service program is doing very well.

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

### **Betsy Mead 556 W. Houghton Lake Drive**

I felt that I needed to say something when I saw that there were renovations on the agenda for the middle school and the high school. I have lunch with my kindergarten student at Collins Elementary at least twice a week. The kindergarten class is a very large class. My son's class has 28 students, and there are 5 of those classes with a large amount of students. Some of the kids who eat hot lunch only have two to five minutes to finish eating, by the time they get through the line. I have seen this since the beginning of the year. I know that they are allowed to sit for a few extra minutes with the next group coming in, if they so choose, but, they are five and six, and they know they are going to miss their recess if they don't finish and leave at the end of that 20 minute period. I feel it is up to us to take the initiative to fix the problem so that they get the allotted time to eat their lunch. There are children in our community who may not eat all weekend long. They get their best meals of the week at our school, and they are not allotted the time that they need to get those meals. The meals that feed the brain and help them learn and pay attention. I don't know that we need a big renovation. There are options out there that could get two lunch lines going at the same time. There are options to get the food in the students' hands and in their mouths a lot quicker; possibly another counter right outside where the doorway is that they go in. There are hot and cold holding units. I have seen them push those trays out as fast as they can. I do not believe it is a fault of Chartwells as to feeding the students. It is just an inadequate facility for handling the large class size that we have. The kindergarten class is not the only one having this problem. There are other large classes as well that do not get adequate time for lunch. I would like for that to be considered for next year. I would like options to explore for that. To look into that for the future to try to service our students in the lunch room at Collins.

### **Amy Stimac 2420 S. Loxley**

I am wondering if anyone has considered the ramifications of eliminating the Retirees as Teachers? I am wondering who is going to staff the enrichment support programs in the future if we eliminate them?

## **7. Board Opportunity to Make a Comment/Statement**

## **8. Action Items**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

Motion by Duquette, support by Maiani to approve the *Consent Agenda* as presented. All in favor, motion carried. Yes – 7, No – 0.

### **B. Action - Approve 2011-2012 Middle School Student Handbook**

Motion by Dean, support by Duquette to approve the *2011-2012 MS Hand Book* as presented. All in favor, motion carried. Yes – 7, No – 0.

### **C. Action - Approve 2011-2012 COOR ISD Budget Resolution**

Motion by Duquette, support by Scherer to approve the *COOR ISD Budget Resolution* as presented. All in favor, motion carried. Yes – 7, No – 0.

### **D. Action - Approve acceptance of MS and HS Cafeteria Renovation Bid**

Motion by Dean, support by Duquette to approve the *MS/HS Cafeteria Renovation Bid* as presented. All in favor, motion carried. Yes – 7, No – 0.

## 9. Correspondence

**Pete Injasoulian** I would welcome any school stakeholders to contact us at the central office and we will try to answer any questions that you may have. There are lots of ways that you can get in touch with us and we will respond to your questions.

**Dave Harned** I would like to mention that June 1<sup>st</sup> is the Alternative/Adult Education graduation. It is a very nice event and will take place at 6:00 pm on June 1, 2011. It is a real tribute to these students who learn in a different way. They have worked hard to get there and the more support we show them the better.

## 10. Adjourn

Motion by Duquette, support by Maiani to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes – 7, No -0.