

Special Meeting of the Houghton Lake Community Schools Board of Education was held Monday, October 6, 2008 in the Board of Education office.

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

Members Absent: Maiani

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Injasoulian, Heidi Palatka/Melisa Akers Gail Harned, Alicia Ciaramitaro, Deb Markiewicz, and Tonja Hinkston.

Visitors: None

Press: None

President Harned called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Citizen's Request to Address the Board of Education

Deb Markiewicz – addressed the Board with concerns about the Middle School/Athletic Director position. Such as why did a recent posting which resembles the duties/responsibilities of an athletic director just get posted. Also, the former Title I Director is still employed with the district.

Superintendent's Report

- The Michigan State Superintendent - Mike Flanagan will visit our district on Thursday, October 9, 2008. The community and staff will have the opportunity to visit with him and hear him speak in the auditorium.
- The District Annual Report for school year 2007/2008 was distributed to the Board. Additional documentation may be included to show the comparison in test scores of the students at Collins Elementary, the scores compared to the prior year have gone way up. (Good Job!!)
- Superintendent Injasoulian shared some information that was covered at the MASA Fall Conference that he recently attended. Topics on learning styles and proficiency targets were covered as well as the concept of the “Whole Child” (everyone working together) was emphasized.
- The administrators are working on obtaining accurate job descriptions throughout the district.
- Teaching certificate expiration dates (district-wide) have been reviewed, at this time all employees are current. A list of the expiration dates has been distributed to the principals and the union president.
- Superintendent Injasoulian stated that he received a Board Self Evaluation Process document from the MASA conference. The Board can complete to determine how they as a Board are doing – if they are interested.
- The Superintendent and Administrators have been working together on developing new teacher mentoring skills as well as a classroom walk-through practice.

Discussion Items

Board President Harned stated that a follow up discussion on counseling needs for the Alternative/Adult Education program was necessary and would be added to the agenda, under Discussion Items - other.

The second reading/discussion took place on the Roscommon County Transit Authority installing a Bus Stop structure on school property between the middle school and the public library.

The Board discussed changing the annual school elections from May to November. All Board members indicated that they are still very interested in moving forward with the change. The elected official's term would change and begin in January if they have a November election. By changing the date of the election,

the district would be saving money because they would not be having their own separate (individual) election. The school election would be held and take place at the same time the townships are holding the General Elections.

Heidi Palatka and Melisa Akers from Houghton Lake Community Education addressed the Board again with serious concerns about their student's needs and struggles not being dealt with. Addressing the student's needs takes a considerable amount of time, and since they have the money in their budget to cover the expense, they would like to re-hire their former counselor/social worker. They have investigated other services offered by the County, as requested by the Board; however, those agencies are by appointment only. Our students would not be willing to go, or will they talk to a stranger, it would have to be someone at the building daily so the students can build up a relationship and trust the individual before they will talk to them about their problems.

Board President Harned stated the Board would consider their request, and asked them to bring back a job description. He also indicated that the Board would not know until next month - where the district is financially.

Action Items

Motion by Duquette, support by Fry to approve the installation of a Roscommon County Transit Authority Bus Stop, to be installed between the Houghton Lake Middle School and the Houghton Lake Public Library, at no cost to the district. Motion carried. Yes 6, No 0

Board President Harned stated at 8:22 p.m. that the Board would take a short break and then begin working on Board Policy. (Board Policy – Section 5000)

Motion by Duquette, supported by Fry to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0.