

Regular Meeting of the Houghton Lake Community Schools Board of Education was held Monday, September 15, 2008 in the Board of Education office.

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

Members Absent: None

Administration/Staff: Superintendent Injasoulian, Jack Kramer, Susan Tyer, Pam Akin, Arlene Jury/Coreen Julin, Gail Harned, Melisa Akers, Heidi Palatka, Stan Gardner, Sally Cotterman, Alicia Ciaramitaro, Deb Markiewicz, and Tonja Hinkston.

Visitors: Beverly Bonning, Brad Hemmes, John Julin, Lou Ann Pacheco, Scott Bates, Ilene Scherer, Jim Haf, Rod Lewis, and Emily Cotterman.

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

President Harned called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Citizen's Request to Address the Board of Education

Coreen Julin – addressed the Board with concerns on the very large class sizes at the high school due to changing from semesters to trimesters. Stating that there are 40 students in her daughter's advanced chemistry class. She questioned if the Board had reached any resolutions yet and/or would the Board be taking any action to reduce the number of students in the classroom?

Lou Ann Pacheco – addressed the Board to inform the new Board members about the "Bobcat Booster 200 Club Raffle" tickets. She briefly explained how the drawing works, and stated that the sale of these raffle tickets brings in a large amount of funds for the children.

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Injasoulian stated that the unofficial enrollment figures for the 2008/2009 school year as of now show a slight decrease from what was predicted back in June. However, there is a large decrease from this time one year ago.
- A meeting with the Bond Issue Committee took place today with very good results. Brad Hemmes from GMB attended and he will address the Board shortly with an update.
- The activities planned for the Professional Development day scheduled for September 22nd have been confirmed, many teachers will be working in their own building. The district plans to apply the topics covered at the August C.O.O.R. Professional Development during the November in-service.
- The Michigan State Superintendent - Mike Flanagan plans to visit our district on Thursday, October 9, 2008. Hopefully the community and the staff will have the opportunity to visit with him and hear him speak in the auditorium.

Business Manager's Report

Matt Lewis addressed the Board to inform them that all school districts are being required by the IRS to make some changes in the way retirement plans (403(b) & 457) are being reported. The Business Managers within the COOR ISD after several meetings have decided that the best approach would be to have a partnership with a (TPA) Third Party Administrator to track investments and allow our employees the greatest amount of choices and still comply with reporting mandates. The Board will select a TPA at the next Board meeting. Mr. Lewis also stated that the district had a very successful sale of the Building & Site Bonds, and that there will be a savings to the taxpayers in excess of \$530,000 over the life of the Bond. He then stated that all the credit goes to Fifth Third Securities and Beverly Bonning from Thrun Law Firm and turned it over to Beverly Bonning to speak to the Board.

Beverly Bonning, Thrun Law Firm

Beverly Bonning addressed the Board and congratulated the Superintendent and Board members. She then stated that the timing of the sale of bonds could not have been better. Everything lined up just perfect. The district received an “A” which is a strong credit rating (due to improved financial performance and very low debt), the district was able to get the best interest rate, and the district benefited by entering the municipal bond market after a slow month of new bond issues. Beverly informed the Board that it would be necessary to approve a resolution at tonight’s meeting, and then proceeded to explain the “Sales Resolution”.

Motion by Dean, support by Maiani to move the action item to adopt the Bond Resolution up to this time of the meeting. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0

Motion by Dean, support by Duquette to approve the Sales Bond Resolution, which ratifies and confirms the actions by the Superintendent relative to the sale, and to accept the rate pursuant to the Sales Bond Resolution presented by Thrun Law Firm.

Roll Call Vote:

Scherer - yes

Harned - yes

Burger - yes

Fry - yes

Maiani - yes

Dean - yes

Duquette - yes

Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0

Brad Hemmes, GMB

Brad Hemmes addresses the Board to give them an update on the Bond Project. Stating that there will be several committee meetings to make sure the district spends the money the best way and to maximize every dollar. There will be some interruptions to the education system once the work/projects begin, however, the construction, electrical, and all the other workers will try to minimize the interruptions as much as possible.

Jack Kramer, High School Principal

Mr. Kramer addressed the Board to give an update on how the change from semesters to trimesters is coming along. According to a survey he conducted - the vast majority of students and staff still feel that trimesters was the right move. Some of the positive points are: students enjoy more time in the classroom as well as having less classes (5 classes instead of 7). Stating that this gives the students more time to do their work in the classroom and that they have less homework due to having the 5 classes vs. 7 classes. Also, there is more diversity in the classroom for different types of learners. Teachers can and have been participating in team-teaching.

Discussion Items

Board President Harned stated that the Board members attended several training/classes last weekend, which were very informative. Administrative Board Reports were reviewed. The second reading of the Blood Borne Pathogens Handbook took place – there are no changes to the handbook this year. Discussion regarding the Roscommon County Transit Authority installing a Bus Stop structure on school property at no cost to the district took place. If the Board is interested, there will be an action item for Board approval at the next meeting.

Board Presentation

Heidi Palatka and Melisa Akers from Houghton Lake Community Education / Adult Education addressed the Board with concerns that they have at their building which has developed into a great need to bring on an additional staff member. They need to re-hire their former counselor, who had been laid off due to financial constraints years ago. Their budget will now allow the expense and this counselor would help guide and direct the students with all the struggles they deal with from day to day. This position would allow the director to get back to home visits and guiding the students on a path to attend college.

While Arlene Jury set up the equipment to present her power-point to the Board of Education the second citizen's request to address the Board took place.

Rod Lewis – addressed the Board regarding the large number of students in the classroom at the high school due to the change to trimesters. The Board needs to review the budget and spend the funds to hire a teacher at the high school, 40 students in a classroom are too many. That high number of students is unacceptable.

Board Presentation Cont.

Arlene Jury, District Curriculum Director, addressed the Board to present the MME 2008 Houghton Lake High School scores and AYP targets. Her illustration included MME scores for English Language Arts, Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The diagram outlined Level 1 & 2 AYP, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4. Arlene charted the AYP Targets in English Language Arts and Mathematics from school year 2002 through 2008 for the elementary, middle, and high school students. Mrs. Jury ended with Michigan Constructed Responses in Writing and Social Studies.

Action Items

Consent Agenda

Motion by Dean, supported by Maiani to approve the consent agenda as presented, the minutes of the regular meeting held August 18, 2008 and the special meeting/work session held September 8, 2008: along with the following expenditures for the month of August 2008: General Fund \$968,892.84, Food Service \$53,419.91, and Athletics \$767.19. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Blood Borne Pathogens Handbook

Motion by Maiani, support by Scherer to adopt the Blood-borne Pathogens/Exposure Control Plan as presented for school year 2008-2009. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0

New Staff

Chris Worley

Motion by Maiani, support Duquette to offer Chris Worley a teaching contract for the 2008-2009 school year as an Eighth Grade Science and Eighth Grade/High School Social Studies teacher, and place him on step 1 of the salary schedule with all the benefits of the Master Contract. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Darren Barnes

Motion by Dean, support by Duquette to offer Darren Barnes a K-5 Specials (*Physical Education and Art*) teaching contract for the 2008-2009 school year and place him on step 1 of the salary schedule with all the benefits of the Master Contract. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

Alicia Ciaramitaro

Motion by Dean, support by Duquette to offer Alicia Ciaramitaro a teaching contract for the 2008-2009 school year for the Title 1 Writing/Specials position at Collins Elementary and place her on step 1 of the salary schedule with all the benefits of the Master Contract. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0.

L-4029 Property Tax Levy/Millage Request Report

Motion by Maiani, support by Fry to approve the Missaukee County and Roscommon County Millage Request Report L-4029 for the 2008 property tax levy, as presented. Motion carried. Yes 7, No 0

Correspondence -None

Motion by Duquette, supported by Maiani to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0.