

Hartland Consolidated Schools
Special meeting - Board of Education
May 22, 2006

Members present: T. Moody, C. Aberasturi, K. Kaszyca, E. Jankowski, E. McPherson-Brown, M. Horning (arrived 7:03)

Members absent: N. Kessel

Admin. Present: J. Sifferman, S. Bacon, S. VanEpps, P. Nottle, K. Simpson, L. Smither, G. Waldrup, K. Evenson, T. Sahouri, B. Cain, B. Meadows, M. Cheney, M. Otis, S. Usher

Guests: I. Prieto, D. Tierney, D. Dunville, S. Russano, J. Denzer, R. Young, K. Murawa, S. Aberasturi, L. Lawson, T. Miller, D. Clark, R. Wright, M. Ewald, C. Duke, I. Kirwan, C. Riharb, J. Fuchs, J. Brandt, T. Kendall, K. Lagowski, C. McCabe, C. Snider, A. Chenello, K. Harper, J. Kerr, J. Kerr, A. Esparza, M. Yardo, B. Furnari, B. Barrones, S. Simmer, K. Behen, T. Kissau, V. Palmatier, T. Schiller, K. Risse, K. Bacon, C. McGuire, M. Line, E. Piper, R. Pappas, N. Angerilli, B. Shook, B. Reedy, B. Selby, N. Bochenek, C. Chanavier, C. Jellison, J. Lange, A. Wagner, C. Sinelli, L. Champlin, K. Grohnan, K. Lampe, L. McFarland, K. Elly, J. Bailey, A. Andrews, J. Johnson, B. Wolf, T. Yambrosic, H. Paul, L. Burrill, H. Keeling

President Jankowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Hartland Educational Support Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Moody, supported by Aberasturi that the agenda for the May 22, 2006 special meeting be approved and that public participation be allowed on all items. Motion carried 5-0.. 5/22/06 AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by McPherson-Brown, supported by Moody that the minutes of the May 8, 2006 regular meeting and closed session be approved. Motion carried 5-0. 5/8 MINUTES APPROVED

Dennis Tierney spoke during Call to the Public regarding the Memorial Day Run/Walk event in support of Hartland cheerleading. Harley Keeling spoke regarding introducing foreign language instruction into our kindergarten program and the many fundraising efforts that go on in the district. (Mark Horning arrived here - 7:03 p.m.) CALL TO PUBLIC

Superintendent Sifferman noted that Peggy Fulcher of Village Elementary had been chosen as Teacher of the Year. She reminded the Board of the Memorial Day Parade, noting that the Board should meet in the Ore Creek parking lot at 11:45. Ms. Sifferman also congratulated the HHS track team on their first place finish in last weekend's Regional competition. This is the first time the team has won regionals in the team's history. Barton Malow will give a presentation at the June 12 meeting concerning the possibility of a Bond Issue election in November for capital improvements. Scott Bacon noted that this type of bond issue would not raise the tax rate. Mark Horning noted that a November election would be less expense to the district. Ms. Sifferman introduced David Dunville who passed out magazines for the Board from the Amputee Coalition of America. Mr. Dunville's son David was pictured in the magazine. Ms. Sifferman then introduced Michelle Otis, Director of Community Education, who presented a DVD featuring the different departments encompassed in Community Ed. SUPT. REPORT

(continued)

<p>Mr. Horning apologized for being late and indicated that he would like to amend the minutes from the May 8, 2006 meeting to include a statement.</p>	<p>BOARD REPORTS</p>
<p>Motion by Horning, supported by Kaszyca to amend the minutes of the May 8, 2006 regular meeting to include the following statement, <i>"Horning stated that although a decision has been made, that this board and administration has always been open to reviewing decisions if any new information is brought forward or discovered. He mentioned the decision was to sign the contract in a number of days or longer, so if any groups within our district could bring new information forward they should do so quickly, and that he hoped they would."</i> Several members of the Board noted that many of them had made similar statements after the vote and were in agreement that it could be noted in the minutes. However, Mr. Aberasturi pointed out that the minutes for the May 8th meeting had already been voted on and approved as written and perhaps this statement could be included in the current meeting's minutes. Motion defeated 0-6.</p>	<p>MOTION TO AMEND 5/8 MINUTES DEFEATED</p>
<p><i>May 8, 2006 meeting minutes addition: Several Board members noted that though the measure to contract with Grand Rapids Building Services for the district's custodial services had passed, it could be several days or more before the contract was signed, so if employee groups had additional proposals, they needed to get them to the Board and/or administration quickly.</i></p>	<p>STATEMENT FROM 5/8/06 ADDED TO 5/22 MINUTES</p>
<p>Ms. Moody noted that she had attended plays at Lakes Elementary that afternoon and thanked Kathy Jagusch for the invitation, indicating it was just what she needed after the recent difficult months. Ms. Jankowski noted that she did exit interviews that morning and that this year's senior class was extremely opinionated and articulate and she was very proud of them.</p>	<p>BOARD REPORTS (CONTINUED)</p>
<p>Motion by Moody, supported by Horning that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, approves the financial report as of April 30, 2006 and the payment of invoices totaling \$1,323,513.53 and payroll obligations totaling \$2,009,160.19. Motion carried 6-0.</p>	<p>PAYMENT OF INVOICES</p>
<p>Motion by Moody, supported by Horning that the Board of Education supports the proposed LESA 2006/07 budget as presented at the May 8, 2006 regular meeting. Mr. Aberasturi noted that he had just received LESA's response to John Munday's concerns and could not vote yes until he had more time to review it. Scott Bacon summarized Mr. Munday's concerns and LESA's response. He noted that the two areas of concern were the funds used to reconfigure the Pathways building and the lack of a Headlee rollback election. Mr. Bacon noted that in LESA's response, they noted the various sources used for the renovations at Pathways. He also noted that for LESA to do a Headlee Rollback election, it would need to be countywide and would involve increases in both homestead and non-homestead taxes. Mr. Bacon indicated that prior to last year's enhancement election, this Headlee Rollback or a special education millage increase were discussed. The enhancement millage was felt to have the best chance for success; however, the enhancement millage election was soundly defeated. LESA stated in their response that this has historically been the case for these types of countywide elections. Mr. Bacon also noted that he did not believe from Mr. Munday's e-mails that Mr. Munday was concerned about the passage of the LESA budget, but rather that he wanted the Board to be aware of the issues he stated and consider broaching these issues with LESA in the coming months. Motion carried 5-1 (nay - Aberasturi).</p>	<p>LESA BUDGET APPROVED</p>

The Board began their discussion of the revised 2006/07 cut list with Superintendent Sifferman noting that with an increase in projected savings from the contraction of custodial services and a generous grant from the Hartland Schools Foundation and the Heartland Foundation, the district was able to move all four elementary art teachers down to the third tier. She was also optimistic that the district would not need to lay off any teachers next year. She noted that with the cooperation of the HEA, Keenan Simpson was able to offer 5th grade band and save one art and one computer teacher. Mr. Simpson explained the various processes involved in scheduling specials and again thanked the HEA and John Denzer for their help. Mr. Aberasturi questioned the reduction in the Energy Plan savings. Mr. Kaszyca noted that at the last Building & Site Committee meeting, the members determined that they were uncomfortable spending several hundred thousand dollars for an outside company to provide the oversight. They felt the district could do it themselves, but because they have not done this before, they felt the savings figure should be more conservative. Ms. Moody noted that the district might save \$100,000 or more, but the committee was more comfortable at this time with the more conservative figure. Mr. Bacon noted that the additional savings from the summer tax collection of \$50,000 would cover the savings lost by reducing the energy estimate from \$100,000 to \$50,000. Mr. Horning noted that these numbers would continue to change, the list will continue to be tweaked; the district needs to continue to explore various fundraising options. Mr. Aberasturi asked the cost of copies for the various forms of communication, including the Board packets that are sent to the Board. He noted that it would be more economical to e-mail or just send a list of student achievements. He also noted that Board packets could be e-mailed or put in a shared drive for the Board to access. Ms. Sifferman asked that these issues be discussed during her evaluation on June 12 as she needs to know how and what the Board wants communicated to them. Mr. Kaszyca asked if there would be a budget projection available for the next meeting. Mr. Bacon noted that the full budget presentation would be held at the June 26 meeting, but that he could probably have something for June 12. Mr. Bacon noted that there are not many changes, though one issue is a Headlee rollback of \$137,000. Mr. Aberasturi noted that the Board had at one time discussed the possibility of holding a Headlee election every year to ensure that it doesn't rollback. Mr. Bacon noted that this was something the Board could discuss.

Marty Devitt, President of the custodial/maintenance union, noted that there were many energy cost saving measures that could be taken at the high school and other buildings. He also thought the current staff could deal with some of these issues. Ms. Moody noted that this is one of the reasons Building & Site did not want to go with an outside company. Sue Aberasturi asked about the additional savings from contracting out the custodial group. Mr. Bacon explained that the district had used a conservative estimate going in as they did not have all of the information and have since factored in unemployment, benefit payoffs, and the actual savings expected through contracting the service.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie McPherson-Brown
Secretary

Paula Waters
Recording Secretary