

Hartland Consolidated Schools
Special meeting - Board of Education
April 24, 2006

Members present: T. Moody, N. Kessel, E. McPherson-Brown, C. Aberasturi, K. Kaszyca, M. Horning, E. Jankowski

Members absent: None

Admin. Present: J. Sifferman, S. Bacon, S. VanEpps, L. Mayes, L. Smither, P. Nottle, B. Cain, T. Sahouri, M. Cheney, B. Meadows, K. Cotton, D. Minsker, M. Otis, K. Evenson, S. Pearson, G. Waldrup, C. Hughes, S. Livingway, K. Simpson

Guests: V. Canson, J. Pittel, K. McCollum, K. McCollum, D. LaGuire-Quinn, N. Angerilli, L. Vockler, S. Steigerwalt, N. Spranger, M. Roper, C. Dwyer, C. Davis, N. Buchanan, A. Edgerton, L. Edgerton, J. Roberts, L. Gilroy, M. Zarusley, R. Wilson, C. Palmatier, V. Palmatier, D. Tierney, D. Thompson, H. Papp, J. Michalak, A. Phillips, A. Hovey, S. Kiwak, V. Gyorkos, A. Gilroy, T. Whitmore, R. Nelson, C. Miles, T. Kragen, N. Maloney, D. Jahan, M. Hall, B. Wolf, N. Burnstad, S. Simmer, R. Wright, D. Clark, E. Bell, G. Quinn, J. Evers, J. Jensen, T. Worthington, P. Riharb, C. Riharb, E. Seguin, D. Norton, D. Steger, K. Steger, M. Paulson, T. Stencil, K. Harper, C. Hartley, M. Hartley, K. Lampe, G. Tori, K. Leiter, A. Purdy, M. Young, C. Lyons, B. Brossy, D. Malliacencer, C. Litzenberg, L. Burrill, P. McNulty, S. Elder, K. Suchowesky, B. May, B. Cartwright, A. Hovey, K. Elly, T. Koenig, S. Harrison, D. Albert, D. Schneider, B. Studholme, A. Gilhooly, R. Brady, R. Kerster, C. Kube, A. Angerilli, J. Denzer, M. Chapman, P. Stiff, J. Meier, B. Fieirman, T. Smith, B. Reedy, C. Whitcomb, S. Kelley, K. Condra, M. Rea, T. Yambrosic, K. Kurcherski, D. Sargent, P. Sitterlet, K. Woodin, D. Robertson, S. Sneath, T. Vaughn, B. Shook, A. Szcondronski, R. Jellison, N. Kwasny, D. Bishop, P. Riharb, B. Bonk, A. Bonk, P. Bonk, J. Christian, M. Bourdo, J. Lyons, K. Jagusch, C. Rockey, G. Moule, L. McFarland, S. Matschikowski, R. Matschikowski, L. Campbell, M. Lawrence, A. McFarland, C. Sinelli

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 April 24, 2006 special meeting be approved and that public participation be allowed on all items except Item II.A. Student Expulsion. Motion carried 7-0. 4/24/06 AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by McPherson-Brown, supported by Kessel that the minutes of the April 10, 2006 workshop and regular meeting be approved. Motion carried 7-0. 4/10 MINUTES APPROVED

There was no response to the Call to the Public. CALL TO PUBLIC

Ms. Kessel noted that the high school was having a book fair this week. She also noted all of the wonderful activities going on at the Senior Center and encouraged everyone to check it out. Mr. Horning noted that the Personnel Committee met last week and gave an overview of the meeting, indicating that the primary focus of the meeting was the district's current administrative staffing and if there was the possibility of making any reductions in this area. He also noted that an ad-hoc committee would be formed to discuss Board e-mail and correspondence policies. BOARD REPORTS

Motion by Moody, supported by Horning that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, after hearing the charges and evidence presented at the hearing, the statements of Mr. Livingway, the student's parents, and the student, expels said student from Hartland Consolidated Schools for the remainder of the 2005/06 school year. Said student may request a hearing with the Superintendent should the student wish to re-enroll in Hartland Consolidated Schools for the 2006/07 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

STUDENT
EXPULSION

Motion by Horning, supported by Moody that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, adopts the revisions to the K-4 language arts curriculum as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

K-4 LA CURR.
ADOPTED

Motion by McPherson-Brown, supported by Kessel that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, adopts the music curriculum for grades 5 - 8 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

5-8 MUSIC CURR
ADOPTED

Superintendent Sifferman introduced the discussion of the administrative recommendation to contract out the district's custodial services, noting that this was an unpleasant topic and an extremely difficult decision and situation for everyone involved. She noted that the preferred company, Grand Rapid Building Services, had made a presentation at the workshop on April 10, 2006 and that the comparison of GRBS and Enviro-Clean, along with an overview of the whole process, was posted on the district's web site. President Jankowski asked if this comparison could not be reviewed during the meeting. Jason Reck, Maintenance Supervisor, went through the comparison presentation, answering questions from the Board and public as he progressed. Mr. Aberasturi read a statement indicating that he felt the district was putting itself in a precariously legal position by privatizing, as the MEA would have no choice but to take this issue to court. He also noted that there would be the possibility, should 40% or more of our current employees hire on with GRBS, that we would be forced to recognize their union affiliation and pay similar wages and benefits as are being paid currently. Ms. Moody noted that many of these issues had been brought to the district's attorney, but asked that Superintendent Sifferman again contact the attorney to get clarification on these issues. Discussion continued among the Board concerning the various issues involved in privatizing and what other options were available to achieve the same savings should they choose not to privatize. Mr. Horning noted that some of the issues concerning the supervision of the custodians were discussed during the Personnel Committee meeting. He noted that it was the committee's belief that direct district oversight was necessary for a \$1,000,000 contract. Ms. Moody noted that down the road, it is possible that this supervision might prove unnecessary, at which point the issue would be revisited. Mr. Aberasturi noted that he felt the decision was immoral because it would be difficult for people in this line of work to find comparable employment. Ms. Moody noted that if the district went with Mr. Aberasturi's suggestion to cut the kindergarten program in lieu of the custodians, then the savings would have to be realized in teaching positions. She also noted that, though this was a very difficult decision, the district's purpose is to educate children, not provide custodial jobs. To cut teaching positions and programming to save custodial jobs would be counter to the district's purpose.

CONTRACTION
OF CUSTODIAL
SERVICES
DISCUSSION

Ms. Jankowski called for a break; following the Board would hear public comments.

8:40 P.M. - BREAK

Meeting reconvened. (8:50 p.m.)

RECONVENED

The meeting resumed and 19 members of the public spoke out in opposition to the proposed privatization of the custodial unit. Those who spoke included: current students, current and former custodial employees, representatives from MEA, and parents and grandparents of current students. Many referenced the MEA materials that were handed out at the last meeting. Mr. Kaszyca asked that the district's response to these issues be posted on the web site, noting that the administrative staff had spent a great deal of time at the Board's request researching responses to these items and the public should be aware of the actual facts and figures. Following the discussion, Mr. Horning asked if the district had testimonials from the school districts that currently use GRBS. Ms. Kessel indicated that she had done her own calls, but that there were also references included in the proposal.

CONTRACTION
DISCUSSION
(CON'T)

Superintendent Sifferman went over the current cut list and restated the cuts that have already been made, the reason some cuts were not made, and also revisited the list of items that the district would like to add back eventually. Mr. Kaszyca noted that the Board's decision to forgo their stipends should be added to the list. Mr. Horning asked that the other suggestions, from him, Mr. Aberasturi, and any others, be compiled into an addendum list with short notations on why they could or could not be implemented. Three members of the public spoke regarding budget cuts and privatization.

BUDGET
CUTS

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie McPherson-Brown
Secretary

Paula Waters
Recording Secretary