

Hartland Consolidated Schools  
Special Meeting - Board of Education  
January 22, 2007

Members present: T. Moody, C. Sinelli, C. Aberasturi, K. Kaszyca, E. Jankowski, N. Kessel, E. McPherson-Brown  
Members absent: None  
Admin. Present: J. Sifferman, L. Mayes, S. VanEpps, S. Bacon, G. Waldrup, T. Sahouri, C. Hughes, K. Evenson, B. Meadows, S. Usher, M. Otis, S. Pearson, D. Petish, D. Minsker, L. Smither, B. Cain, P. Nottle, M. Cheney, S. Livingway  
Guests: D. Dunville, J. Denzer, T. Devine, J. Devine, L. Schmitigou, L. McFarland, L. Burrill, D. Skene, T. Kendall, R. Aprill

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 McPherson-Brown that the agenda for the January 22, 2007 special meeting be approved, and that public participation be allowed on all items. Motion carried 7-0. 1/22/07 AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Moody, supported by Aberasturi that the minutes of the January 8, 2007 regular meeting be approved. Motion carried 7-0. 1/8/07 MINUTES APPROVED

During the Call to the Public, Ms. Devine asked about policy concerning instruments on busses. Mr. Waldrup explained the reason for the current policy and Superintendent Sifferman asked Ms. Devine to talk with Principal Hughes about options concerning the transportation of the instrument and practice requirements. CALL TO PUBLIC

Superintendent Sifferman noted that January is Board Recognition month and presented each Board member with a certificate indicating that a \$150 Pay-to-Play scholarship had been established on behalf of the Board in honor of their service above and beyond the call. Ms. Sifferman noted that many difficult decisions had come before the Board over the past five years and thanked them for their distinguished service during the recent hard times. John Denzer, president of the HEA, presented the Board with a cake from the district's unions. The Superintendent asked for a five-minute break so the Board could enjoy the cake. SUPT. REPORT  
BOARD APPRECIATION

Laurie Mayes, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum, presented the recently released MEAP scores from the fall testing period, noting that Hartland placed first or second in the county in 21 of the 28 categories. She also noted that Farms Intermediate School showed an increase in every category, the only building to do that. MEAP SCORES

Superintendent Sifferman noted that she, President Jankowski, and Mr. Bacon had attended a presentation in Howell with representatives from Citizens for Equity, a group from Traverse City that is touring the state trying to bring awareness to the inequities in public school funding. Ms. Sifferman indicated how important it is for everyone in the community to contact our legislators and the Governor and remind them how devastating additional cuts would be for the district. She also noted that the next meeting would be February 27<sup>th</sup> in Fenton. EQUITABLE FUNDING

Ms. Sinelli noted that the annual meeting of the Livingston County Association of School Board would take place on March 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pathways building. She also noted that the High School Family Fun Fest to raise funds for Challenge Day would take place in March. Ms. Moody thanked Superintendent Sifferman for the Pay-to-Play scholarship.

BOARD REPORTS

Motion by Moody, supported by Kessel that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a waiver for the LESA Special Education Plan to change the number of days and hours of operation for programs for severe cognitively impaired students from 220 days to a minimum of 200 days and from 1,150 hours to 1,200 hours. Motion carried 7-0.

SP. ED. WAIVER  
APPROVED

Motion by Kaszyca, supported by Kessel that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of Lisa O'Leary as the Special Education PAC representative for Hartland Consolidated Schools. Motion carried 7-0.

SP ED PAC REP  
APPROVED

Mr. Bacon began the discussion with George Waldrup regarding the purchasing of new busses as set forth in the 2006 Bond Issue. Mr. Waldrup noted that the Transportation Sub-Committee had met and reviewed the district's current transportation situations and discussed how they would like to move forward. Mr. Aberasturi asked the pros and cons of purchasing more than the 10 recommended or even all 30, as the money was available. Mr. Bacon noted that the purchase of 30 busses would allow the district to sell 20 or more of the older busses and these additional funds could help with the general fund. Mr. Waldrup noted that while there are some concerns, such as recalls on 30 busses and all the busses aging at the same rate, these issues could be handled with some planning. Mr. Waldrup also noted that the district was looking at purchasing larger busses that would relieve some of the crowded conditions we have currently. When asked if larger busses had additional maintenance issues, Mr. Waldrup noted that there weren't any real issues regarding maintenance, due to the size. He also noted that currently, as we are running our busses at full capacity, we have experienced additional maintenance issues do to increase weight and additional fuel usage. This will come before the Board at the February 12 meeting for action. Mr. Bacon noted that it is likely the resolution will be for more than the 10 busses originally requested.

BUS PURCHASE  
DISCUSSION

Ms. Sifferman began the discussion on the revisions to the Administrative Salary Structure policy, (#3125 in new policy manual.) She noted that while this policy has been in place for more than 10 years, it has not been revised since 2001. Consequently our administrative staff has fallen well below the surveyed averages. She also noted that historically, the assistant superintendents had been left off of this policy and thus, had also fallen well below the surveyed average as there had been no mechanism to keep their salaries competitive. She noted that on the revised policy, she has included the assistant superintendents with the Step 1 salary starting at 3% above the Step 5 salary of the high school principal. Mr. Aberasturi noted his reluctance to include the same salary increase as the teachers receive for the assistant superintendents as they negotiate with the teachers' union during contract talks and he felt this was a conflict of interest. Ms. Sifferman and Ms. Kessel noted that the Board has the final say on both contracts and administrative salaries. Mr. Aberasturi and Ms. Moody felt there should be wording in the policy granting the Board the authority to approve or disapprove the salary increase. Ms. Sifferman indicated that she would work on wording and provide the Board with options over the next week.

ADMIN SALARY  
POLICY  
DISCUSSION

Ms. Mayes talked about the various revisions made to the Language Arts Curriculum for grades 5-8, noting that assessments had been adapted to more closely reflect the MEAP tests. Mr. Aberasturi asked if an electronic version of the document was available. Ms. Mayes indicated that she was leary of putting a document with assessments on the web for public viewing. Mr. Usher indicated that he could burn CD's for the Board if they would like their own copies, but he was not currently able to post a protected document on the web for the Board to access. This will come before the Board for approval on February 12.

5-8 LANG ARTS  
REVISIONS  
DISCUSSION

Mr. Bacon began the discussion on the Non-Homestead Millage Ballot Proposal. He noted that he had provided the Board with several options but that his preference was Option 2. He also noted that the district could run this election every year and not have to worry about rollbacks, or we could run it for several years along with an additional ballot proposal to cover any rollbacks. It would still never exceed 18 mills as this is the limit allowed. The consensus of the Board was to go with Option 2 as recommended and to hold the election every year. Ms. Moody noted that she felt this would be less confusing to the voters and would better allow the district to get the funds they needed. This will come before the Board for action on February 12.

NON-  
HOMESTEAD  
MILLAGE  
PROPOSAL  
DISCUSSION

The Board began reviewing the first section, "0000", of the first draft of the new policy manual. The Board noted some typographical errors, as well as some language issues with a few of the policies in this section. The changes were noted and will be sent with the rest of the manual, when first review is completed, to NEOLA for a final draft. At the February 26 meeting, the Board will discuss "1000" and "2000".

POLICY BOOK  
"0000"  
DISCUSSION

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie McPherson-Brown  
Secretary

Paula Waters  
Recording Secretary