

Hartland Consolidated Schools  
Regular meeting - Board of Education  
October 13, 2008

Members present: C. Aberasturi, T. Dumond, C. Sinelli, E. Jankowski, K. Kaszyca, E. McPherson-Brown  
Members absent: N. Kessel  
Admin. Present: L. Mayes, J. Sifferman, S. VanEpps, S. Bacon, M. Otis, M. Cheney, L. Smither, D. Petish  
Guests: S. Callahan, L. Depoy, J. Denzer, H. Wallace, S. McNutt, N. Savoy, H. Pietrzak, K. Ker, P. O'Connell, E. Crabbe

President Kaszyca 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 McPherson-Brown, supported by Aberasturi that the agenda for the October 13, 2008 regular meeting be approved, and that public participation be allowed on all items. Motion carried 6-0.

9/30 MINUTES  
APPROVED

Motion by Jankowski, supported by Dumond that the minutes of the September 30, 2008 special meeting be approved. Motion carried 6-0.

CALL TO PUBLIC

There was no response to Call to the Public.

SUPT. REPORT

Superintendent Sifferman introduced Deputy Shawn Callahan who presented the 2007/08 Student Resource Officer report. Ms. Sinelli remarked that during the senior exit interviews many students commented on the safety and security of the district. She also inquired whether Deputy Callahan believed the Challenge Day program is having a positive impact on the bullying and assault numbers. Deputy Callahan indicated that he did believe this program has played a part in the reduction in numbers for bullying and assault complaints.

Ms. Sifferman congratulated Chuck Caverly and his crew on receiving another 100% on our recent bus inspection by Michigan State Police. All of the district's buses passed the inspection with no warnings or citations. Ms. Sifferman also congratulated the Hartland Equestrian team on their second consecutive state title.

Superintendent Sifferman introduced Scott Bacon, who provided the Board with an update on the district's budget and projections due to the loss of 40 students this year. He noted that since the district finished more than \$250,000 better than budgeted for 2007/08, this would help offset the reduction in enrollment, allowing the district to maintain its current fund balance. He did note that in the out years, he is including \$500,000 reductions each of the next four years in order to maintain a reasonable fund balance. He noted the administration would prefer not to reduce programming by that much in 2009/10, but it is still too early in this budget year to predict actions for next year. Ms. Sifferman noted that the district is already investigating various scenarios for cost savings including a bond issue to deal with expenses not covered under the current bond issue, cost-cutting discussions, talking with the unions about our current financial position, and more aggressive marketing for Schools of Choice. Mr. Bacon indicated that he would begin working on the budget amendments for January, and noted the long-term still presents a challenge,

primarily because  
there are currently  
so many  
unknowns in the

10/13 AGENDA  
APPROVED

financial market and in Michigan's economy.

Superintendent Sifferman passed out information regarding the district's relationship with LESA and the various services they provide the district as well as the many cooperative agreements we share. She noted that Hartland benefits greatly from this relationship, especially in the area of special education.

BOARD REPORTS

Ms. Sinelli noted that she attended the open house for the Ore Creek Outdoor Club and was impressed with the students' energy and enthusiasm. Mr. Kaszyca congratulated the equestrian team on their state championship. He also noted the upcoming delegates' assembly in Traverse City and indicated he had forms if any Board members were interested in attending.

PAYMENT OF  
INVOICES

Motion by Sinelli, supported by Jankowski that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, approves the financial report as of September 30, 2008, and the payment of invoices totaling \$5,893,301.12 and payroll obligations totaling \$3,611,620.50. Motion carried 6-0.

DESIGNATED  
FUND BALANCE

Motion by Jankowski, supported by Dumond that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, makes no designation for the unreserved fund balance as of June 30, 2008. Mr. Aberasturi asked if a motion was necessary. Mr. Bacon noted that there has always been Board action to designate funds, so he was more comfortable having Board action for no designation as well. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION:  
403B PLAN

Mr. Bacon explained the changes in the law and requirements involving 403B payroll deductions and how the plans are administered. A resolution specifying the district's role in these deductions is currently being drafted and will come before the Board for action. We are currently talking with LESA about a consortium agreement with which Livingston County districts would share a consultant to monitor 403B accounts and activity. Otherwise, the district would need to monitor them.

UPCOMING  
MEETINGS

President Kaszyca noted that there were currently no pressing agenda items for the October 27 special meeting and asked the Board to consider canceling it unless an issue arose. He also noted that the auditors would make their annual report at the November 10 meeting and there would be a meeting of the Finance Committee immediately prior to the meeting. He indicated that he would like another meeting of the Finance Committee after November 10 to discuss various budget and reduction scenarios.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie McPherson-Brown  
Secretary

Paula Waters  
Recording Secretary

SUPT. REPORT  
(CON'T)