

Hartland Consolidated Schools
Regular Meeting - Board of Education
January 12, 2009

Members present: T. Dumond, C. Aberasturi, K. Kaszyca, E. Jankowski, N. Kessel, E. McPherson-Brown, C. Sinelli
Members absent: None
Admin. Present: J. Sifferman, L. Mayes, S. VanEpps, S. Bacon, D. Minsker, C. Hughes, D. Petish, K. Simpson, M. Otis
Guests: K. Fountain, E. Koski, J. Denzer, M. Dufour, N. Theisen, D. Theisen, C. McLeod, J. Horrocks-Boehmer, J. Albert, K. Wetzell, D. Ruzzin, J. Shamdlar, J. Shamdlar, R. Carter, J. Lehnert, E. Paajanen, A. Holka, T. Arnett, B. Willey, J. Behen, D. Baier

President Kaszyca called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the Hartland Educational Support Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Dumond, supported by Jankowski that the agenda for the January 12, 2009 regular meeting be approved, and that public participation be allowed on all items. Motion carried 7-0. 1/12/09 AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Aberasturi, supported by Kessel that the minutes of the December 15, 2008 regular meeting be approved. Motion carried 7-0. 12/15 MINUTES APPROVED

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

Superintendent Sifferman introduced Principal Keenan Simpson from Farms Intermediate School. Mr. Simpson introduced Elizabeth Koski, School Improvement Chair, and Kay Fountain, Co-Chair of the Climate Committee, to discuss the purpose and goals of the Climate Committee as it pertains to school improvement. Ms. Koski and Ms. Fountain outlined the different initiatives that take place throughout the year stressing the importance to the students of the "3 Rs" – Reason, Respect and Responsibility – and how to incorporate these attributes in their daily lives. Superintendent Sifferman thanked Mr. Simpson and his staff for the great work they do. SUPT. REPORT

Ms. Kessel recognized HCS's maintenance department who continue to clear sidewalks and parking lots throughout the district on holidays and weekends when the rest of us are home. She also noted that this year's Relay for Life event will take place on June 20, rather than in the fall. Mr. Aberasturi noted that he would be seeking a fourth term on the Board of Education in May. BOARD REPORTS

Ms. Sifferman introduced Principal Chuck Hughes, who discussed changes to the 2009/2010 Curriculum Guide. Mr. Kaszyca thanked Mr. Hughes for the thorough job he did explaining the reasons for the changes. This will come before the Board for action at the January 26 special meeting. 2009/10 CURR. GUIDE DISCUSSION

Mr. Hughes then outlined the pilot cell phone policy the high school would like to implement for the second semester. He noted that Grand Blanc schools had recently adopted a similar policy and members of his staff had gone to Grand Blanc to check out how it was working. The pilot policy would allow students to access their phones/electronic devices during non-class time – passing time, lunch, before and PILOT CELL PHONE POLICY DISCUSSION

after school – with strict penalties when these devices were accessed during class (the device is taken away for 24 hours.) Mr. Hughes noted that his staff had met with students and parents and determined that parents expect to be able to reach their students during school hours if necessary. The current policy does not allow for any usage of electronic devices during school hours. Consequently there have been 241 disciplines this year solely for electronic device infractions. Principal Hughes is seeking permission from the Board to set aside the current policy and implement this pilot policy for the 2nd semester only and only at the high school. If it works as he would like it to, he would come back in May with a request to permanently change the policy at the high school. Ms. Sifferman noted that at that time, if it was successful, she would meet with all of the building principals to discuss the district’s current policy. The Board believed they had enough information to take action on Mr. Hughes’ request.

PILOT POLICY
DISCUSSION
(CON’T)

Motion by Aberasturi, supported by Jankowski that the Board sets aside current policy and authorizes the implementation of the proposed pilot cell phone policy at Hartland High School for the second semester of the 2008/2009 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

PILOT POLICY
APPROVED

Superintendent Sifferman introduced Laurie Mayes, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, who began the public hearing for changes to the reproductive health curriculum. Ms. Mayes introduced Janelle Horrocks-Boehmer who presented the two new pieces of curriculum. The first piece was a DVD titled “The Human Body in Action” that discussed the workings and functions of the reproductive and endocrine systems. This piece would be an addition to the 7th grade health curriculum and would not be replacing anything currently being taught. The second piece was a CD-ROM titled “Nine Months from Conception to Birth and Beyond” that was to supplement the elective Child Development at Hartland High School. Both pieces received unanimous support from the Reproductive Health Committee, which is comprised of HCS staff members, community members, medical professionals and area clergy. This will come before the Board for a second hearing and action at the January 26 meeting.

PUBLIC
HEARING -
REPRO HEALTH
CURR. CHANGES

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie McPherson-Brown
Secretary

Paula Waters
Recording Secretary