

Hartland Consolidated Schools
Special meeting - Board of Education
October 26, 2009

Members present: C. Aberasturi, T. Dumond, N. Kessel, K. Kaszyca, E. McPherson-Brown, C. Sinelli
Members absent: None
Admin. Present: L. Mayes, J. Sifferman, S. Bacon, C. Hughes, B. Cain, A. Howerton, A. Lashbrook, M. Otis, G. Waldrup
Guests: S. Russano, K. Callihan, C. Rutkowski, J. Meo, M. Meo, T. Darling

President Kaszyca called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Hartland Educational Support Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Kessel, supported by McPherson-Brown that the agenda for the October 26, 2009 special meeting be approved, and that public participation be allowed on all items. Motion carried 6-0.

10/19 MINUTES
APPROVED

Motion by Aberasturi, supported by Dumond that the minutes of the October 19, 2009 special meeting be approved. Motion carried 6-0.

CALL TO PUBLIC

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

SUPT. REPORT

Superintendent Sifferman noted that she has received calls from concerned parents regarding the H1N1 virus. She indicated that the district is in contact with the Livingston County Department of Health and is following their recommendations regarding absences and possible building closures. Ms. Sifferman noted that districts can use either a building percentage or a district-wide percentage when determining whether to stay open. Hartland will adhere to the 25% absence mark at which point we cannot count the day as an instruction day with only 75% or less student attendance. She also noted that the percentage of absences seems to be coming down from last week, with an average today of 8%. Mr. Bacon noted that even with 20% absent, the district must remember that this means 80% of our students are in the buildings to learn.

Ms. Sifferman indicated that she had been invited to a conference with Governor Granholm at Brighton Schools last week, but unfortunately the Governor did not have any good news. Governor Granholm stated that unless the legislature agreed to some of the revenue-producing concepts currently on the table, school districts could expect an additional pro-ration of \$127.00 in January.

DISTRICT
FINANCIAL
UPDATE

Mr. Bacon did a financial update based on the information the district has received so far. He noted that we were able to increase our fund balance as of 6/30/09 by approximately \$352,000 for a total of a little less than \$3.5 million. Unfortunately with the known decrease in state aid of \$165.00 per pupil plus the loss of 17 more students than budgeted, the district will lose a little over \$1,000,000 without counting the additional \$127 per pupil loss on the horizon. He also noted that the projections for 2010/11 have only gotten worse with possible reductions in state aid of another \$300 - \$600 per pupil. Mr. Bacon indicated that the district would need to reduce expenditures for 2010/11 by approximately \$3.5 million in order to preserve some fund balance. Other factors that will affect the district's financial health include a projected increase in the retirement rate of .9%, a projected increase in health

insurance costs of 3% and an early projection for student enrollment that shows a

10/26 AGENDA
APPROVED

decrease of 70 students for 2010/11. On a positive note, Mr. Bacon stated that we continue to have good relations with our employee groups, a cohesive Board, a strong administrative team and great students, which gives us an advantage over most other districts.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Dumond congratulated the equestrian team for winning a third straight state title. He also congratulated the Legacy Disc Golf team for winning a state championship. Ms. Kessel noted that Connection House will be running an alternative to Devil's Night and is looking for donations. She also congratulated the Senior Center on a wonderful show. Ms. Sinelli thanked Ms. Sifferman for forwarding the dates for the upcoming building staff meetings for the bond.

HUTCHINSON
APPOINTED

Motion by Kessel, supported by McPherson-Brown that the Board of Education appoints Michelle Hutchinson to serve on the Hartland Board of Education through June 30, 2010. Mr. Aberasturi noted that he will be voting "no" as he believes Mr. Meo is the more qualified candidate. Motion carried 5-1 (Aberasturi - nay).

DES. FUND
BALANCE

Motion by Kessel, supported by Aberasturi 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, 2009. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION:
NATURAL GAS
PURCHASE

Mr. Bacon began the discussion regarding the purchase of natural gas for 2011. He noted that right now, pricing is less than what the district is paying on its current contract. Today's price is \$7.52 and we are currently paying \$7.98. Mr. Aberasturi and Ms. Kessel indicated that they were comfortable putting forward a motion today to get the ball rolling.

PURCHASE OF
NAT. GAS FOR
2011
APPROVED

Motion by Aberasturi and Kessel, supported by McPherson-Brown that the Board of Education approves the expenditure up to \$8.00 mmBTU for the purchase of natural gas for 2011. Motion carried 6-0. Mr. Aberasturi asked if it would be possible to do monthly or quarterly extensions so the district could take advantage of price drops. Mr. Bacon indicated that he believed that was possible.

WORKSHOP
DATES

The Board discussed the possibility of rescheduling their Board workshop from November 18 to before the Board meeting on November 23.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie McPherson-Brown
Secretary

Paula Waters
Recording Secretary

FINANCIAL
UPDATE
(CON'T)