

Hartland Consolidated Schools
Regular meeting - Board of Education
October 24, 2016

Members present: B. Gatewood, T. Dumond, K. Kaszyca, C. Aberasturi, C. Costa, M. Hemeyer
Members absent: C. Kenrick
Admin. Present: J. Sifferman, S. Bacon, S. VanEpps, C. Hughes, A. Howerton, M. Otis, L. Pumford, A. Lashbrook, D. Minsker, M. Cheney, D. Selix, J. Reck, M. Day, M. Marino, S. Livingway, K. Gregory, C. Chanavier
Guests: J. Dolowy, D. Boss, R. Bois, L. DePestel, A. Hughes, D. Hughes, L. Bergkoetter, R. Weston, J. Jarvinen, P. Single, R. Naughton, K. Quinn, A. Bell, S. Anderson, M. Sanborn, M. Johnston, L. Hoover, E. Czubaj, J. Romzec, M. Andersen, K. Brown, B. Brown, P. Glynn, J. Yarmak, D. Dwyer, J. Meier, D. Bishop, S. Hansen, D. Hansen, C. Costello, E. Peifer, K. Evans, K. Hartmann, E. Dennis, S. Wissner, A. Kartsounes, M. Decheim, E. Hawker, K. Cooper, K. Raap, S. Ronayne, J. Harrison, K. Harrison, L. Moore, J. Schweize, B. Karr, N. Holme, J. Gruber, M. Johnson, S. Kelly, K. Condra, E. Eisner, A. Nehring, M. Napier, L. Reck, M. Komaromi, K. Schlueter, M. Morrison, D. DeYoung, B. Fuller, C. Jablonski, M. LaPointe, K. Steller

President Dumond 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 Aberasturi, supported by Gatewood that the agenda for the October 24, 2016 regular meeting be approved, and that public participation be allowed on all items. Motion carried 6-0. 10/24/16 AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Kaszyca, supported by Costa that the minutes of the October 10, 2016 special meeting be approved. Motion carried 6-0. 10/10/16 MINUTES APPROVED

Superintendent Sifferman introduced Jeff Dolowy and David Boss from Plante & Moran who presented the 2015/2016 audit report. Mr. Dolowy noted that the district received a clean, “unqualified” opinion on both the federal programs and financial statement audits, which is the highest level of assurance given. Mr. Boss presented a summary of the district’s 2015/16 Financial Statement, noting that while the district’s fund balance is on a downward trend, this is true for districts across the state and Hartland is faring better than most, primarily due to our ability to keep our enrollment numbers consistent. Mr. Dolowy noted that it was another smooth audit with Mr. Bacon, Ms. Bois and the business office staff providing everything that was asked for in a timely fashion. There were no adjustments required or issues concerning internal controls. He noted that this is not typical year after year and Ms. Sifferman, Mr. Bacon, Ms. Bois and their staff are to be commended. Mr. Aberasturi thanked Ms. Sifferman, noting that this would be her final audit report, as well as Mr. Bacon and the accounting department for consistently maintaining a strong financial statement and unqualified audit reports. Ms. Sifferman thanked Scott Bacon and Rachel Bois for their hard work. SUPT. REPORT: 2015/16 AUDIT REPORT

Ms. Sifferman then introduced Principal Lawrence Pumford, Creekside Elementary School, who updated the Board on happenings at Creekside Elementary. He noted that this year has been a year of reflection. Pursuant to Creekside’s disappointing scores on last year’s M-Step test, Mr. Pumford and his staff focused on how students were learning and determined that the students needed more emphasis on perseverance and drive, “doing a hard thing”, and pushing through. They initiated a character program to help “leaderize” their students and promote reason, respect, and responsibility. End of year HAPPENINGS @ CREEKSIDE ELEM.

analysis of classroom and lunchroom behavior, as well as the spring M-Step scores indicate that the program is working. Mr. Dumond thanked Mr. Pumford and his staff for all they are doing at Creekside; as did Mrs. Sifferman.

During Call to the Public, Hartland High School teacher Ron Weston spoke regarding the Superintendent decision; Jackie Romzek and Eman Czubaj spoke regarding the reassignment of Bill Cain; and Lisa Bergkoetter thanked the Board for their service and diligence, particularly during the current superintendent search.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Mr. Dumond noted that the Board toured the middle school, Creekside and the 51 Building last Friday and would be hitting Farms and Lakes next month. He also noted that he attended the recent CTE Open House and was impressed with the turnout.

BOARD REPORTS

Motion by Aberasturi, supported by Gatewood that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, approves the financial report as of September 30, 2016, and the payment of invoices totaling \$1,746,694.98 and payroll obligations totaling \$2,112,136.50. Motion carried 6-0.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

President Dumond began the discussion on the superintendent interviews by thanking both candidates. He also thanked the district staff, parents, and community for their input and kind words, and finally thanked the Board for all of the time they have expended on this important and difficult decision. Ms. Hemeyer noted that it is a very difficult decision and she is confident that the district will be in good hands either way. Mr. Kaszyca agreed with Mr. Dumond and Ms. Hemeyer and noted how fortunate we are to have two strong candidates. Mr. Gatewood noted that he was originally in favor of interviewing both external and internal candidates but bowed to the consensus of the Board. However he is now completely comfortable with the internal candidates and is confident either would do an excellent job. He also thanked the administrators, teachers and community for their input, noting that the next superintendent will lead, but not alone. He is confident that everyone will continue to support and work with the new superintendent. Mr. Aberasturi commented that he has been on the Board for 19 years and two superintendent searches. We had marvelous results the last time and he is confident we will continue the tradition. Mr. Costa noted that he believes Hartland will move in a positive direction and be in good hands either way.

DISCUSSION:
SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Motion by Kaszyca, supported by Aberasturi that the Board of Education offers Chuck Hughes a contract as Superintendent of Hartland Consolidated Schools. Motion carried 6-0. Mr. Hughes noted that he was very emotional and thanked the Board. He also thanked Mrs. Sifferman for being a terrific mentor.

HUGHES APPT.
SUPERINTENDENT

President Dumond noted that the next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2016 and then December 19, which will be Superintendent Sifferman's last meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Kenrick
Secretary

Paula Waters
Recording Secretary