

Hartland Consolidated Schools
Regular Meeting - Board of Education
April 11, 2011

Members present: T. Dumond, K. Kaszyca, C. Aberasturi, C. Sinelli, M. Hutchinson
Members absent: E. McPherson-Brown, R. Perkins
Admin. Present: J. Sifferman, L. Mayes, S. VanEpps, S. Bacon, L. Smither, C. Hughes, M. Otis, S. Livingway, M. Cheney, T. Sahouri, S. Pearson, K. Evenson, B. Cain, D. Minsker
Guests: J. Plemmons, M. Milliken, S. Swann, J. Bull, A. Bogan, B. DePoy, S. Juvonen, D. Juvonen, L. Klebba, B. Bove, C. Lawson, L. Juvonen, A. Schneider, K. Pietila, R. Daavettila, S. Russano, M. Alberts, N. Spranger

President Kaszyca called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. in the Board Room of the Hartland Educational Support Service Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVED

Motion by Aberasturi, supported by Sinelli that the agenda for the April 11, 2011 regular meeting be approved, and that public participation be allowed on all items except Item II.C. – Student Expulsions. Motion carried 5-0.

3/28 MINUTES
APPROVED

Motion by Dumond, supported by Hutchinson that the minutes of the March 28, 2011 special meeting be approved. Motion carried 5-0.

CALL TO PUBLIC

There was no response to Call to the Public.

SUPT. REPORT

Superintendent Sifferman introduced Laurie Mayes, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, who reviewed the recently released MEAP results. She noted that the district is changing its focus from intervention for students who score at the non-proficient levels to helping students move from level 2 to level 1. The scores for grades 3 - 11 showed very low percentages, generally 1% or 2%, of students scoring at the lower level. Ms. Sifferman congratulated the building administrators and teaching staff for their hard work and focus on this public measurement of success. She also noted that while this is possibly the most public assessment, it is not the only tool used to evaluate and structure curriculum for our students.

Ms. Sifferman then introduced Principal Hughes who reviewed the recent site visit from AdvancEd/NCA in which the high school was given their highest accreditation. Mr. Hughes noted that the committee was impressed with the involvement of the central office administration and Board of Education, as well as the high school's focus on safety and security, collaboration and communication, diversity and awareness and the Reading Apprenticeship program recently introduced at the secondary level. Ms. Sifferman congratulated Mr. Hughes and his staff for this excellent outcome.

The Board received a summary of the financing results for the recent refunding/refinancing of the 2001 bonds. Ms. Sifferman noted that through this refinancing, the district saved the taxpayers approximately \$10.9 million. She also distributed a draft of a letter she plans to send to the community regarding the governor's current budget plan for public school districts. Ms. Sifferman plans to send this home with elementary students and send as an e-mail to middle and high school parents. This will also appear in a future issue of *Community Life*.

Superintendent Sifferman noted that while she was unhappy to have

to bring up something negative after all of the positive reports the Board just received, an issue has arisen concerning a group of Hartland students on Spring Break in the Dominican Republic. She indicated that she had received a phone call from a man living on the west side of the state who had been vacationing with his family last week at the Ocean Sands resort in Punta Cana. During their stay he witnessed groups of students from four Michigan high schools exhibit behavior that made him embarrassed to be from Michigan. The students were drunk, obnoxious, and rude. They vomited in the pool, hallways and common areas, took over the pool and beach areas, and threw garbage from room balconies. They appeared to be unsupervised or very poorly supervised and essentially ruined this family's vacation. He directed Ms. Sifferman to tripadvisor.com on which several other similar reviews were written for this same resort during this time period. He was planning to contact the other three districts' superintendents as well. Ms. Sifferman noted that this was certainly a black mark for the district and noted that the district was fortunate that no tragic occurrence came from this incident. She will be issuing a letter to high school parents prior to spring break next year to make them aware of the dangers and pitfalls of allowing students engage in this type of Spring Break trip. Mr. Aberasturi suggested sending it out earlier as parents are already making plans for next year's break.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Kaszyca noted that at the recent LCASB Meeting, he challenged Rep. Rogers to meet with the district's business office to see what the district is actually doing and advise as to what should be done differently to survive under the governor's current proposal. The Superintendent's office will attempt to arrange a meeting with Rep. Rogers.

PAYMENT OF
INVOICES

Motion by Sinelli, supported by Aberasturi that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, approves the financial report as of March 31, 2011, and the payment of invoices totaling \$1,727,550.13 and payroll obligations totaling \$1,846,035.03. Motion carried 5-0.

REPRO. HEALTH
APPROVED

Motion by Aberasturi, supported by Sinelli that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, approves the additions to the reproductive health curriculum for grades 9-12 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

STUDENT
EXPULSION

Motion by Dumond, supported by Hutchinson that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, after hearing the charges and evidence presented at the hearing, the statements of the high school administration, the student's parents, and the student, expels said student from Hartland Consolidated Schools for the remainder of the 2010/11 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

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SUPT. REPORT
(CON'T)

Superintendent
Sifferman began
the discussion
regarding the
Dean of Students

position. She noted that for the past three years, it has been an educational internship through the HEA. She has had conversations with the HEA regarding moving this to the administrative salary grid in order to maintain consistency. Also, due to the increasing demands on the high school administration from state and federal mandates as well as the overburdened and understaffed counseling department, this position and duties have grown. This will come before the Board for action on April 25.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie McPherson-Brown
Secretary

Paula Waters
Recording Secretary

DISCUSSION:
DEAN OF
STUDENTS