

HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 21, 2009

**Call to Order/Roll Call/
Pledge of Allegiance**

The regular meeting of the Homer Community Schools Board of Education was called to order on December 21, 2009 at 7:03 p.m. at the Homer High School Media Center by Board President Gary Tompkins.

Members Present:

Gary Tompkins, Dick Folk, Kevyn VanWert, JoAnne Miller, Derek Allen, Chad Rocco

Members Absent:

Josh McCullough

Others Present:

Superintendent Rob Ridgeway, Martha Robinson, Scott Salow, Tom Salow, Isabell Nazar, Tara Wilbur, Will Forgrave, Charles Savage, Leslie Savage, R. B. Gilliam, Alta Gillham, Joe Mosier, Samantha Barton, Lorraine Laskey, Bailey Manis

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Samantha Barton (12th), Lorraine Laskey (10th), Bailey Manis (7th), Alta Gillham (7th), Brittney Kittinger (2nd), and Anna Clay (K) were recognized as Academic Booster Club students of the month. Stacy Bangert was recognized for a first place finish in the State FFA Discussion Meet. Student athletes were recognized for the awards they received at the fall 2009 sports banquet.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Reneé Cribbins and Nicole Mansfield were recognized for receiving Individual Mini Grants.

**CHILDREN ARE OUR
REASON FOR EXISTING
(CARE)**

Anji Phillips' presentation on the 2009 Community Report Card was cancelled. This presentation will be rescheduled at a later date.

CLOSED SESSION:

It was moved by JoAnne Miller and supported by Dick Folk to go into closed session at 7:15 p.m. for the consideration of confidential attorney/client communications.

Roll call vote taken.

Voting yes: Chad Rocco, Derek Allen, Kevyn VanWert, JoAnne Miller, Dick Folk, and Gary Tompkins

Voting no: None

Motion passed unanimously.

**RETURNING TO
REGULAR MEETING:**

It was moved by Dick Folk and supported by Kevyn VanWert to return to the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Derek Allen and supported by Dick Folk that the Board authorize the superintendent and legal counsel to proceed with the resolution of pending ULP and EEOC charges consistent with direction by the Board to them.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent Ridgeway passed out Christmas cards that had been received from vendors for Board members to review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A certified negotiations committee meeting was scheduled on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

The Finance/Building & Grounds Committee met on December 16 to review the current financial status of the district and to discuss the 2010 – 2011 budget. A Finance/Building & Grounds meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 15 at 7:00 a.m. More information should be known at that time concerning the \$127 per student proration that was paused until the state revenue estimating conference scheduled for January 11, 2010.

POLICY

None

EMPLOYMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The following consent agenda items were covered:
Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 2009.

Financial Report
Bills/Reimbursements

Approval of checks numbered 042895 – 043096.

Kevyn VanWert noted that support materials for check number 042979 needed to be marked “void.” It was moved by Chad Rocco and supported by Kevyn VanWert to approve the consent agenda. Motion was passed unanimously. Dick Folk abstained on check number 043058.

OLD BUSINESS

CSABMA Award
Nominations

Board members were encouraged to bring forth any nominations to Superintendent Ridgeway before the deadline on February 12.

2009-10 Budget Reductions
Update

All staff has been notified regarding the reductions that were approved at the November 19, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

Superintendent Ridgeway was asked by the Board at the November meeting to bring forth more information on the following three additional reductions:

- 1) Administrative shutdown – all administrative staff have agreed to five voluntary days off without pay. Details are still being discussed for when these days will occur.
- 2) Spring musical
- 3) Pay-to-transport for athletic events

The Board discussed alternative ways to finance the spring musical and transportation for athletic events. No cuts or reductions were recommended at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution for 2009-10
Great Start Readiness Prog.

Board members were referred to the handout in their packet titled Michigan Department of Education 2009-2010 Great Start Readiness Program Participating Resolution. Following discussion it was moved by JoAnne Miller and supported by Kevyn VanWert to agree to the participating resolution for the 2009-2010 Great Start Readiness Program. The motion carried unanimously.

Flexibility of Spending – Service Consolidation Plan Agreement

Board members were referred to the memo in their packet from Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan regarding Michigan Department of Education Guidelines for Service Consolidation Plans. Following discussion it was moved by Chad Rocco and supported by Kevyn VanWert to develop a service consolidation plan agreement by February 1, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

Race To The Top (RTTT)

Superintendent Ridgeway explained the state’s RTTT legislation to meet federal guidelines for participation in the plan. The Board president, the district superintendent, and the teacher union leader are being asked to sign a Memorandum of Understand (MOU) to establish a framework of collaboration, and to articulate specific roles and responsibilities in support of the state in its implementation of an approved RTTT grant project. By signing the MOU the Homer district may receive up to \$86,000 in federal grant money. Districts that agree to participate may opt out by stating in writing to the Michigan Department of Education why they can no longer fulfill the terms of the MOU. Following discussion JoAnne Miller moved and Kevyn VanWert supported the participation in the RTTT plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Elections – Odd Year in May

The Board discussed the option of going with odd year elections. No decision was made.

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

- A. Deadline for Board of Education candidates to file is February 9 at 4:00 p.m. at the Calhoun County Building in Marshall. Derek Allen’s seat is up for election.
- B. January is School Board Recognition month. A Board visit date was set for Thursday, January 28, at 9:00 a.m. – noon.
- C. School Nurse Update – Grant has been submitted to finance the school nurse program for the 2nd semester.
- D. Parent/Teacher Conference Numbers – numbers for fall conferences increased with attendance at 93% for elementary, 64% for middle school and 45% for high school.
- E. Social Worker Information – information has been received that a partial salary for the social worker can be paid for from Title I stimulus money.
- F. *Trojan Times* Publications - MS student newsletter from Mrs. O’Keefe’s class.
- G. Student Count Update – 1,022 as of 11/30/09.
- H. Honor Roll – 1st Nine Weeks list
- I. CASBMA meeting on January 13 at 6:00 p.m. in Tekonsha.
- J. Chartwell Profit and Loss Statement shows a \$30,000 profit.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Dick Folk and supported by Chad Rocco to adjourn at 10:03 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnne Miller, Secretary Board of Education