

HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 15, 2010

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

The regular meeting of the Homer Community Schools Board of Education was called to order on February 15, 2010 at 7:08 p.m. at the Homer High School Media Center by Board President Gary Tompkins.

Members Present:

Gary Tompkins, Kevyn VanWert, JoAnne Miller, Derek Allen, Josh McCullough, Chad Rocco

Members Absent:

Dick Folk

Others Present:

Superintendent Rob Ridgeway, Martha Robinson, Will Forgrave, Nicole Mansfield, Ruth Cooley, Rick Cooley, Tom Salow, Holly Blashfield, Michael Drumm, Heather Drumm, Jill Grant, Gene Hackworth, Drew Bordner, Isabell Nazar.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Steven Osborn (12th), Lindsey Boden (11th), Christiana Ressler (5th), Justice Haigh (5th), Trenton VanderKuyl (2nd), and Kayleigh Drumm (3rd) were recognized as Academic Booster Club students of the month. FFA students were recognized for the awards they received at district leadership contests.

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

Anji Phillips, Executive Director for the Coordinating Council, gave a presentation highlighting the 2009 Community Report Card.

**ADMINISTRATION
REPORTS:**

Rick Cooley, elementary principal; Tom Salow, HS principal; Drew Bordner, athletic/curriculum director; and Rob Ridgeway, superintendent; reported on a very successful professional development day on Monday, February 15.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gene Hackworth thanked the Board for the job it is doing and for looking into consolidation of school services. He also addressed the Board about a middle school basketball issue. Gary Tompkins promised to send a letter out to Gene addressing this issue.

Holly Blashfield, representing the Homer Education Association (HEA) invited the Board to a pancake supper on March 4 at 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All profits will go to the Homer Caring & Sharing.

COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent Ridgeway shared with the Board the following:

- A letter from Homer Caring and Sharing thanking the high school and middle school staff and students for the \$826.85 that was collected during the Christmas food drive for the food bank fund.
- A letter from one of the bus drivers in regards to gallons of diesel pumped matching the gallons of diesel charged. Folk Oil has been contacted and the issue has been resolved, although plans are to continue to monitor the gallons of diesel charged.
- A letter received from the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that included a resolution indicating its plans to move the Math and Science Center to the Kellogg Cereal City building in downtown Battle Creek.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance/Bldg. & Grds.

The Finance/Building & Grounds committees met on February 11, 2010 to discuss the business manager position and the 2010 – 2011 budget. Projections from the state are a \$165 to \$433 per student reduction in foundation allowance for the 2010 – 2011 school year. This would mean a \$750,000 - \$1,000,000 budget deficit for Homer Community Schools. The letter concerning the voluntary severance plan was mailed to HEA members on February 1. The committee is looking at several options and ideas to help balance the budget. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 a.m.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee did not meet due to schedule conflicts. Specific changes to the Board Policy Manual will be discussed under policy in the agenda.

POLICY

Policy 1300
Meetings

Adding an option to e-mail postings to policy 1300 on notification of special meetings was discussed. It was moved by Kevyn VanWert and supported by JoAnne Miller to dispense with the readings for policy 1300 and to add the option *by e-mailing a notice to each Board member* for special meetings. Motion pass unanimously.

Policy1015
District Mission Statement

The first reading was held for updating policy 1015 district Mission Statement with revised vision and mission statements.

Policy 7477
Gen-Net Program

The first reading was held for a new policy 7477 Gen-Net Program. This policy offers a seat time waiver for a very limited number of students, some of whom are homebound, dropouts, or home schooled, to complete on-line courses for credit towards graduation.

MMC Diploma vs
Certificate of Completion

HS diplomas must meet new Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) requirements beginning with the class of 2011. The HS is recommending that students meet the MMC requirements to receive a diploma. The alternative HS recommendation is to have an option for a diploma for students meeting the MMC requirements or a certificate of completion for students meeting the current alternative graduation requirements. The Board asked for more information on the requirements for the MMC and the current alternative graduation requirements.

EMPLOYMENT

Retirement

A letter was read from Kathy Mills about her retirement due to health reason. Kathy will be on extended sick leave through June and will retire effective June 30, 2010. The Board thanked Kathy for her years of service. With regret it was moved by Kevin VanWert and supported by Derek Allen to accept the retirement of business manager Kathy Mills. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The following consent agenda items were covered:

- Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of January 18, 2010 and the special meeting on January 28, 2010.
- Approval of checks numbered 043235 – 043411.

Financial Report
Bills/Reimbursements

Chad Rocco noted that documentation for check number 043291 was missing. It was moved by Chad Rocco and supported by Kevyn VanWert to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Grant for School Nurse Program

The Battle Creek Community Foundation in support of the school nurse program approved a \$10,000 matching grant. HCS will supply matching funds in the amount of \$5,000 from the following accounts:

- PTO \$2,500
- Board Operating \$1,000
- HS/MS Activity \$1,000
- Pre-School \$ 500

The school nurse program remains \$2,500 short for the 2nd semester. If funds are not available through the budget, the program will run on a shorten week or a shorten semester.

Update on Qualified School Construction Bond Application

HCS application for the Qualified School Construction Bond (interest free bond) is on a waiting list. There is a good possibility that the HCS application will be accepted for this program. Because of major building repair issues that will need to be addressed, the Board was asked to consider a May 2011 bond proposal regardless if the application was accepted or not. The Request for Proposal (RFP) would need to go out in March 2010.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Contract Re-Opener Letter

The Board was asked to consider asking either informally or formally all employee groups and individuals with contracts to re-open their contracts to negotiate changes to help the district deal with the with the projected state revenue shortfalls. Following discussion, it was moved by Kevyn VanWert and supported by Derek Allen to formally ask by sending a letter to the representative of employee groups and individuals with contracts if they are interested in negotiating changes in current contracts. Motion passed unanimously.

Donation of Sick Days

Special Education Aide Lauri Tompkins has been on extended sick leave. Per contract, members of the aide group can donate sick days with Board approval. It was moved by Derek Allen and supported by JoAnne Miller to approve a transfer of 10 sick days to Lauri Tompkins. Motion passes unanimously with Gary Tompkins abstaining.

Other New Business

JoAnne Miller asked about scheduling a Board goals setting meeting. Superintendent Ridgeway and President Gary Tompkins will work together to set up this meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- A. Because of an inclement weather day the February 10 student count was moved to February 11. The student count on February 11 was at 1,027.
- B. Mid-winter break on February 12 & 15
- C. Professional Development Day on February 15
- D. Superintendent's evaluation due to Martha Robinson or Gary Tompkins by March 8.
- E. KCC Foundation Celebration of Academic Excellence on May 12, 2010. One Board member will be eligible to attend this event.
- F. Chartwells Profit and Loss statement showed a profit of \$72.99.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Kevyn VanWert and supported by Derek Allen to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Miller, Secretary Board of Education