

HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Meeting
October 19, 2009

The regular meeting of the Homer Community Schools Board of Education was held in the high school media center on October 19, 2009.

Members Present: Gary Tompkins, Dick Folk, JoAnne Miller, Josh McCullough, Chad Rocco

Members Absent: Kevyn VanWert, Derek Allen

Others Present: Superintendent Rob Ridgeway, Martha Robinson, Ruth Cooley, Rick Cooley, Kara Malone, Kathy Mills, Jennifer Benson, Griffin Benson, Elaine Miller-Seitz, Cindy Irvin, Jerry Irvin, Tom Salow, Scott Salow, Sarah Stonestreet, Scott McMeeking, Isabell Nazar, Courtney Poe, Drew Bordner

Board President Gary Tompkins called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

STUDENT RECOGNITION Jonathon Warner (12th), Brooke Dahlberg (10th), Payton Schrader (5th), Faith Baldwin (5th), Kayla Bryant (4th), and Griffin Benson (K), were recognized as Academic Booster Club students of the month.

CHILDREN ARE OUR REASON FOR EXISTING (CARE)

Personal Curriculum Handbook

Tom Salow, high school principal and Kara Malone, guidance counselor gave a presentation on the Personal Curriculum Handbook. Personal Curriculum is a modification of the Michigan Merit Curriculum graduation requirements. It is an additional avenue toward a Michigan high school diploma for Special Education students, transfer students and students struggling with algebra II. The class of 2011 will be the first to graduate under the Michigan Merit Curriculum graduation requirements.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Rick Cooley, elementary principal; Scott Salow, MS principal; Tom Salow, HS principal; Bill Mullaly, alternative HS director; and Drew Bordner, athletic/curriculum director all gave positive reports regarding student achievement and staff professional development. All of the principals reported on the progress of students taking the MEAP test.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Athletic Committee

The Athletic Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 5, at 5:00 p.m.

Curriculum/Tech Committee

The Curriculum/Tech Committee met on September 29 and heard from each of the school improvement teams about reading and writing curriculum for the elementary, implementation of “Trojan Time” at the middle school where teachers are volunteering to tutor students after school, and Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) for the high school.

School Messenger is a new call-out system being implemented by the CISD for area schools free of cost for one year. This system will call all staff and parents regarding school closings and also has the capabilities to call specific groups for announcements.

The mobile computer lab using the mini laptops has replaced two classroom labs.

Chad Rocco asked if there were enough of the same calculators for students taking the MEAP. Superintendent Ridgeway reported that there are enough calculators for classrooms but not enough of the same calculators for the MEAP. The school is working toward obtaining more calculators within budget constraints.

Finance/Building & Grounds Committee

The Finance/Building & Grounds Committee met on October 14 to discuss student count, state funding, possible budget reductions for 2nd semester and for the 2010-11 school year.

Board members discussed the suggestions from the committee and from staff for potential budget reductions. Gary Tompkins stressed the importance of having a plan in place for the budget to help preserve student programs and to keep the district strong. JoAnne Miller mentioned that there might be another decrease in the foundation allowance of \$165.00 per student in January. It was decided to hold a special Board meeting on Thursday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center for the purpose of budget planning.

The next Finance/Building & Grounds Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, at 7:00 a.m.

POLICY

Acceptable Usage Policy

The Board reviewed the 2nd reading of the Acceptable Usage Policy in regards to the requirements of the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA). A motion was made by Chad Rocco to dispense with the 2nd reading of the CIPA policy. The motion was supported by Josh McCullough and passed unanimously.

EMPLOYMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The following consent agenda items were covered:

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting on September 21, 2009, special meeting on October 6, 2009, and special meeting on October 8, 2009.

Financial Report
Bills/Reimbursements

Approval of checks numbered 042573 – 042743.

Chad Rocco moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was supported by Josh McCullough and passed unanimously. Dick Folk abstained on check numbered 042702.

OLD BUSINESS

HESPA Grievance #09-01

HESPA Grievance #09-01 was tabled until after the closed session.

HEA Grievance #09-01

No action was taken on HEA Grievance #09-01 because a resolution is expected within the 14 day period.

Qualified School Bond
Program Application

Superintendent Ridgeway stated that the bond attorney advised the Board to apply for the full \$15M for the Qualified School Bond Program. This amount can be adjusted once the Board comes up with the specifics for the bond. Superintendent Ridgeway read the two resolutions that the Board needed to pass before the Qualified School Bond Program application could be submitted. JoAnne Miller made a motion to accept the first resolution on the proceeds of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Qualified School Construction Bond (ARRA-QSCB) Program will be used for a qualified purpose as specified under federal law. Furthermore, the proceeds will be used in accordance with Michigan law. The motion was supported Dick Folk and passed unanimously.

Chad Rocco made a motion to accept the second resolution that it is understood that the district will submit a written spending plan including commitments to spend ten (10) percent of funds within six (6) months and 100 percent within three (3) years of the date of issue, and a brief narrative of use of ARRA-QSCB bonds. The spending plan and narrative are attached to the application. The motion was supported by Josh McCullough and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CASBMA Award
Nominations

JoAnne Miller asked Board members to begin thinking about nominations for the CASBMA 2010 citizens and professional award due to the CISD by February 12, 2010.

Recycle Center Date

The Board made plans to volunteer at the Homer Recycle Center on May 15, 2010.

Band Trip Approval

Band Director Scott McMeeking asked the Board to approve the annual band trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls on May 6 – 8, 2010. Dick Folk made a motion to approve the band trip. The motion was supported by JoAnne Miller and passed unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
UPDATE**

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| Professional Development (PD) | PD for all teachers will be held on October 23. |
| Academic Booster Club (ABC) | ABC pasty sale is scheduled for October 24. |
| 1 st Quarter | The 1 st quarter ends on November 6. |
| Quiz Bowl | Quiz Bowl for MS and HS will be held at Quincy on November 14. |
| Conferences | Parent-Teacher Conferences have been scheduled for November 19 and November 24. |
| Chartwells Profit and Loss | Board members were referred to the Chartwells handouts in their packets. Chartwells reported a profit of \$18,154.67. Superintendent Ridgeway will continue to work with the Chartwells director to make sure these reports are accurate. |
| Superintendent's Evaluation | The agenda was amended to correct the superintendent's evaluation to March 1. |

CLOSED SESSION

Dick Folk made a motion to go into closed session at 8:56 p.m. The motion was supported by JoAnne Miller and passed unanimously.

**RETURN TO REGULAR
MEETING**

Dick Folk made a motion to return to the regular meeting at 9:43 p.m. The motion was supported by Josh McCullough and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D
HESPA Grievance #09-01

JoAnne Miller moved that the Letter of Agreement with the Homer Educational Support Personnel Association (HESPA) to settle a pending grievance be approved and that Superintendent Ridgeway be authorized to sign the Letter of Agreement on behalf of the District.

ADJOURNMENT

Dick Folk moved to adjourn at 9:44 p.m. Chad Rocco seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnne Miller