

HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Special Meeting
October 29, 2009

The special meeting of the Homer Community Schools Board of Education was held in the high school media center on October 29, 2009.

Members Present: Gary Tompkins, JoAnne Miller, Derek Allen, Josh McCullough, Chad Rocco

Members Absent: Dick Folk, Kevyn VanWert

Others Present: Superintendent Rob Ridgeway, Martha Robinson, Jeff Daglow, Kathy Mills, Rick Cooley, Isabell Nazar, Thomas Orr, Art Welch

Board President Gary Tompkins called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION None

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Planning

Superintendent Ridgeway showed a presentation titled Budget Planning that explained the Michigan school budget, the Homer Community Schools budget, and the ideas generated by the Finance Committee. The current student foundation allowance of \$7,316 per student was cut \$169 per student by the state with an additional possibility of a cut of \$127 per student. It is hoped that the final decision on the \$127 per student cut will be made before the November Board meeting.

The Board agreed that budget planning should be based on the reduced number of students enrolled, the ability to use ‘flexibility of funding’ to reduce the \$165 per student cut in categorical, and the possibility of an additional \$127 per student cut. This scenario would place Homer’s estimated budget deficit at \$296,662.

Discussion from the Board centered on the importance for Homer Community Schools to remain solvent to help prevent the possibility of consolidation. It was also important to the Board that Homer remain a strong school of choice district.

Ideas presented for consideration for saving money included:

- Consolidating services with other school districts
- Offer early buy-out plan for teachers ready to retire
- Working closely with the Homer Education Association to develop cost savings
- Cut staff raises from 2% to 1%

- Review handout with a listing of staff ideas for potential budget reductions

To balance the budget deficit the Board directed Superintendent Ridgeway to begin the planning for \$150,000 in 2nd semester budget cuts. The remainder \$150,000 would be paid for from the fund balance. A final decision on budget reductions will be determined at the November 19, 2009, Board of Education meeting.

If needed, the Board approved the following recommendations for planning budget reductions for the 2nd semester:

<u>Reduction</u>	<u>Savings</u>
Elementary Teacher Position	\$27,500
Restructure Alternative Education	\$20,000
Reduce Non-Grant Funded Aides	\$15,000
Reduce Non-Core Instructional Teacher	\$35,000
Reduce Hrs. of Non-Instructional Professional Staff (One day a week = \$7,500)	\$7,500 – \$15,000
Athletic Transportation – No Saturday Bussing (Approximately \$150 per trip x 30 trips)	\$4,500
Athletic Transportation – Weekdays drop-off (Approximately \$45 per trip x 50)	\$2,250
Field Trip Expenses Covered by Outside Sources (Approximately \$450 per trip x 10)	\$4,500
Reduce to One School Play Per Year	\$5,000
Reduce Low Participating Athletics	\$3,000 – \$5,000 Per sport
Do Not Call Substitute for Absent Tutor/Aides	\$1,000
Eliminate Summer Recreation from School Budget (Program becomes 100% self-reliant)	\$3,000

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chad Rocco moved to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Josh McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnne Miller