

HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 16, 2009

The regular meeting of the Homer Community Schools Board of Education was held in the high school media center on November 16, 2009.

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

Members Absent: Kevyn VanWert, Dick Folk, Derek Allen

Others Present: Superintendent Rob Ridgeway, Martha Robinson, Scott Salow, Shauna Tucker, Tina Tucker, Hank Elder, Regina Robinson, Harley Robinson, Joseph Elder, Pamela Elder, Ruth Cooley, Rick Cooley, Ashlyn Swafford, Ray Swafford, Kaydee Swafford, Danica Swafford, Tom Salow, Kathy Mills, Drew Bordner, Mary Bates, Art Welch, Lora Finch, Holly Blashfield, Henry Ormann, Tara Wibur, Susan Vincent

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

STUDENT RECOGNITION Shauna Tucker (12th), Ashlyn Swafford (9th), Rachel Schreur (6th), Cody Farmer (6th), Joseph Elder (1st), and McKenna Kissinger (2nd), were recognized as Academic Booster Club students of the month. Stacy Bangert was recognized for her bronze award at the National FFA Convention in the Creed Speaking contest.

CHILDREN ARE OUR REASON FOR EXISTING (CARE) Scott Salow, MS principal gave a presentation on the initiatives that the MS school improvement team has implemented to increase student achievement and improve MEAP scores.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS: Rick Cooley, elementary principal; Scott Salow, MS principal; Tom Salow, HS principal; and Drew Bordner, athletic/curriculum director all gave positive reports regarding student achievement and staff professional development. All of the principals reported on the preparations for the upcoming parent and teacher conferences on November 19 and 24.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION None

COMMUNICATIONS None

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Finance/Building and Grounds Committee The Finance/Building and Grounds Committee met on October 27 to review the current financial status of the district including the

possibility of budget reductions for the 2nd semester if the state decides to reduce the foundation allowance an additional \$127.00 per student. The committee directed Superintendent Rob Ridgeway to develop four options for budget reductions for the Board to consider.

Superintendent Ridgeway suggested to the Board that the Finance/Building and Grounds Committee meet twice each month because of the budget crisis. Meetings were scheduled on Wednesday, December 2, and Wednesday, December 16, at 7:00 a.m.

Athletic Committee

On November 5, the Athletic Committee met to discuss how to define low participation sports, and athletic transportation options for students. They discussed the possibility of a “pay to transport fee” of \$20 per student for each sport. In terms of low participating sports, no definite formula was created. The athletic director will report the participating levels to the Board at the beginning of each sports season. The Board would then have an opportunity to take action based on the district’s financial situation.

Schedule Meeting Dates for Certified and Board/Village Committees

A tentative date of Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 a.m. was scheduled for the Certified Staff Committee. It was decided to wait until after the first of the year to schedule the Board/Village Committee.

POLICY

Acceptable Usage Policy

The Board reviewed the 3rd reading of the Acceptable Usage Policy in regards to the requirements of the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA). It was moved by JoAnne Miller, supported by Chad Rocco, to adopt the acceptable usage policy as written. Motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The following consent agenda items were covered:
Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of October 19, 2009, and the special meeting on October 29, 2009.

Financial Report
Bills/Reimbursements

Approval of checks numbered 042765 – 042873.

It was moved by JoAnne Miller, supported by Chad Rocco, to approve the consent agenda. Motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

CASBMA October Meeting

Superintendent Ridgeway and JoAnne Miller reported on the presentation titled “Culture of Quality Data” that was presented at the CASBMA October meeting. The presentation informed Board members of how district leaders and staff can pull data for students to make informed decisions on curriculum and instruction. All Board members were encouraged to attend the next meeting on school finance scheduled on January 13.

CASBMA Award Nominations

Board members were encouraged to nominate someone for the CASBMA awards. Nominations are due on February 12, 2010.

Qualified School Construction Bond Application

The application for the Qualified School Construction Bond has been submitted. It will be announced in January if HCS’s application is selected.

NEW BUSINESS

2009-10 Budget Reductions

Superintendent Ridgeway reported that the state has already reduced the per pupil foundation allowance by \$165, and an additional reduction of \$127 is being discussed. If the \$127 reduction is passed, Homer Community Schools would face a budget deficit of approximately \$300,000. With input from staff, administrators, and the Finance Committee, four different options were devised. The Board reviewed and discussed these options for possible reductions to the budget for the second semester.

Resolution for Homer Education Association

It was moved by Chad Rocco, supported by Josh McCullough, that the following resolution be approved: Whereas, the Board of Education has, after extensive consideration and discussion of relevant data and administrative recommendations, reasonably determined the necessity of reductions of the following positions for the second semester of the 2009-10 school year of one half (1/2) elementary art instructor, middle school choir, one (1) section of contemporary world problems, one (1) section of college prep world history, art club – HS/MS, art club – elementary, Spanish club, and farm lab to be necessary in the best educational, financial, and curricular interests of the district; and

Whereas, the Board of Education has examined the certifications and qualifications of its staff with respect to certification and qualification requirements duly established in the collective bargaining contract for the remaining staff positions and has duly considered and applies all relevant provisions of the Michigan Tenure Act and has determined that the elimination of the above stated positions will necessitate the reduction of the following employees:

1. Nichole Mansfield – Reduced to ½ time teacher
2. Steve Beck – Reduced to 3/7 time teacher
3. Terry McKown – Reduced to 5/7 time teacher
4. Joe Brya – Reduced to 5/7 time teacher
5. Lyndi Spahr – Reduced to 5/7 time teacher
6. Joe Mueller – Reduction of ½ compensation for art club – HS/MS for the 2009-10 school year
7. Rhonda Pebernat – reduction of ½ compensation for art club – elementary for the 2009-10 school year
8. JoEllen O’Keefe – reduction of 1/2 compensation for Spanish Club for the 2009-10 school year
9. Lora Finch – Reduction of ½ compensation for farm lab for the 2009-10 school year

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the above persons are hereby reduced at the end of the workday on January 22, 2010.

Be it further resolved, that the superintendent of schools is hereby directed to notify immediately in writing said employees affected by this resolutions of reduction of service.

All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Roll call vote taken.

Voting yes: Josh McCullough, JoAnne Miller, Chad Rocco, and Gary Tompkins, Jr.

Voting no: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution for Support Staff

It was moved by Josh McCullough, supported by JoAnne Miller, that the following resolution be approved: Whereas, the Board of Education has, after extensive consideration and discussion of the relevant data and administrative recommendations, reasonably determined the necessity of reductions of the following positions for the second semester of the 2009-10 school year of one fifth (1/5) social worker, one half (1/2) athletic aide, one half (1/2) library aide, one half (1/2) alternative education director, and website coordinator to be necessary in the best educational, financial and curricular interest of the district; and

Whereas, the Board of Education has determined that the reductions of the above stated positions will necessitate the reduction of the

following employees:

1. Wendy Danko – Reduced to 4/5 (4 out of 5 days a week)
2. Babby Sherman – Reduced to three (3) hours per day from six (6) hours per day
3. Joan Lawrence – Reduced to 2 ½ hours per day from five (5) hours per day
4. Bill Mullaly – Reduced to ½ time
5. Josh Robinson – Website coordinator eliminated

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the above persons are hereby reduced effective at the end of the workday on January 22, 2010.

Be it further resolved, that the superintendent of schools is hereby directed to notify immediately in writing said employees affected by this resolutions of reduction of service.

All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Roll call vote taken.

Voting yes: JoAnne Miller, Chad Rocco, Gary Tompkins, Jr., and Josh McCullough

Voting no: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Other Budget Reduction Ideas

Other reduction ideas discussed were to cancel the spring musical, adopted a pay-to-transport of \$20 per athletic per sport, and a summer shutdown from June 21 – 25, 2010, for all of the administrators and office staff. Following discussion, the spring musical and pay-to-transport ideas were tabled until the December meeting.

It was moved by JoAnne Miller, supported by Chad Rocco, that the superintendent be authorized to move forward with planning a summer shut down on June 21 – 25, 2010, for all administrators and office staff and to bring the plan to the December 21, 2010, Board of Education meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution in Support of Funding Education

This resolution formed by the Save Our State (SOS) group with the cooperation of Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO), Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), and Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) to leverage support for school funding in Michigan. It was moved by JoAnne Miller, supported by Chad Rocco, that the Homer Board of Education

approve the following Resolution in Support of Funding Education:
WHEREAS, education is the cornerstone of a successful economic turnaround and investment in education is the key to a new Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the children of Michigan deserve educational opportunities that allow them to compete on a national and international basis; and

WHEREAS, the long-term economic health of our state, and opportunity for our citizens is conditioned on meaningful structural reform to provide stable and fair funding for education; and

WHEREAS, given the crippling effects on our citizens and our educational institutions of continuing short-term, temporary measures and budget impasses over education funding; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the board of education for Homer Community Schools encourages the governor and legislature to immediately find the revenues necessary to reduce the cuts to the education budget to meet their Constitutional responsibility to the children of this state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education for Home Community Schools encourages the governor and legislature to look beyond the immediate revenue shortfall and focus on the perennial and structural deficit that plagues school finance in Michigan.

Motion passed unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
COMMENTS/UPDATES/
REPORTS**

- A. Chartwells Profit and Loss Statement
- B. Updated Student Count and School of Choice
- C. Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 19 & 24
- D. Fall Sports Banquet on November 17
- E. Quiz Bowl Report
- F. Grants Received for the School Nurse to Complete the 1st Semester
- G. School Play "Liberty Street" held on November 12th through 15th
- H. Elementary Christmas Concert, Wednesday, December 16 at 1:00 p.m.
- I. Jazz Band Dinner Dance on Saturday, December 19th

CLOSED SESSION:

The closed session for HEA negotiations was tabled.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Josh McCullough, supported by Chad Rocco, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnne Miller

