

**HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**September 21, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Homer Community Schools Board of Education was held in the high school media center on September 21, 2009.

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

**Members Absent:** Derek Allen

**Others Present:** Superintendent Rob Ridgeway, Martha Robinson, Scott Salow, Donna Calvert, Drew Bordner, Isabell Nazar, Tara Wilbur, Art Welch, Tom Salow, Scott Salow, Charles Finch, Rick Cooley, Carla Prater, Danny Prater, Sarah Palmer, Nichole Mansfield, Holly Blashfield, Lora Finch, Mary Bangert, Stacy Bangert, Kimi Stepp, Kathy Mills, Duane Sitkiewicz, Nicole Smith, Jeff Daglow, John Smith, Tristan Holt, Courtney Poe, Susan Stepp, Amanda Meeks, Star Stepp, Mike Warner

Board President Gary Tompkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Sophomore student, Stacy Bangert, presented to the Board her FFA state champion speech that she will be performing as part of the Creed Speaking competition at the National FFA Convention in October.

**ADMINISTRATION  
REPORTS:**

Tom Salow, HS Principal; Scott Salow, MS Principal; Rick Cooley, Elementary Principal; and Drew Bordner, Athletic/Curriculum Director; all reported on a successful school open house and a very smooth start to the school year.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Tara Wilbur, MEA Uniserv Director, asked the Board to reconsider its decision that privatized the custodians to D & D Maintenance effective August 1, 2009. Several audience members expressed concern over classrooms and bathrooms not being cleaned every day, especially because of the H1N1 flu virus. There was also a concern about classrooms being left unlocked. Other concerns center around whether privatizing the custodians was the correct decision for HCS because some districts were now returning to hiring back their own custodians.

Administrative team members as well as Board members explained that D & D Maintenance is being held accountable, and that classrooms and bathrooms are being cleaned every day. Superintendent Rob Ridgeway explained that the best way to control the H1N1 virus is through personal hygiene and keeping children home when they are sick. The administrative team is working with D & D Maintenance during this

transition period to make sure classrooms are locked. Dick Folk noted that several districts have had success with privatizing custodians.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The finance committee met on September 15, 2009, to discuss the decrease in student enrollment, the potential \$110 per pupil reduction in the foundation allowance, review possible reductions to the 2009-10 budget, and to review the cost savings of the energy project. They completed a tour of the fencing project at the athletic complex.

The policy committee met on September 14, 2009, to discuss the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA). A decision was made to hold a public hearing on September 21 at 6:45 p.m. to update the current policy and inform the public on measures the school is taking to protect students. The committee previewed a Personal Curriculum Handbook that the HS is working on to give students options relating to the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC). The class of 2012 will be the first group of students to graduate under the requirements of the MMC. The committee discussed options regarding a certificate of graduation for students who did not meet the requirements of the MMC.

The Curriculum/Tech Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, September 29, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.

A date was scheduled for the Finance and Building & Site Committee to meet on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 7:00 a.m.

**POLICY**

The Board reviewed the Acceptable Usage Policy in regards to the CIPA. A motion was made by Dick Folk to dispense with the first reading and to bring forward any changes to the October meeting. The motion was supported by JoAnne Miller and passed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes

The following consent agenda items were covered:  
Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of August 17, 2009.

Financial Report  
Bills/Reimbursements

Approval of checks numbered 042360 – 042556.

Josh McCullough moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was supported by Chad Rocco and passed unanimously. Dick Folk abstained on check numbered 04259.

**OLD BUSINESS**

School Nurse Contract

Superintendent Ridgeway informed the Board that it would be possible to reduce the school nurse to part-time if funds are not available.

Volunteer Energy Contract

The Volunteer Energy contract for natural gas has been signed.

Superintendent Ridgeway will keep the Board informed on the cost savings. There is a potential for the district to save up to \$10,000 this school year.

Informational Bond Mtg.

A public meeting date was scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. to inform the public of the opportunity for HCS to take part in the Qualified School Construction Bond Program. This program is for interest free bonds up to \$15M. JoAnne Miller stated that it is important that the public understands that bond funds and operating funds are two separate funds and that one fund cannot be used to support the other fund.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Homer Educational Support  
Personnel Association  
(HESPA) Grievance

Tara Wilbur, MEA Uniserv Director, representing the former custodial staff, presented to the Board grievance #09-01 relating to back pay in 2008/09. Following discussion Dick Folk made a motion to request Superintendent Ridgeway to prepare a disposition on grievance #09-01 by the October Board meeting. Chad Rocco amended this motion by adding “a disposition to deny grievance #09-01.” The motion was supported by JoAnne Miller and passed unanimously.

Student Count Numbers –  
Budget Discussion

Superintendent Ridgeway informed the Board of a decrease in student enrollment of 20 students and of the potential \$110 per pupil reduction in the foundation allowance as a result of attempts to balance the state budget. The Board reviewed the possible budget reductions handout prepared by the Finance Committee and the administrative team and discussed ways to cover the deficit. Chad Rocco asked for clarification on the budget cut for one bus run. This cut has already been implemented, but the savings have not yet been reflected in the budget. A motion was made by Dick Folk to authorize the superintendent to move forward with the following budget reductions:

- Newsletter (in newspaper & website – no mailing) \$1,500
  
- Cut one bus run \$15,000
- Reducing bus mechanic to 12 hrs. per wk. \$6,500
- Trainer (pay time worked) \$5,000
- Cut one aide (do not fill retirement) \$8,000
- Reduce counselor’s position 4 days a wk. \$15,000
- Limit the general fund budget for all depts. & bldgs. \$25,000
- Approve the school nurse as full-time for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester and re-evaluate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

CASBMA Programs  
2009-10

The motion was supported by Kevyn VanWert and passed unanimously.

JoAnne Miller encouraged Board members to attend meetings on October 28, January 13, meeting in March and on April 28.

## H1N1 Flu Information

Superintendent Ridgeway has sent a letter home to parents with information about preparing for a potential H1N1 flu outbreak this year. Information has been posted on the school website, and posters on personal hygiene have been posted throughout the school. Hand sanitizer has been placed in each classroom.

## Employment

Chad Rocco moved to accept Nichole Mansfield as the new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. The motion was supported by Kevyn VanWert and passed unanimously.

JoAnne Miller moved to accept Nicole Smith as the new HS English teacher. The motion was supported by Kevyn VanWert and passed unanimously.

Chad Rocco moved to accept Steve Beck as the new alternative HS teacher. The motion was supported by JoAnne Miller and passed unanimously.

Kevyn VanWert moved to accept Tracy Van Meter as the new bus aide. The motion was supported by Chad Rocco and passed unanimously.

Dick Folk moved to accept Clem Camp as the new bus supervisor. The motion was supported by JoAnne Miller and passed unanimously.

JoAnne Miller moved to accept Meg Marvil as the new Title I aide. The motion was supported by Dick Folk and passed unanimously.

JoAnne Miller moved to accept Ben Woodring and Josh Collmenter for MS football coaching. The motion was supported by Kevyn VanWert and passed unanimously.

Kevyn VanWert moved to accept Art Welch, Libbi Dodd, Kristen Wilkerson, Julie Yeider and Melissa McKenna as mentor teachers. The motion was supported by Chad Rocco and passed unanimously.

The resignation for Christina Compton as Title I aide was already accepted by Superintendent Rob Ridgeway.

Kevyn VanWert moved to accept the resignation for Deanna Woodliff, aide. The motion was supported by Dick Folk and passed unanimously.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Count Day  
Homecoming

Wednesday, September 30, 2009.  
October 16, 2009.

Prof. Development Day  
Board Operating Acct. Stmt.  
Updated Vehicle Inventory  
& Transportation Update  
FFA National Convention

October 23, 2009 – No School for students.  
Handout in the Board packet.  
Handout in the Board packet.

Homer Area Community  
Foundation

October 21, 22, & 23, 2009. Superintendent Ridgeway is planning to attend this event to watch Stacy Bangert compete.  
15 year celebration on November 10, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. Former Superintendent, Lee Robinson will be a speaker.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dick Folk moved to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Josh McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
JoAnne Miller

