

The Huron Valley Schools Regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by President Mr. Long at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 12, 2016, at Milford High School 2380 S Milford Rd, Highland, MI 48357.

Members Present: Mr. Long, Ms. Walsh, Ms. Cotter, Mr. Carlson, Ms. Blackwell, Ms. Brown, Ms. Lewis

Members Absent: None

### **The Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Information from the Board President**

Mr. Long said that with new Board Members coming on the Board we will be moving back to a three committee model and will be cancelling the Committee of the Whole meetings for the remainder of the 16/17 school year. The three committees will be Academics, Arts and Athletics (AAA), Finance and Auxiliary and Technology.

### **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Ms. Walsh and supported by Ms. Brown that the agenda be approved as written.

Ayes: Ms. Walsh, Ms. Brown, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Blackwell, Mr. Carlson, Ms. Cotter, Mr. Long

Nays: None

**Motion Carried**

### **Recognitions**

- Laura Zaloga, parent at Oxbow Elementary School, was recognized for all she does for Oxbow
- Diane Yarch was recognized for all the volunteer work she does at Highland Elementary School
- Lisa Blackwell, Bonnie Brown and Beth Lewis were recognized for all the work they have done as Board members

### **Items from Board**

#### **Board Treasurer**

Currently our State legislature is working in a lame-duck session. A lame-duck session occurs whenever a legislature meets after its successor is elected, but before the successor's term begins.

Our State legislature is currently working on three big items that impact public education but will most likely not be voted on during lame duck, which ends December 15<sup>th</sup>. All three items are likely to re-emerge in next year's session starting in January 2017.

#### **1 - MPSERS Tax Shift Stall**

Senate Bill 102 was introduced to close the MPSERS hybrid pension system for new employees and move those new employees to something similar to a 401(k). The Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency reports the cost of the legislation at \$1.6 billion to \$3.8 billion over five years.

#### **2 – Accounting Change in Income Tax Refunding**

The Governor put forth an idea to change the distribution between the State's General Fund and School Aid fund related to the way income tax is refunded. This proposed change would reduce School Aid Fund (SAF) revenue by over \$400 million. As it stands now about 24% of Income Tax Collections are placed in the SAF with all income tax refunds coming from the General Fund. The Governor is considering a change to have a portion of those refunds come from the SAF instead.

#### **3 – Energy Plan**

There is still life in the plan to effectively eliminate electric choice programs in Michigan. DTE and Consumers would like the House of Representatives to vote on Senate Bill 437 which reduces the ability to

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purchase electricity from providers other than DTE and Consumers. Huron Valley Schools currently saves an estimated \$400,000 annually on purchasing electricity on the open market.

Huron Valley Schools will be following this legislation closely as we move out of lame duck and into the new legislative year.

Mr. Carlson encouraged the community to contact their legislatures and ask them to stop taking money away from the School Aide Fund.

### **President**

Mr. Long talked about the Department/Committee structure and which Board Members would be on those committees. With new members coming on the Board in January, Mr. Long has updated the Board to Building Ambassadors.

### **Vice President**

### **Secretary**

### **Items from the Superintendent**

Ms. Welch, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services, presented a review of the 2016 audit results as well as budget items and their related dollar amounts that can impact future budgets.

### **Association Comment**

Denise Forrest, President of the HVEA, thanked the outgoing Board Members. Ms. Forrest explained how the State of Michigan took back \$470 per pupil several years ago and has never given that amount back to public schools. She urged the community to contact their legislatures and tell them to stop taking away School Aide Fund dollars from public education.

### **Public Comment**

None this evening.

### **Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Ms. Walsh and supported by Ms. Brown that Exhibits A-1 to A-7 be approved as written.

Ayes: Ms. Walsh, Ms. Brown, Ms. Blackwell, Mr. Carlson, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Cotter, Mr. Long

Nays: None

**Motion Carried**

### **Unfinished Business**

### **New Business**

Ms. Root, Director of Communications and Community Relations, gave an update on School of Choice. She will be working with a local marketing firm to attract more school of choice families.

### **Additional Public Comment**

None.

### **Good and Welfare**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Cotter  
Secretary  
HVS Board of Education