

The Huron Valley Schools Regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by President Ms. Cotter at 7:10 PM on Monday, April 18, 2016, at Milford High School, 2380 S. Milford Rd, Highland, MI 48357.

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

Members Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance

Information from the Board President

Ms. Cotter thanked all those in attendance. She stated that the Board cares about students, staff and families and that Huron Valley has made permanent cuts of 36 million dollars. She explained that all staff have either taken cuts or had wages frozen for many years.

Ms. Cotter thanked the “Data Dads” from Brooks Elementary for the PowerPoint they put together and sent to the Board.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Brown and Seconded by Ms. Blackwell to approve the agenda as presented.

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

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

Recognitions

The Board recognized Maureen Izzo and Susan Carter for receiving the 2016 Oakland County Excellence in Transportation Award. Susan and Maureen have been drivers in the district for 20 plus years.

Items from Board

Board Secretary

Nothing to report at this time.

Board Treasurer

Mr. Long reported:

As mentioned in previous Treasurer reports, the Governor presented his budget proposal on February 10th. The Governor’s proposed budget calls for an increase in the foundation allowance for Huron Valley Schools of 1.6%. However, that increase will be offset by rising expenditures and the lower number of pupils anticipated within the district next year. The Governor’s budget proposal is one step in the process of developing the Huron Valley Schools budget for next year. The House and Senate versions of the proposed budgets were issued the week of March 25, 2016 and the impact to Huron Valley budget is similar to the Governor’s proposal.

The next steps in the budget process will be to:

1. obtain the results of the May 2016 Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference and
2. determine local budget impact, such as class offerings, health care changes, etc.

It is anticipated that the proposed budget for the 2016/2017 will be presented to the Board of Education on May 16th, and final approval to take place at the June 13 meeting. The Board is required to approve a balance budget by June 30th. Similar to the current school year, it is anticipated that budgeted expenditures will be larger than actual revenue. As a result, the District will use the money in the bank (or Fund Balance) to cover the budgeted shortfall for this school year and next (FY 16-17), unless additional general fund budget reductions are identified and implemented.

On a final note, the school district is required by law to annually support or disapprove the intermediate school district's proposed budget. The budget was presented last week to school district business officials and will be discussed at an upcoming Finance / Auxiliary Committee Meeting. The approval of the Oakland Schools budget will be a part of May 16 Board of Education Meeting's Consent Agenda.

Superintendent Items

Mr. Baker postponed Points of Pride until the May 2 Board meeting.

Mr. Baker said that proposing the closing of a building is the hardest thing he has had to do. He stated that Huron Valley is a corridor in Oakland County that has had declining birth rates.

Association Comment

Ms. Forrest introduced Ms. Miller, Teacher at Brooks Elementary School. Ms. Miller spoke on behalf of Brooks Elementary School.

Public Comment

Shawn Willis – Building Utilization
Mike Riepen – Building Utilization
Rose D'Ambrosi – Building Utilization
Cindy Hurbis – Building Utilization
Eva Eschrich – Building Utilization
Frank Spelker – Building Utilization
Emilee Bowen – Building Utilization
Don Masch – Building Utilization

Reports from Board Committees**Academics, Athletics & Arts Committee – Mr. Carlson reported**

The committee met on April 13

Fountas and Pinnell-An overview of the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Reading Assessment was provided. It is recommended that this be purchased to replace the Development Reading Assessment (DRA). This is a one-time purchase without annual fees.

5D Update-The directors provided an overview of the 5D+ observation/evaluation process.

Academic Letters-Academic letters, awards given to students based on grade point averages, were discussed. Detailed internal committee work has yet to occur, however Board members support academic letters and the removal of the Board of Education Awards at the high school level.

Finance & Auxiliary Committee – Mr. Long reported

The Finance Auxiliary Committee will meet on May 10.

Technology Committee – Ms. Brown reported

The Technology Committee will be meeting on April 26.

Executive Committee – Ms. Cotter reported

Academic Letters - we briefly discussed the idea of Academic Letters (much like Athletic Letters) and the recognition of students through identified criteria. This topic has been introduced through the AAA Committee and is at a very preliminary stage.

Board of Education Award - this is another topic that has been introduced at the AAA Committee level. Our conversations were based around the need to find a way to keep the recognition and develop criteria, no matter what the award is named.

Strategic Plan Presentation - at the May 2nd Board of Ed meeting, the Michigan Association of School Boards will be presenting their strategic plan process which will include time lines, community input and identification of next steps

Graduation Ceremony Protocol - we discussed different protocol that has been implemented over numerous graduation ceremonies.

Board Policy 8000 Series - we discussed a few items within the series which will be going to Human Resources next.

Board Policy 8350 / Public Forum - we have received a number of requests asking if the length of public comment could be altered (from the Board Policy). We have also been asked if a PowerPoint presentation could be allowed. All members of the committee were absolute that the Board Policy on these requests must be followed.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Carlson and seconded by Ms. Brown to approve the Consent Agenda Exhibits “A-1 to A-6”.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

New Business

- Ms. Cotter read the minutes from the Committee Of The Whole meeting that took place on March 21 as follows:

Present: Ms. Cotter, Ms. Brown, Mr. Long, Ms. Walsh, Mr. Carlson

Absent: Ms. Lewis, Ms. Blackwell

The Central Office Administrative Team (COAT) made a presentation to the Board of Education on the Pupil Building Utilization Review, Budget Projection Update for 2016/17 school year.

During the presentation the main focus of information enrollment projections and budget implications. At the presentation, COAT made the proposal to close Brooks Elementary School for the 2016/17 school year and redistrict where needed to start to balance utilization at the elementary level.

During the meeting, Ms. Walsh stated that based on the projections being shown she would like to see if the closure of a second elementary building was possible.

Also during the meeting, Mr. Carlson stated that he is not in favor of closing any building minus a comprehensive plan which would include other strategies.

- Sean Carlson read the following resolution:

HURON VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION 2016-1
April 18, 2016

WHEREAS, The Huron Valley School District mission to “Inspire and Build futures one student at a time” is being compromised by significant financial pressures on our school district.

WHEREAS, The financial pressures come from a continued lack of commitment to fairness from our past and present Governor, state senators and state representatives to seriously address the inequities of Proposal A. These inequities currently provide a foundation allowance of \$7,391 for Huron Valley students, which is the lowest in the State. In neighboring school districts students receive \$8200 to \$10,000. This inequity continues to put a strain on our district budget and all public school students in Michigan should receive the same amount of funding from Lansing regardless of what community they reside.

WHEREAS, The financial pressures come from the failure of our community to support two millage proposals in 2014 and 2015. The failure of these ballot initiatives has resulted in our district taking education dollars intended for the advancement of our students and instead place these dollars in the maintenance and repair of district buildings.

WHEREAS, The financial pressures are also due to a declining birth rate in Michigan and specifically our Huron Valley School District. We are currently projected to experience a declining enrollment over the next four years of 800 students. This student enrollment decline will result in a loss of revenue to our Huron Valley school budget estimated to be at \$16 million.

WHEREAS, The Superintendent and his team, in accordance to Section 2111, has brought this matter to the attention the Executive Committee, Finance Committee and to the Board at a Committee of the Whole meeting on March 21, 2016.

WHEREAS, This resolution is an extension and consistent with the Board of Education's commitment to long term planning and making an informed decision on district economics. On June 15, 2015 the Board voted unanimously on Trustee's Carlson/Walsh motion to authorize the Superintendent to use up to \$50,000 in resources to investigate/research the cost containment options and revenue maximizing strategies.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is committed to observing best practices from NSBA, MSBA and the Broad Foundation in making an informed decision on addressing the budget shortfall and school closures.

WHEREAS, The Huron Valley School District through past school closures and significant staff wage sacrifices at the bargaining table have kept our district financially sound and have helped to balance our budget and create a rainy day fund that currently is \$11.2 million.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education is requesting that the Superintendent provide a comprehensive and integrated detailed plan that provides a series of options, and cost associated with the options, to be considered by the Board of Education to address the annual budget deficit by October 31, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the current building closure proposal by Administration be further reviewed by the following committees, Finance and Academics, Athletics and Arts committee and that any building closure proposal be incorporated within the comprehensive plan outlined above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That recommendations addressing the area of building utilization, that include the closing of a building or redistricting, be followed with a best practice process that will continue to engage potential impacted communities for their input and involvement prior to making a decision.

A motion was made by Mr. Carlson and seconded by Ms. Blackwell to accept the resolution as written.

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

Nayes: Ms. Walsh

Motion Carried

Good and Welfare

It was agreed by Mr. Long, Mr. Carlson, Ms. Blackwell, Ms. Brown, Ms. Walsh, Ms. Lewis and Ms. Cotter that the April 21, 2016 Special Board of Education meeting be cancelled.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Lewis
Secretary
HVS Board of Education