

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE
CITY OF HAZEL PARK
COUNTY OF OAKLAND AND STATE OF MICHIGAN
REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Hazel Park Board of Education was held at the Ford School Administration Office on October 21, 2013, and was called to order by President LaForme at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: LaForme, Nagy, C. Hemple, Hammonds, Cook, S. Hemple, Polowski

Members Absent:

Others Present: Barlow, Berger, Mayo, Meisinger, Stefanski, Watripont, Paterson

INVOCATION

The Invocation was delivered by Mr. Don Vogt, Principal of Hazel Park High School, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Mrs. Polowski, supported by Mr. Nagy, that the Agenda be approved as written.

Discussion

None

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Polowski, Nagy, C. Hemple, Hammonds, Cook, S. Hemple, LaForme

Nays:

AUDIT OF THE BILLS

Moved by Mr. Hemple, supported by Mrs. Hammonds, that the Bills dated October 15, 2013, be approved as follows: Capital Projects Funds – \$427,357.84; Debt Service Funds – \$31,579.77; Special Revenue Funds – \$114,219.70; General Fund – \$2,416,924.37; Total Expenditures – \$2,990,081.68.

Discussion

None

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: C. Hemple, Hammonds, Nagy, Hammonds, Cook, S. Hemple, Polowski, LaForme

Nays:

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – to be approved as written
 - a) September 10, 2013, Special Meeting and Closed Session
 - b) September 16, 2013, Regular Meeting
 - c) September 30, 2013, Special Meeting

2. Note of Appreciation – to be received and filed
 - a) The Family of Neil Hughes - Acknowledges the expression of sympathy from the Board of Education at the time of Neil's death.

3. Conference Reports – to be received and filed
 - a) **Karen Bentz**, Teacher at Hazel Park Junior High School, attended the “Research Writing Skills Workshop: Aligned to Common Core” on September 23, 2013, at Oakland Schools. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)

 - b) **Amber Delisi**, Teacher at Webster Elementary School, attended the “Writing Workshop with Ingrid Snyder” on October 24, 2012, at Webster Elementary School. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)

 - c) **Amber Delisi**, Teacher at Webster Elementary School, attended the “Comprehension from the Ground Up” webinars on January 28 – 29 and February 4 – 5, 2013. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)

 - d) **Amber Delisi**, Teacher at Webster Elementary School, attended the “Robust Vocabulary in the K – 2 Classroom” conference on October 3, 2013, at Webster Elementary School. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)

 - e) **E. Yvonne Emlet**, Teacher at Webster Elementary School, attended the “Motivating Black Males to Achieve in School and In Life” conference on September 24, 2013, at Oakland ISD. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)

 - f) **Colleen Gubow**, Teacher at Webb Elementary School, attended the “Understanding and Using the New High Scope Child Observation Record COR Advantage” conference on August 20 – 21, 2013, at Oakland ISD. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)

 - g) **Carla Kinyon**, Counselor, at Hazel Park Junior High School, attended the “Anti Bullying Conference” on September 27, 2013, at the Flat Rock Community Center. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)

 - h) **Corri Nastasi**, Teacher at Hoover Elementary School, attended the “Administering the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test” conference on September 17, 2013, at the Hazel Park Board Administration Building. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)

- i) **Corri Nastasi**, Teacher at Hoover Elementary School, attended the “Atlas Training” conference on September 25, 2013, at Oakland ISD. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)
 - j) **Rebecca Nix**, Teacher at Hazel Park Junior High School, attended the “Research Writing Skills” conference on September 23, 2013, at Oakland ISD. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)
 - k) **Matt Pittinato**, Teacher at High Park High School, attended the “Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Student Assistance” conference on September 27, 2013, at the Flat Rock Community Center. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)
 - l) **Rob Roberts**, Teacher at Webster Elementary School, attended the “Administering the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test” conference on September 17, 2013, at the Hazel Park Board Administration Building. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)
 - m) **Linda Rogers**, Teacher at Hazel Park High School, attended the “MDE – BAA Fall Conference” on September 11, 2013, at Eastern Michigan University. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)
 - n) **Pamela Sparks**, Teacher at Hazel Park High School, attended the “Science Council, Oakland County” conference on September 18, 2013, at Oakland ISD. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)
 - o) **Sharon Trosch**, Teacher at Webster Elementary School, attended the “Supporting Communication Skills within ELA CCSS” conference on September 30, 2013, at Oakland ISD. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)
 - p) **Amy Zitzelberger**, Teacher at Hazel Park High School, attended the “Capturing Kids Hearts” conference on August 20, 2013, in Muskegon. (Conference report submitted - Title 2, Part A funds)
4. Monthly Budgetary and Financial Report – To Be Received and Filed

Moved by Mr. Nagy, supported by Mr. Hemple, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Nagy, C. Hemple, Hammonds, Cook, S. Hemple, Polowski, LaForme

Nays:

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - (Limited to items listed under “Unfinished Business” and “New Business”)

No participants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board of Education Policy Book Revision
5031 Graduation Requirements for Adult High School Completion Program Pupils
(under 20 years of age) and Participants (20 year of age and older)
(Beginning with the June Class of 2011) – Second Reading

Mrs. Michelle LaPorte, Graduation Advisor, reviewed the board policy and stated the changes are being proposed to benefit the students due to the curriculum changes.

- 5031 **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ADULT HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM PUPILS (under 20 years of age) AND PARTICIPANTS (20 years of age and older) (Beginning with the June Class of 2011 2014)**

(1) Eligibility

Any adult 18 years of age or older. 14 -- 17 year old students (out of school) must obtain Adult/Alternative Education Administrative approval prior to registration. All 14 -- 17 year old students will have to comply with the following requirements:

- a. Birth Certificate.
- b. Parents must meet with an Adult/Alternative Education Administrator prior to enrollment.

(2) Credit Minimums

Hazel Park Adult ~~and~~ Alternative Education requires 19 credits for graduation with a minimum of ~~four~~ **three** credits earned through course work taken through Hazel Park Adult ~~and~~ Alternative Education.

MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION OF CREDITS:

- A. LANGUAGE ARTS 4.0 Credits
 REQUIRED COURSES: English 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B, 12A, 12B
- B. SOCIAL STUDIES 3.0 Credits
 REQUIRED COURSES: Civics – 0.5 €credit, Economics – 0.5 €credit;
 U.S. History with Geography – 1.0 €credit; World History with Geography – 1.0 €credit
- C. PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 1.0 Credit
 REQUIRED COURSES: 0.5 €credit of each
- D. MATHEMATICS 4.0 Credits
 REQUIRED COURSES: Algebra I – 1.0 €credit; Geometry – 1.0 –€credit; Algebra II – 1.0 €credit; 1.0 additional math credit in ~~final~~ **senior** year.
- E. SCIENCE 3.0 Credits
 REQUIRED COURSES: Biology – 1.0 €credit; Physics ~~or~~ **OR** Chemistry – 1.0 €credit; 1.0 additional sScience credit.

F. VISUAL, PERFORMING, APPLIED ARTS 1.0 Credit**REQUIRED COURSES: 2 courses from available electives.****G. ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS 3.0 Credits****3 credits of Elective courses. Online learning experience. Beginning with the class of 2016: World Languages 2.0 credits and 1.0 credit of electives.**~~ELECTIVES — 3.0 Credits~~~~Additional Graduation Requirements — On Line Learning Experience~~**(3) Credit Applicable Toward Completing Work for a High School Diploma**

Credits and experience allowed for successful completion of:

- a. Accredited high school courses
- b. Trade or business school courses approved by the Michigan Department of Education
- c. Community College or University - credits equated by equivalent hours of class time
- d. Approved competency or equivalency tests
- e. Community Service

(4) Personal Curriculum Modifications

A student's curriculum that is modified must meet guidelines as specified by the state.

05/21/07 Rev 10/21/13

Moved by Mr. Hemple, supported by Mrs. Polowski, that the Board of Education approve Board of Education Policy Book Revision, 5031 Graduation Requirements for Adult High School Completion Program Pupils (under 20 years of age) and Participants (20 year of age and older) (Beginning with the June Class of 2011), for the Second Reading.

Discussion

None

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: C. Hemple, Polowski, Nagy, Hammonds, Cook, S. Hemple, LaForme

Nays:

NEW BUSINESS**1. Enrollment Update**

Mr. James Meisinger, Superintendent, updated the Board of Education regarding the District's declining enrollment. He stated enrollment is difficult to predict. Especially with the vendor programs, in the past years the District vendor programs have experienced an escalation in enrollment, and other years they suffer a severe decline. Last school year the District lost approximately 500 student memberships; this year the loss is

approximately 300 student memberships. Once the administration realized the District was experiencing another year of student decline, we began reducing the number of Districts employees. Mr. Michael Barlow, Director of Curriculum, stated that twenty-five teachers took the severance incentive, six teachers were laid off, and two teachers resigned. However, the District did have to hire teachers with specialized certifications in the special education area, to fill the positions of special education teachers that retired/resigned. Mr. Meisinger said that earlier this year the District submitted the required District Elimination Plan (DEP) to the state, indicating that this plan would be reviewed in June 2014. However, with a large decline in student enrollment, the administration realized the DEP would be approximately \$2 million dollars short than what was indicated in the plan submitted to the state. With that said, and the pro-active measures already taken by the cuts with the teachers, secretarial, maintenance/custodian, cafeteria and transportation groups, the District was able to recover approximately one million dollars of the estimated two million dollar deficit due to the loss of student memberships. Mr. Meisinger said that administration is making strides reducing the District debt. He informed the Board of Education of his recent call to the State Department to discuss the strides the District has undergone in order to bring the deficit down. Mr. Meisinger stated he is hopeful being pro-active will offset the negative publicity the District received in the spring from the State Department. He said that the State Department is waiting for the District to take substantive measures to address the deficit issue.

2. Closing of an Elementary School

Mr. James Meisinger, Superintendent, stated that with declining student memberships, meeting the requirements of the District Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP) and being fiscally responsible he finds it necessary to recommend closing an elementary building. Mr. Meisinger said that if the Board of Education approves closing an elementary building, he and the administration will begin to study and determine which elementary to close. Once the decision is made the administration will work to have every student affected, acclimated to their new elementary building before school begins in September 2014. The study will include how the remaining three elementary buildings will be structured; the traditional neighborhood schools K – 5 or possibly convert to elementary schools with the grade levels of; K – 1, 2 – 3, and 4 – 5. If the District changes to grade level elementary schools the start times will be staggered so parents can get their children to school in a timely fashion. Mr. Meisinger recommended to the Board of Education to close one elementary building at the end of this school year and begin in the fall 2014 operating with three elementary buildings.

Moved by Mr. Hemple, supported by Mrs. Polowski, that the Board of Education approve closing of an elementary building, as recommended.

Discussion

Members of the Board of Education discussed with Mr. Meisinger holding small group meetings with both the Board of Education and community residents. Mrs. Laura LaForme, Board President, asked Mr. Meisinger to bring the Board of Education a recommendation of how the administration will be holding small group meetings to determine what elementary building will close.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: C. Hemple, Polowski, Nagy, Hammonds, Cook, S. Hemple, LaForme

Nays:

3. Expanding Out of County Schools of Choice – 105c

Mr. James Meisinger, Superintendent, stated that this agenda item ties into all the previous discussions, declining enrollment, the District's deficit and closing of an elementary building. Mr. Meisinger said in speaking with the state it is clear that the District has to make every effort possible to gain additional revenue. The only way to raise the revenue in a great amount is to expand Out of County Schools of Choice – 105c to grade twelve, immediately. Mr. Meisinger feels by the Board of Education taking this action it will show the state that the District is taking aggressive action to balance the budget. If the Board of Education votes to expand 105c to grade twelve immediately, the Hazel Park Education Association (HPEA) leadership will go to the HPEA members and ask the members to vote on a 4% wage concession. If the HPEA members vote favorable to take the wage concessions the administrators will take the same, and Mr. Meisinger will ask the other groups for the same type of concession. If the groups accept the concessions, it will show the state that the District is moving in the direction of reducing the debt. Mr. Meisinger told the board that this year by expanding the 105c to accept fifth grade students the District gained and maintained approximately 45 students from Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park and Warren. All the enrolling 105c students are screened to see if they have been expelled, suspended or have special education needs. Due to state regulations, districts do not receive funding for Out of County Schools of Choice special education students. If a district were to enroll a 105c special education student their educational funding would come from the districts general fund. All Schools of Choice and Out of County Schools of Choice parents sign a compact agreement that their student(s) will follow all the school policies; behavior, attendance, etc. Mr. Meisinger said that if the District enrolls a problematic student, the student could be transferred to one of the alternative education programs. Mr. Meisinger recommended to the Board of Education to expand Out of County Schools of Choice – 105c to grade twelve, immediately.

Moved by Mrs. Polowski, supported by Mrs. Hammonds, that the Board of Education approve the expansion of Out of County Schools of Choice – 105c, K – 12, as recommended.

Discussion

Board of Education members Mr. Ricky Nagy, Board Vice President; Mrs. Rose Mary Hammonds, Board Treasurer; Mr. Ryan Cook, Board Trustee; and Mrs. Laura LaForme, Board President, expressed that they will be supporting Mr. Meisinger's recommendation to open the Out of County Schools of Choice to grade twelve. Mr. Nagy stated that this is a difficult decision, but if the board members wait to expand the District's 105c program he believes it won't be long before the lawmakers remove the restrictions and the entire state will be Schools of Choice regardless of the resident's county. Mrs. Hammonds said that she attended the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) meeting in Lansing this past May; the MDE made it very clear that the District needs to balance the budget or possibly be faced with an Emergency Manager. Mr. Cook expressed his excitement that the District will be opening the borders to welcome all students to the District. He believes that all children have the right to a quality education regardless of their residency. Mrs. LaForme agreed that this

is a difficult but necessary decision to support. She stated that it is necessary for the Board of Education to be fiscally responsible to the District and community. Mrs. LaForme said that the board has agreed to open the borders slowly and she has not heard of any complaints. Mrs. LaForme stated she has great faith in the District employees, if the employees are not from the Hazel Park School District they certainly act like they are, and she is sure they will continue to give all the students a great education. She assured the public that she will continue to make decisions carefully and calculated for the betterment of the District.

Board of Education members Mr. Charles Hemple, Board Secretary and Mrs. Sue Hemple, Board Trustee voiced their concerns that they will not be supporting this recommendation. Mr. Hemple stated that he remains in opposition to expanding the borders. Mrs. Hemple said that not only is she opposed to expanding the borders, she would like to charge the students that do not reside in the Hazel Park School District to help pay for the outstanding bonds.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Polowski, Hammonds, Nagy, Cook, LaForme

Nays: C. Hemple, S. Hemple

4. Administrative Contract Recommendation

Mr. James Meisinger, Superintendent, recommended to the Board of Education to approve the following administrator for a one-year, non-tenure contract.

Consistent with the H.P.A.S.A. Master Agreement and/or past practice, the following administrator is recommended for a one-year, non-tenure contract:

a) Ken Mayo - Director

Moved by Mr. Hemple, supported by Mrs. Hemple, that the Board of Education approve the above administrator for a one-year, non-tenure contract.

Discussion

None

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: C. Hemple, S. Hemple, Nagy, Hammonds, Cook, Polowski, LaForme

Nays:

5. Promise Zone Update

Ms. Kayla Roney, Promise Zone Director, stated that last year two families indicated that they moved to Hazel Park for the Promise Zone, this year fourteen families cited that reason. At the next Board of Education meeting, Ms. Roney is hopeful that the new high school college advisor Julie Tashjian will be available to attend, so everyone will have the opportunity to meet her. Ms. Roney said that Ms. Tashjian is doing a wonderful job. She has met with one hundred seniors one-on-one. She and Ms. Tashjian will soon begin college campus visits. They plan to get as many students on college campuses as possible, older students for admissions and younger students to visit exhibits such as

planetariums. Ms. Roney and Ms Tashjian will be taking forty seniors to visit U of M and Eastern University in the next few days. Upcoming they hope to visit Central University, Saginaw Valley State University, Grand Valley State University, Wayne State University, Michigan State University and possibly others. During the recent on-site admissions Oakland University accepted two students, Eastern Michigan University accepted eleven students, and gave \$32, 500 in scholarships to the students that were accepted, and U of M Dearborn accepted five students. College Application Week will begin November 4 – 8, 2013, during this time all seniors will receive assistance in submitting their college application(s). Promise Zone applications will soon be streamlined to online submission only. There will be a Promise Zone fundraiser, Race to College on February 8, 2014 at the Hazel Park Raceway, with keynote speakers Oakland County Executive, L. Brooks Patterson and Congressmen Sander Levin. Ms. Roney is planning a Success Plan Workshop to assist students in transiting from high school to college. The Promise Zone has given sixteen scholarships to students going to four-year universities and seven scholarships to students attending Oakland Community College. Ms. Roney explained that she is working closely with Oakland Community College and students to work out a few glitches they are experiencing with tuition.

6. Mackinac Center Study

Mr. Michael Barlow, Director of Curriculum, summarized the Mackinac Center, October 10, 2013; article *New Mackinac Center Study Reveals Flaws in State's 'Top-to-Bottom' School Rankings* – ‘Schools shouldn’t be penalized simply for serving more students from disadvantaged backgrounds.’

7. 2012 Bond Project Update

Mr. Fred Nix, Owner’s Representative for the 2012 Bond Project, updated the Board of Education on both the technology and the construction projects. Mr. Nix stated that NcNulty Electric, Inc. is underway with making the necessary electrical modifications. This work is taking place after students go home and on weekends. Mr. Nix assured the board that with the discussion to close an elementary building, all the technology work will begin at the high school, and then move to the junior high. The elementary work will be delayed until the District makes a decision on which elementary school will close. Mr. Nix explained that the Athletic Complex is nearly finished; he and the contractors are reviewing the punch list of items that need finishing. The track will be ready this spring for the first home track meet in three years. The storage building is being built and should be completed within the next month. Bleachers have been renovated and are now much safer. This winter, plans will be made to address the repair of roofs and parking lots.

RECOGNITION/COMMENDATION

1. Don Vogt, Principal of Hazel Park High School, would like to congratulate all the members of the **Hazel Park “Viking” Marching Band** for earning a First Division, Superior Rating at the MSBOA Marching Band Festival held at L’anse Creuse North High School. The parents did an amazing job feeding, chaperoning and supporting the students. A special shout out to our AMAZING PIT PARENTS!

2. Don Vogt, Principal of Hazel Park High School, received the utmost complementary message from a North Farmington High School parent regarding our **Viking Girl's Swim Team**: "I just returned home from the North Farmington vs. Hazel Park girls swim meet. My daughter is a freshman at North Farmington. I wanted to let you know how friendly and welcoming your swim team, their parents, and the others from Hazel Park High School were. I know that when a swim team with 35 swimmers walks in, it can be intimidating. Your team demonstrated awesome school spirit. They cheered each other on, and they cheered our girls on, and vice versa. Tonight was a celebration of all that is positive about sports involvement. The parents afterwards provided such a nice snack for our girls. That was very kind. And when I parked and didn't know where to enter the building, this very nice young man showed me to the door. It is nice to know that neighborly camaraderie still exists in our world." Thank you **Viking Girl's Swim Team** you make all of us proud!

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

1. Beverly Blair
Hazel Park Junior High
Teacher - Mrs. Blair, Teacher at Hazel Park Junior High, invited the Board of Education and the community to the 10th Annual Celebration for Veterans, on Thursday, November 7, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Blair extended an invitation to the Board of Education for the 2nd Annual Day for Veterans, on Friday, November 1, during the school day. Veterans will be visiting each of the Social Studies classes, each hour of the day.
2. Barbara Winter
23051 Tawas Ave.
Hazel Park - Mrs. Winter stated that she is running for a position on the Hazel Park Library Board. She and her husband have been Hazel Park residents for over ten years. She is a graduate of U of M with a degree in public policy. Mrs. Winter is a legislative assistant for State Representative Ellen Cogen Lipton. She believes that the Hazel Park Public Library is a vital part of the community as are the schools.
3. Steve Morton
Hazel Park High School - Mr. Morton, Teacher at Hazel Park High School, and Lisa VanderHagen, Hazel Park High School graduate and Student Teacher at Webb Elementary School, are both volunteers with the Hazel Park Youth Assistance. They informed the Board of Education and community of two upcoming November fundraisers the Hazel Park Youth Assistance will be supporting. On Saturday, November 9, Hazel Park Youth Assistance will be hosting a 50's Celebration at the Hazel Park Recreation Center, from noon – 2:00 p.m. The second fundraiser is No Swear November! This event will run the entire month of November, promoting positive communication as an alternative to swearing.

4. Judi Klender
439 E. Harry
Hazel Park - Mrs. Klender stated that she grew up in Hazel Park, taught and retired from the Hazel Park School District. She reminisced of her years living and teaching in Hazel Park. Mrs. Klender presented the Hazel Park Promise Zone with a donation of \$375 from the Hazel Park High School graduating class of 1963.

BOARD MEMBER AND ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

1. Ricky Nagy
Vice President - Mr. Ricky Nagy, Board Vice President, announced the Webb Elementary School Octoberfest, on Friday, October 25, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
2. Laura LaForme
President - Mrs. Laura LaForme, Board President, asked Mr. Meisinger to inform all the administrators of this evening's board action. This notification to the administrators will help assure that families will receive accurate information regarding the upcoming District changes. Mrs. LaForme stated that she would like to see more administrators at the Board of Education Meetings.
3. James Meisinger
Superintendent - Mr. James Meisinger, Superintendent, stated that due to the District's technology upgrades that will be occurring very shortly through the 2012 Bond, we need to expedite the decision on what elementary building will be closed.
- Mr. Meisinger clarified his statement regarding the HPEA union leadership taking a 4% concession to their members for a vote. This concession will be one time, from when the vote passes until the beginning of the next fiscal school year. Then the HPEA members' salaries will return to their contractual salary schedule. Mr. Meisinger and selected administrators will be visiting each school to discuss the District's financial status and answer any questions teachers may have.
- Mr. Meisinger informed the Board of Education and community that Dr. Wilfred Webb, former Superintendent, his wife passed away yesterday, and shared the details of her funeral arrangements.
4. Don Vogt - Mr. Don Vogt, Principal of Hazel Park High School, complemented the Board of Education for their great leadership this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved and supported that the meeting be adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Hemple, Secretary
Hazel Park Board of Education