

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes February 12, 2007

Pres. Trubilowicz called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center.

The Irish Music Group performed a few songs at the beginning of the meeting. They had performed at the Michigan Music Association conference in Grand Rapids recently and were highly acclaimed.

Present: Bill Trubilowicz, Diane Kilkenny, Larry Levensgood, Chris Michaud, Dean Spencley, John McLean, Jr., Jeff Stevens

Absent: None

Administrators present: Keith Haske, Dick Swenor, Gary Grundman, Suzanne Klinger, Shawn Biddle

Guests present: Judith Ivan, MaryAnn Chew, Scott Mays, Vicki Greyerbiehl, Maureen Themm, Diane Priess, Logan Priess, Dennis Priess,

Joe Woods, Vocational Education Director, gave a report to the board on the benefits of the vocational education program with testimonials from past and present students.

Supt. Cooper shared the Elementary and Middle school Calendars for February, newsletters from each building, a resignation from Keith Haske as the varsity girls basketball coach and from Mary Jane Grunch as the 7th grade volleyball coach.

Public Comments

MaryAnn Chew gave thanks to the board for considering a letter from the library at the meeting tonight. The letter was regarding the selection of a realtor to list the property at 109 W. Clinton St. which is being jointly sold by the library and the school. The board of education gave direction for the library to proceed as with the action proposed in the letter.

Judith Ivan, concerned parent, spoke in support of block scheduling. She suggested that we keep block scheduling by adding a section to each teacher's schedule. If the goal is to increase teacher/student contact time then we should reduce the teachers' conference time to meet the needs of the contact time rather than changing to trimesters. Supt. Cooper assured her that our academic program remains our top priority and the decision to go/not go with trimesters will not be made strictly for financial reasons.

A high school student asked whether or not students would have a chance to voice their opinions on going to trimesters; Supt. Cooper explained that they would have that opportunity and that it would be done within their building.

Moved by McLean, supported by Stevens, that the items listed on the consent agenda which includes the minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2007, the General Fund bills paid by check #14615 to check #14833, and the Treasurer's reports for December 2006 and January 2007 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried 7-0

Reports/Discussion

Shawn Biddle, Business Manager, gave the board an update on the budget situation. She explained that due to the uncertainty of the state aid at this time, an amendment is not on the agenda. She explained the Governor's proposed plan to increase revenue and decrease spending but explained that we still won't have any answers until March at the earliest. Supt. Cooper added that he feels that the Governor has set the bar high for the legislature but that we are now in the middle of a political game. His stated his concern with her proposal is that it includes one-time fixes rather than the structural change that is necessary for a long-term solution.

Shawn then reported to the board on an Operating Millage Proposal for the May 8, 2007 election. She explained that this millage is needed in order to recapture the full 18 mills that voters approved in 2003. This need is due to our property values increasing faster than inflation which has created a headlee rollback, reducing the amount that we are able to levy by approximately .3 mill.

Supt. Cooper presented the board with several rough estimates of potential Central Office/Bus Garage buildings. These include several options including adding on at the high school, purchasing a portable office, and the purchase of an existing building. He asked for direction from the board on the priority of a new central office and to narrow the scope if it is. The building and grounds committee will meet to determine this.

New business

Moved by Spencley, supported by Kilkenny, that the Charlevoix Board of Education approve the appointment of Chris Way as the 7th grade volleyball coach for the 2006-2007 school year as recommended.

Motion Carried 7-0

Moved by Kilkenny, supported by McLean, that the Charlevoix Board of Education approve the resolution calling the regular school election to be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 as presented.

Motion Carried 7-0

Moved by Spencley, supported by Kilkenny, that the Charlevoix Board of Education include a 1 mill operating millage proposal on the May 8, 2007 election ballot for the purpose of restoring millage lost as a result of the Headlee reduction that will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction.

Motion Carried 7-0

Moved by Michaud, supported by Stevens, that the Charlevoix Board of Education adopt the 2007-2008 High School Course Description Guide as recommended.

Motion Carried 7-0

Moved by Spencley, supported by McLean, that the Charlevoix Board of Education employ the services of Char-Em ISD to conduct a superintendent search for Charlevoix Public Schools as recommended.

Motion Carried 7-0

Public Comments

Maureen Themm asked how adding an 11th grade AP Government class will affect the remaining students' class sizes. She also asked where the location of a new central office/bus garage will be in which Supt. Cooper responded that the options are still preliminary.

Jeffrey Porter commented that he feels that we will still be getting the same amount of money with the proposed operating millage that we are getting now. Shawn explained the reason that we are not currently getting our full funding at a headlee override is the way to recapture it. He also questioned how many employees are currently in the central office. Supt. Cooper responded that it currently houses 6 offices including those for the Superintendent, the Business Manager, the Human Resource Coordinator, the Technology Coordinator, the Building and Grounds Supervisor, and a part-time Receptionist/Accounts Payable Clerk.

Roundtable discussion was held on professional development activities, current events in each building, congrats to the volleyball team's great success and a great job done by the performing arts group.

Recognition was given to Gordie Russell and Ken Rogers for generating \$3500 in revenue through servicing HeadStart vehicles and to the food service group at the high school for increasing their revenues through the addition of an after-school program as well as catering services.

Meeting Adjourned 8:29 p.m.

Larry Levensgood, Secretary