

## Board of Education Minutes February 13, 2006

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

Present: Dennis Halverson, Diane Kilkenny, Larry Levensgood, Chris Michaud, Dean Spencley, Bill Trubilowicz

Absent: Ardeth Wieland

Administrators present: John Sturock, Keith Haske, Dick Swenor, Gary Grundman

Guests present: Dorothy Miller, Diane Priess, Sara Parrish, Stephanie carey, Carolyn Klooster, Elaine Kurtz, Jill Tabaczka, Kari boss, MaryAnn Chew, Val meyersen, Roger Smith, Eddie Waldrom, Sue Miller, Annmarie Conway, Beth Teuscher, Jayne Bennett, Paul Gelderblom, John McLean, Tim Volovsek, Chuck Green, Treasure Eggers, Rebecca Parker

Supt. Sturock shared the Elementary and Middle school Calendars for February, thank you letters from Elaine Kurtz and Boulder Park Terrace (memoriam sent in memory of Bud Heeres), an invitation to the Char-Em Boards' Association meeting and a copy of the Char-Em ISD election resolution.

Moved by Diane Kilkenny, supported by Bill Trubilowicz, that the items listed on the consent agenda which includes the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2006, the General Fund bills paid by check #12145 to check #12378, and the treasurer's report for January 2006 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried 6-0

### Reports/Discussion

Valerie Meyerson presented the board with an update on the Charlevoix Public Library project. She stated that they are 55% of the way through the project and that so far they are on time and on budget with the opening date still targeted for fall 2006. She distributed copies of the library's newly adopted strategic plan and invited the board to schedule a walk thru if they were interested. She is currently working with our social studies teachers to purchase some new American history books through money they received specifically for that purpose.

Budget Steering Committee members Christine Cole, Jeff Stevens, and Tom Barnes presented the board with the results of the committee work which included suggestions for reductions in expenditures, increases in revenue, and a recommended philosophy to follow if and when reductions to the budget are necessary. Jeff Stevens explained the purpose of the committee, the charge that was given to the committee, and the process they followed. He reviewed the budget reductions from 2003-04 and 2004-05 and actions that had been taken thus far to increase revenue. He explained the situation that we are facing today and that we are in need of reducing our budget for 2006-07 by approximately \$750,000 to stay in the black. Christine Cole then reviewed the expenditure reduction suggestions that were brainstormed at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Budget Steering Committee meeting. Suggestions surrounding transportation, extracurricular programs, academic program, administration, energy usage, salaries and benefits, support staff, and other areas were presented. At the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the committee developed a philosophy in which to adhere to when prioritizing the expenditure reductions. The philosophy was that the highest priority is to maintain our current educational program and they asked the board to "consider expenditure reductions that will not result in loss of students" if budget reductions become a necessity. They made specific recommendations not to eliminate transportation or extracurricular programs as these would likely result in a loss of students.

Tom Barnes reviewed the revenue generating ideas that were developed at the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Suggestions included creating an endowment fund and an alumni association, K-16 coalition support, selling advertising space, creating business/school partnerships, and expanding facility usage by leasing/renting out space as well as increasing the usage of the auditorium and weight room for a fee. Other ideas included petitioning the state for more flexibility in sinking fund dollars, providing adult-ed classes, increasing grant writing, expanding food services such as developing a catering business and offering lunch to the public as well as many other ideas. Tom read a letter from one community member that suggested opening an internet café in the computer lab at the middle school for the summer months, buying locally grown produce for our lunch programs, hosting a black tie fundraising event, etc. He stated that he had received several letters from community members with great ideas.

Dennis Halverson thanked the members for all of their hard work and gave each of them a certificate with a small token of appreciation for their efforts.

Larry Levensgood asked the rest of the board where they will be going from here with this information. Dennis responded that he envisioned the board's budget subcommittee breaking down each of the suggestions to put some numbers to the suggestions. Dean Spencley asked if we should start some of the ideas right away, such as the advertising. Dennis explained that we have some board policies that may prevent us from doing some of those things right away, and that maybe a policy committee meeting is needed to review those items. There was discussion regarding the catering program

idea.

Supt. Sturock reported on the sinking fund and related board goal status results of the building and grounds committee meeting held on February 1, 2006. He shared a review of the sinking fund usage over the last several years as well the items on the agenda to be completed between 2003-2008. Items yet to be completed at the district level include the Central Office and Bus Garage. At the high school, the items include a concession stand, a press box for the fields, tennis courts, a storage pole barn, boys and girls locker rooms, and science room stations. Window replacements are left to be completed at the middle school, and wood chipping the playground is left at the elementary school.

Jayne Bennett presented the board with an overview of the Irish Festival that she has been working on. March 22<sup>nd</sup> is the date for the festival. Jayne has received 3 grants for the festival which will be used to purchase instruments, costumes, and instruction. There will be a lot of community members involved in the festival as well as students of all ages. The group that she toured with in Ireland will be coming up to play as well. Tickets will be \$5 per person. She and Paul Gelderblom demonstrated the music that will be a part of the festival.

Gary Grundman reported a change to the course guide at the high school. He explained that each year the high school publishes their course guide with the upcoming courses and that this year new verbiage was added regarding the work experience that is offered.

### **New Business**

Moved by Diane Kilkenny, supported by Dean Spencley, that the Charlevoix Board of Education approve the use of the high school auditorium by the Community Reformed Church on Saturday, April 15, 2006 and Sunday, April 16, 2006 as requested.  
Motion Carried 6-0

Moved by Bill Trubilowicz, supported by Larry Levensgood, that the Charlevoix Board of Education approve the resolution calling the regular school election to be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2006 as presented.  
Motion Carried 6-0

Moved by Larry Levensgood, supported by Diane Kilkenny, that the Charlevoix Board of Education approve the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C. May 2-6, 2006 as requested.  
Motion Carried 6-0

Moved by Bill Trubilowicz, supported by Diane Kilkenny, that the Charlevoix Board of Education approve the 2005-2006 Michigan School Readiness Program Participating Resolution as presented.  
Motion Carried 6-0

Supt. Sturock spoke about the Lake Michigan Conference regarding adding to teams to our league. The Lake Michigan conference superintendents all agreed that if there was a benefit to adding more districts, they would discuss it but they are very happy with the way things are right now. He introduced the School Safety Program initiative that has recently been implemented in the state. He explained that the state did a cross-check on criminal backgrounds of all public school employees which turned up a list of any school employee convictions. If the list had contained any felonies or sexual misconduct related convictions, action would have needed to be taken by the board. We did not have any of those convictions on our list; therefore, no action is necessary.

Chuck Mason addressed the board with several complaints from students regarding the recent dismissal of the high school AmeriCorps worker who was "forced to leave." He informed the board of what an asset the students believe that she was to them and asked the board for an explanation. Dennis Halverson responded that she was not an employee of Charlevoix Public Schools and therefore the Board of Education would not be involved in her position however, Dennis is the AmeriCorps Director at the ISD and said that he would be more than happy to meet with Chuck after the meeting or at another time to discuss the issue in his capacity as the AmeriCorps Director.

There was additional roundtable discussion concerning upcoming parent-teacher conferences at the high school, conferences that took place at the K4, the field trip fundraiser that just kicked off at the K4, and character education taking place at the middle school. Many thanks were given to the members of the financial committee for their hard work.

Moved by Diane Kilkenny, supported by Bill Trubilowicz to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing upcoming negotiations.

Meeting adjourned to executive session 8:36p.m.

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Larry Levensgood, Secretary