

Board of Education Minutes May 8, 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 Levengood, Chris Michaud, Dean Spencley, Ardeth Wieland

Absent: Bill Trubilowicz

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

Guests present: Alicia Giudice, Lauren Giudice, Connie Saltonstall, Sara Parrish, Michelle Lemond, Josh Louiselle, Elaine Kurtz, Cindy Whitley, Sue Miller, Jane Kanine, Deb Devitt, Cindy Brooks, Jeff Stevens, Julie Bernhardt, John McLean, Margie Culver, Stephanie Carey, Jean McDonough, Kay Campbell, Tina Whitley, Beth Teuscher, Matt Novotny, Michael Washburne, Scott Mays, Rachel Barta, Nancy Beghein, Steve Kantola, Rachelle Plumm, Kari Boss, Dawn Hovie, Diane Priess, Madison Ramsey, Brandon Stevens, Ben Scheek, Treasure Eggers

Supt. Sturock shared the Elementary and Middle School calendars for May and June (High School calendar is available on the website); a thank you card from the family of Sandy Smith, Enrichment Foundation grant awards, a letter of resignation from Marvin Witthoeft as the middle school soccer coach, letters of retirement from Bill Alward and Glenda Ferguson, "Fast Facts" about Michigan Schools, notice of the transportation review meeting agenda, and a letter from Earl and Myra Munroe.

Public Comments or Questions

Connie Saltonstall encouraged the board to put pressure on the legislature to restore proposal A. She emphasized that we need to have people in Lansing that support public education.

Tom Barnes asked the board to open public comments up at the time of the resolutions for people to comment after/during discussion prior to voting on the issue. He urged board members not to approve a budget tonight that may result in a disruption to service mid year due to a \$60,000 fund balance as part of the recommendation.

Steve Kantola participated in the Performing Arts competition over the past weekend. He voiced his concerns over the future of the PA program due to the retirement of Connie Ford. He doesn't feel that the option of having Connie back as a long-term sub has been investigated thoroughly yet. He thinks the proposed schedule in which John Prescott is listed to teach Speech is short-sighted. He spoke about the benefits of the program and the successes of many past PA students.

Several students including Laura Larsen and Nicole Mackowiak, current PA students, spoke of the benefits of the program and Mrs. Ford, the Director.

Linda Larsen, parent of Laura spoke of the tremendous leadership in the program and the benefits to her daughter.

Nancy Beghien, read the Charlevoix Public Schools mission statement and stated that the mission was evident at the competition last weekend but that it would be lost if the program was cut. She asked the board to consider Connie's offer of coming back part-time next year.

Moved by Ardeth Wieland , supported by Larry Levengood, that the items listed on the consent agenda which include the minutes of the regular meeting of April 10, 2006, the board retreat meeting of April 19, 2006, the General Fund bills paid by check #12797 to check #12960; and the Treasurer's report for April 2006 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried 6-0

Reports/Discussion

Shawn Biddle, Business Manager, began her budget report for 2006-2007 by pointing out the major unknown factors such as our enrollment, results of negotiations, and our per pupil allowance. She reviewed the reduction philosophy created by the finance committee. The committee asked the board to consider reductions that will not result in loss of students. She then described each line item on her list of recommended changes to increase revenue/decrease expenditures for the 2006-07 school year. The reductions to the budget totaled \$928,300. The largest savings comes from not replacing 4 teachers that accepted the board's early retirement incentive which saves \$175,000. With these changes, the fund balance would be about \$60,000 at the end of 2006-07.

There was board discussion on many of the items on the list including cutting the extra 1/6 classes, the culinary and automotive vocational programs, and how losing these items might affect enrollment.

The board also discussed the proposed \$60,000 fund balance at length and what is to come for next year. Currently the projected budget reductions for next year are close to \$2 million.

Dennis asked each board member how they feel about having only a \$60,000 fund balance and reminded them of the original board policy of maintaining an 8% fund balance. Chris would like to see us run another year, and to reevaluate what we need to do next year at that time. Larry indicated that he would like to see more money in the fund balance but hopes to get that from the budget variance, enrollment, or our per pupil allowance. Dean would rather go into next year being slim than having to cut more teachers right now. Ardeth stated that she hopes the legislature will realize what it is doing to school districts and make some changes for next year but that for now we should maintain what we have. Diane agreed with Ardeth. Dennis feels the \$60,000 fund balance is irresponsible and exposes our staff and students to a midyear problem.

The board asked Shawn how much money it would take to make it through 1/2 a month and she responded about \$400,000 or a 4% fund balance. The board consensus, with all agreeing was to table the budget recommendation for one week and asked the administration to recommend another \$400,000 in budget reductions to be reviewed at a special meeting set for Monday, May 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

Old Business

Moved by Chris Michaud, supported by Dean Spencley, that the Charlevoix Public Schools Board of Education recognize the week of May 7-13, 2006 as Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

Motion Carried 6-0

New business

Moved by Dean Spencley, supported by Diane Kilkenny, that the Charlevoix Public Schools Board of Education appoint Steve Carland as the middle school soccer coach for the 2005-2006 season as recommended.

Motion Carried 6-0

Moved by Ardeth Wieland, supported by Diane Kilkenny, that the Charlevoix Public Schools Board of Education approve the resolution supporting the Char-Em ISD's proposed 2006-2007 budget as required by section 624 of the Revised School Code.

Motion Carried 6-0

Recommended motion that the Charlevoix Public Schools Board of Education approve the proposed reductions to the 2006-2007 budget as recommended.

Motion Tabled

Supt. Sturock reminded the board of graduation Sunday, June 4th at 2:00 p.m., the art show on May 18th, 19th, & 22nd, and the Retirement Party June 5th. He congratulated Jeff Stevens and John McLean on their school board election victories.

There was roundtable discussion regarding upcoming events such as the high school band concert later in the week, the high school honors convocation and vocational education open house on May 17th as well as the elementary and middle school graduation events to be held on June 6th.

Moved by Dean Spencley, supported by Chris Michaud, to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of negotiations 8:17 p.m.

Moved by Chris Michaud, supported by Ardeth Wieland, to reconvene in open session at 9:01 p.m.

Moved by Chris Michaud, supported by Ardeth Wieland, that the Charlevoix Public Schools Board of Education waive the minimum of five (5) teachers qualification for the early retirement incentive program.

Motion Carried 6-0

Meeting adjourned 9:03 p.m.

Larry Levensgood, Secretary