

Charlevoix Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes May 14, 2007

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

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

Absent: None

Administrators present: Supt. Cooper, Keith Haske, Dick Swenor, Gary Grundman, Suzanne Klinger

Guests present: Matt Kanine, Amy Pott, Kay Wasilewski, Maureen Themm, Vane Smith, Jessica Brachel, Margie Culver, Mari Bascom, Erica Hedrick, Kris Bartling, Andy Vanhorn, Mitchell Crandall, Jeff Miller, Kyle Smith, Steve Guthrie, Bo Boss, Kali Crain, Dan Myers, Chris Good, Kris Balasz, Caroline and Roger Smith, Kristen Beach, Ellen MacDonald, Treasure Eggers, Matt Mason, Vicky Greyerbiehl, Mike Gauthier, Lisa Potter, Deb Devitt, Beth Pearson, Lori Zimmerman, Glenda Wilhelm, Diane Priess, Kelly Wood, Tyler Haske, Sue Miller, Sara Muladore, Mary Beth Zimmerman, Robyn Petzak, Billy Roloff, Trevor Mays, Ashlie Bradley, Scott and Bev Mays, Aubrey Way

High school students that had recently traveled to various locations on field trips to enhance the curriculum in their classes reported to the board. Spanish and art students went to New York, Anatomy and Quizbowl students went to Detroit, and Physics students went to Chicago.

Supt. Cooper shared the Elementary and Middle school calendars and newsletters for May, a letter of resignation from Amy Pott as student council advisor, and notification of Kelly Yaroch obtaining Human Resource Specialist Certification from Michigan School Business Officials.

Maureen Themm informed the board of the Performing Arts students' recent accomplishments and reminded them of the variety show in the upcoming weekend.

Kay Wasilewski questioned the superintendent search. She thinks the last 2 superintendent searches have been conducted differently than in the past and asked the board if they were all aware of the process used for each step in the selection of the candidates, if they were satisfied with the process, and if they believe they were able to get complete and accurate information about each candidate.

Margie Culver publicly thanked and honored four people that volunteer regularly in her media center – Todd Thompson, Mari Jo Bascom, Jane Kanine, and Bev Mays.

Mike Gauthier, representing Pop Warner football, asked for permission to use the extra fields again next year. He also provided a suggestion for our budget concerns. He thinks that each

student athlete's parents should either be required to volunteer at least once during the season or the student would have to pay to play. He also thinks that we should cut the RTC and focus rooms. He thinks that teachers send students to these rooms for discipline when it should be handled by the teacher.

Bo Boss commented on the current superintendent search. He is disappointed in the lack of participation of administration in the process. He doesn't like the first 4 candidates that were interviewed and doesn't like the fact that they haven't been principals or teachers.

Joyce Friske commented on the superintendent search – she feels that experience is a great thing in bargaining, but feels that if there is a candidate amongst our community that they deserve at least an interview.

Cindy Whitley echoed Joyce Friske's opinion and also spoke in support of the Focus room at the middle school.

Moved by Dean Spencley, supported by John McLean, that the items listed on the consent agenda which includes the minutes of the regular meeting of April 10, 2007, the General Fund bills paid by check #15260 to check #15456, and the Treasurer's report for April 2007 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried 7-0

Reports/Discussion

Steve Guthrie, AmeriCorps worker at the elementary school, gave a report to the board explaining the program. He works with at-risk students and reported that there seems to be more and more "at-risk" every year. He works through prevention and follow up with RTC and Kristen Beach. He expressed his concern with the board's decision to cut RTC and putting Kristen Beach back in the classroom.

Supt. Cooper gave the board a budget update, indicating that we are anticipating a \$122 per student reduction for the current school year - approximately \$158,000. If we end this year in a deficit, it is possible that we will have to use some of our fund balance. He explained that in addition to losing money, we are losing students, and the last word from Lansing is that next year there will be no increase in state aid. He announced the passing of the Headlee Override, which will bring in \$138,000 next year. We are also thinking of piloting an alternative education program next year out at the Ironton building to increase revenue. The Headstart program that is currently renting the building could possibly move to the elementary school. Our projected deficit for next year is currently 1.1 million dollars. By looking at retirements, some layoffs, eliminating overloads, a decrease in services and supplies, and the elimination of an administrator, the adjusted projected deficit is \$148,000. Supt. Cooper indicated that we can either take the \$148,000 out of our fund balance or make more reductions to balance the budget. He cautioned the board that more reductions would need to come out of personnel. We will be having a budget hearing next month before the regular meeting.

Moved by Dean Spencley, Supported by Jeff Stevens, to start an alternative education pilot program with the 2007-2008 school year.

Discussion was held on factors such as cost, personnel, how many students, etc.

Motion Carried 7-0

Moved by Chris Michaud, supported by Dean Spencley, that the Charlevoix Public Schools Board of Education approve the Char-Em ISD 2007-2008 general fund budget as presented.

Motion Carried 7-0

Moved by Jeff Stevens, supported by Jeff McLean, that the Charlevoix Public Schools Board of Education approve the appointment of Paul Gelderblom as the middle school interim track coach for the 2007-2008 season as recommended.

Motion Carried 7-0

Public Comments

Maureen Themm asked for a definition of alternative education. Supt. Cooper explained that it is a nontraditional high school setting offered to those students that feel that they can't be successful in a regular setting.

Roundtable discussion included future problem solving, current events in the buildings, graduation, welcome to Bo Boss, newly elected board member, etc.

John McLean asked about a letter requesting a closed session from Keith Haske and how the board would proceed. Pres. Trubilowicz informed him that we are waiting for a response from the attorney regarding the legality of granting a closed session.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 p.m.

Larry Levensgood, Secretary