

Charlevoix Public Schools
Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes May 5, 2010

Pres. McLean called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. in the Middle School Large Group Room.

Present: Kevin Pearsall, Mike Pearsall,, Valerie Snyder, John McLean, Larry Levensgood, Bo Boss, Jeff Stevens

Absent: None

Administrators present: Supt. Janik, Shawn Biddle, Keith Haske, Suzanne Klinger, Dick Swenor

Guests present: Danielle Wager, Kreg Wager, Shelly Novotny, Susan Klooster, Treasure Eggers, Nicole Sterrett, Brian Rockafellow, Sherrel Bergman, Stephanie Carey, Deb Devitt, Michelle Keegan, Cindy Whitley, Karen Peterson, Kari Boss, Lisa Potter, Barry Potter, Pat Conway, Krista Jarema, Jill Baier, Steve Hopkins, Ann Gorney, Scott Mays, Bev Mays, Katie Mays, Cindy Brooks, Jane Kanine, Gary Stutzman

Board President comments: John McLean noted that he and Chet delivered gifts to the staff this week in honor of staff appreciation.

Superintendent's comments/presentations: Mr. Janik gave an update on the state retirement incentive and funding projections for 2010-2011; commented on our financial situation and how difficult it is to face the cuts; he values our entire staff and owes much to his former teachers and a special custodian; he remarked that he has felt the impact of layoffs in his own family

Public comment specific to the agenda: None.

Northwest Academy discussion: Gary Stutzman addressed the board regarding the potential of a joint program with Charlevoix Public Schools and Northwest Academy. Enrollment at NWA is 116, with 45 full time student taking on-line only classes. They are pursuing on-line education to its fullest. Chet Janik added that there have been meetings regarding a partnership, and it could happen but there are no guarantees and it is still very early in the process.

Education Data Study/Process – Dr. Sherrel Bergman: Dr. Bergman spoke to the board and stated she believes there is a lot of hope for our district. She encouraged the board to go through a strategic planning process for future planning regarding building usage, curriculum, funding, etc. and offered her services to facilitate this process. She recommends we utilize action groups, focus groups and use education research as well as involving the community.

2010-11 budget presentation and proposed personnel reduction: Shawn Biddle presented the process the administrators used to determine schedules and staffing, and shared the proposed budget reductions for the 2010-2011 school year.

Public comments/general: Jill Erskine asked why closing a building is not an option. She believes students could be segregated effectively for a K-6/7-12 figuration and asked have we explored an alternative ed program. John McLean responded that more time is needed to research which building would be vacated. He referenced Sherel Bergman's presentation at the budget committee meeting earlier in the month and indicated the board is still looking into this but needs more time. Alternative Ed is something we are looking at both internally and with Northwest Academy and more time is needed to evaluate. Danielle Wager asked if there is a plan to continue the P.A. program. The response is that we believe it will continue. Sherrel Berman asked if we have looked at summer building use. Response is yes, but we do not have much detail. Deb Devit is concerned about reducing a counselor, as the needs of families is exploding. She notified the board that we can use CTE funds for a counselor and a portion of her salary could come out of Title I. Cindy Whitley echoed the need for a full time counselor at all buildings. Scott Mays urged the board to take another look at participation fees for athletics to cover transportation, and suggested a survey of the community to hear from more than the vocal minority.

Board member comments: Kevin Pearsall thanked everyone for their comments and noted it is very difficult to lay off employees. The board is trying to put students first, but have to keep the district open. Bo Boss said he hopes the state will act by Friday on the retirement offer, thanks to Danielle Wager and he hopes she will be back. Mike Pearsall thanked Sherrel Bergman and noted we are working on a timber sale for additional revenue. Larry Levensgood said he is grateful the CTE millage passed. Valerie Snyder stated she is concerned about having to process the recommendation without discussion; she

thinks the board is not looking at what we are not cutting; she thinks we need a middle school counselor. Bo Boss would like a list of who is teaching what. The consensus of the board is they would like to meet on Monday at 6:00 p.m. before the regular board meeting.

Moved by Jeff Stevens, supported by Larry Levengood, that the Charlevoix Board of Education adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried 7-0

Larry Levengood, Secretary