

Honey Creek Community School

Minutes of the July 23, 2008 Board of Trustees Meeting

Call to Order: Immediately following the Organizational Meeting at 6:52pm.
by J. Stahly.

Recording Secretary: Will Hathaway

Board Members Present: C. Borgeson, S. Goldin, W. Hathaway, W. Millette, J. Prenevost, J. Stahly, D. Stewart. (all board members present)

Staff/Community Present: S. Almquist, S. Hofbauer-Huczek, A. Waters.

Minutes: C. Borgeson moved, supported by W. Millette, approval of the minutes (as corrected) of the June 11, 2008 Board of Trustees Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation: None.

Board Spotlight: A. Waters presented on the School Improvement Teams: Climate/Culture; Math; and Language Arts. The report was followed by a discussion of AI's spreadsheet for tracking individual student and class progress.

Financial Report: S. Almquist reviewed her written report for June, 2008 and responded to questions. She confirmed that the audit is ongoing. There was discussion of the best ways to allocate funds in order to improve student achievement. Some questions raised included: What are the measures? What to do with any "extra" money from the state? In response to a question from D. Stewart about the timing of cash-flows, S. Almquist assured the Board that any "overages" appearing on one monthly report will "shake-out." Several Board members expressed a desire to spend time on strategic planning and the budget during the fall retreat. D. Stewart moved, supported by C. Borgeson, acceptance of the Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously. S. Goldin then moved, supported by C. Borgeson, approval of the June Payment of Bills. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee: C. Borgeson reported that the Finance Committee did not meet in July.

Faculty Liaison: There was no report.

School-Age Programs and Academic Service Learning Reports: S. Hofbauer-Huczek distributed a written report. She emphasized the negative impact on 2008 summer camp enrollment from the lack of a swimming pool during the 2007 camp. The report featured a chart of average camp enrollments in each week. S. Goldin stated appreciation for the quantitative report, but expressed her hope that future school age reports will provide more information about the qualitative aspects of the programs as well.

PTO Report: There was no report.

Director's Report: A. Waters reviewed his written report and distributed the Student/Parent Handbook (updated June 2008) and a DRAFT Employee handbook (June 2008). A. Waters also explained the DRAFT Employment Agreement document in the Board materials. He indicated that the strategic planning survey will be ready for distribution in September. There was some discussion of the merits of using a facilitator to run portions of the strategic planning process. Those with suggestions or concerns are encouraged to follow up with A. Waters via email.

Old Business: S. Goldin moved, supported D. Stewart, approval of the New HCCS Policy Manual. The motion passed unanimously.

Will Hathaway distributed a summary of the Board evaluation data compiled from the forms received to date. After some discussion, the Board decided to table further review of the Board evaluation data to the fall retreat with the hope that all board members will respond by that time.

J. Stahly reported that the Director Evaluation had been delayed but that he would send out a draft letter by Monday, July 28. Comments will be due back to him by August 4.

New Business: Conflict of Interest forms will be distributed at the August 20 Board meeting.

The Board members discussed possible dates for the fall retreat and agreed on Tuesday, October 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The location will be 310 South Ashley in downtown Ann Arbor. The possible topics for the retreat agenda include: Board performance evaluation, Board member roles and responsibilities, Long-term finance, Priorities and Strategic Planning.

J. Stahly volunteered to handle arrangements for the Board's hosting of the teacher luncheon during the staff days prior to start of school.

Kudos: The Board recognized Ben and Fifi Fortson, Salli Krop, all the students in A9, and all the Honey Creek students and families who supported the Pennies for Peace drive at the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

The Board recognized Al Waters for bringing the entire staff together as a cohesive unit for school development particularly in the area of culture and climate.

The Board recognized Shellee Almquist for all her work on the annual audit.

Board Communications: W. Hathaway will prepare a Board update to be distributed via email.

Adjournment: W. Hathaway moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.