

Honey Creek Community School
Minutes of January 28, 2009 Board of Trustees Meeting
Call To Order: 6:20p.m. by Board President John Stahly
Recording Secretary: Karen Giltrow

Board Members Present: Carol Borgeson, Simona Goldin, Will Hathaway, Wayne Millette (arrived at 6:30p.m.), Jeff Prenevost, John Stahly, and Doug Stewart.

Staff and Community Members Present: Al Waters, Shellee Almquist, Sue Hofbauer, Stephanie Boling, Karen Giltrow, and Linda Knox.

Board Spotlight: None

Consent Agenda: Doug Stewart moved to adopt the consent agenda. **Motion was approved by all board members present.** Shellee Almquist noted the following donations to the school: a drum from the Carlier-Fornoff family, Lego Maniac T-Shirts and signs from Liz Barry and Will Hathaway, and a scanner from Bowen LLC.

Public Participation: None

Financial Committee: Jeff Prenevost reported we are doing fine considering the unexpected drop in student enrollment. The next finance committee meeting will be announced at a later time.

Faculty Liaison: No report

School-Age Programs: Written report in board packet. Sue Hofbauer updated the board on the status of specialized After School Programs and noted the following programs are currently underway: Basketball, Brownies, Choi Kwang Do, Italian, Piano, Study Skills and Tutoring.

Academic Service-Learning: Written report in board packet. Sue Hofbauer announced a generous benefactor has donated funds through the LEAGUE to further support Academic Service-Learning activities. The donation includes \$500 to support service-learning activities and will also cover the costs associated with the following: sending one teacher to attend the Michigan Summer Institute for Teachers on August 3rd through August 6th at Grand Valley State University, and allowing three students and one teacher to attend the 2009 Service & Leadership Camp on July 24th-26th at Central Michigan University.

PTO Report: John Stahly welcomed Linda Knox PTO co-chair to the meeting and noted the PTO financial report is required to be submitted to the board once per year. Linda Knox informed the board the PTO minutes are now available on the website for viewing and preparations are currently underway for the upcoming Talent Show and Lasagna Dinner on February 12, 2009.

Director's Report: Written report in board packet. Al Waters announced the Honey Creek enrollment meetings held on January 20th and 26th were well attended with 91 potential students represented. The board was updated on the Phoenix Rising Campaign having a total of 15 families participating in the campaign to date, for a total of \$3,000 in one time donations, and pledges of \$140.00 per month. Al Waters reported the Title I application is in progress and will bring targeted federal funds to Honey Creek once completed. Al Waters shared the results from the Strategic Planning Community Forums which showed the majority of participants primary reasons for sending their child(ren) to Honey Creek was for the school's mission, climate, and individualized approach. Their comments also confirmed the primary areas that need to be addressed are communication, climate and culture, and individual student achievement. Al Waters updated the board on the charter reauthorization process, which will include interviews with students, parents, teachers, board members and administrators. A discussion followed.

Old Business:

Summer Camp Fee Increase

Will Hathaway moved, supported by Doug Stewart to approve the Honey Creek Community School Summer Camp tuition rates for 2009 at \$41.00/day for Post-K, \$48/day for Pre-K, with campers requiring additional needs to be determined individually. **Motion was approved by all board members present.**

New Business:

Review Revised Budget

Written report in board packet. Shellee Almquist presented the board with the revised 2008-2009 budget for the first reading of the budget. A discussion on the budget followed and the second reading of the budget will be an action item at the February 18th board meeting.

Community Forum Feedback

Al Waters distributed the book The Sevenh Outs to the board and requested the board read the book on strategic planning for charter schools by the next board meeting. A discussion on the book and how to go about setting objectives will take place. A discussion on objectives followed. Doug Stewart would like to have feedback from the teachers and administrators regarding setting objectives. Stephanie Boling, faculty liaison will report to the board at the next meeting.

Marketing and Outreach

Will Hathaway presented a handout to the board on Marketing and Outreach. The board decided to reconvene the outreach committee. The committee will consist of Board and PTO members and will work on the following tasks:

1. Research: gather data on school performance and refine the message
2. Enrollment Recruitment: get new students who represent the diverse Washtenaw County population.

3. Enrollment Retention: improve internal communication to ensure that families are welcomed into Honey Creek upon arrival and address any concerns among those families transitioning into middle school.
4. Raise the Honey Creek Community School profile: develop an “earned media” campaign to communicate all the great things that Honey Creek students are doing as part of their education.
5. Fundraising: work together with the fundraising team to attract the resources needed by the school.

Other Items of Business: None

Board Kudos To:

1. Bill VanLoo for doing a fabulous job coaching the Lego Robotics teams. He took them to two competitions: the first team in November and the junior team in December. The junior team won the award for "teamwork." Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and dedication, and special thanks to the parents who drove the teams to the Saturday competitions.
2. Tammy Culver for organizing a fun camaraderie-building activity for the staff in December.
3. Katie Gates, Josh Jobst, and all of the talented Honey Creek students for a truly marvelous Winter Performance. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the Winter Craft Fair a huge success. Also, thank you to those parents who braved the weather report and stayed to help clean up afterwards.
4. Al Waters for facilitating informative, productive, and empowering community forums as part of Honey Creek’s strategic planning process. Special thanks to those parents and staff members whose participation proved invaluable.
5. All parents who completed the After School & Summer Camp Programs customer satisfaction survey. Their feedback helps in the development of programming that truly meets the needs of Honey Creek families.
6. Al Waters for providing hands-on leadership in support of the ICT model in order to enhance, improve, and increase student and staff performance at Honey Creek.
7. Everyone who helped organize and/or participated in the two successful enrollment meetings that were held in January.

Public Participation: None

Adjournment: Jeff Prenevost moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m.