

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (Approved)**

HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DIMONDALE AND HOLT, MICHIGAN

HOLT HIGH SCHOOL – MARGARET LIVENSPIRGER THEATER

5885 WEST HOLT ROAD, HOLT

**Monday, September 13, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Mark Perry, Amy Dalton, Robert Halgren, Jessie Jones, Kevin Leonard, Jennifer Robel, David Hornak

**Absent:** Julie Bureau

**Central Office team present:** Jessica Cotter, Kim Cosgrove, Matt Morales, Steve Netzel, Erin Quinlan, Christine Lopez

**CALL TO ORDER – QUORUM; Pledge of Allegiance, Mission/Vision Statement** – The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Dr. Hornak read an opening statement to the public.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** – Item 5.3 Policy Update was removed, and Item 5.1.5 Student Representative Report was added to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Sally Hock-Harrison - Masks are considered a safety issue and protocol. It has students breathing back in their own air and can make them sick. Following science, it does not work. Science says you do not need to vaccinate. Students can go outside without a mask, and she thinks that is great. She supported Dr. Dave and said people who attack him are just mean. She thanked him for all he does for the community. She is a nurse and she read an excerpt from Winnie the Pooh about difficult days when you have someone there for you. She also mentioned toilet paper and ripping soap dispensers off the wall and heard HPS is doing something about it. The school Board are our students' best friends. She believes HPS will get through this.

John Ludkey – He is happy to hear the different ideas and opinions on masks. He is adding his thoughts. He is a legal researcher. The educational overview should look at it from a constitutional viewpoint. Rights come from our constitution. He encouraged everyone to look at the Michigan constitution. Article 1.1 all political power is inherent in the people. Government is for their security and protection. All statutes are subservient to the constitution. Article 11 section 1. All officers shall take and subscribe to the oath of office. MCL section 15.151 constitutional oath of office states all persons now employed by the state of Michigan or government agency shall as a condition of employment subscribe to the oath. We don't hear enough about our constitution. When in doubt read the constitution. When a public servant in any way tried to enforce a mandate and take away the rights of students to make their own choice they are in violation of the constitution. They have violated their oath of office.

Jennifer Malinowski – Parent in district. Her younger daughter had to have emergency surgery just before school started. She had a case of COVID in her classroom once she returned. She is thankful for the mask mandate as it allowed her daughter to stay safe. When it comes to the constitution it states the public health and general welfare of the people of the state are hereby declared to be matters of primary public concern. The legislature shall pass suitable laws for the protection and promotion of the public health. She thanked the Board for their time.

Jamie – parent with a junior in the district. She has wonderful teachers in the district here. She stated Dr. Hornak shared in his comments earlier he is growing concerned with how polarized our community is becoming. She said it comes from the district not handling things very well. She also stated she would not want to be in their shoes either. She stated she was not for getting rid of the SRO (School Resource Officers) as she believes in protecting all students and not for supporting some students who are afraid of the police. She felt it further polarized the community by supporting the Our Black Students Matter shirts. She said it starts with students. She has a brown student, and she is not treated well. She does not have friends. She stated there is much division in the student body and a lot of bullying. Her daughter was sitting in the wrong section at the football game and was demeaned and yelled at. She left in tears. She stated there was a teacher in a classroom who asked how many are vaccinated. The kids were compliant and raised their hands and this points out to others those who are not vaccinated, and it was unacceptable and polarizing. Some of the people who are trying to get rid of the School Resource Officers are staff. She said we need a resource officer to protect students from bad teachers. She said the other polarizing issue was the pronouns that are being pushed upon the children. All the sudden we are asked to support all the pronouns and ask our children to fill it out on forms and not inform parents. There should be a forum here to inform parents about this issue and why we need all the pronouns. She does not understand this. Also concerned with Critical Race Theory.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVALS\* *Note: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are routine in nature and will be approved by one blanket motion.***

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 9, 2021\*

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 9, 2021\*

Minutes of the Board Workshop of August 11, 2021\*

Approval of Bills Paid\*

Gifts\* -Community Donation of Old Political Signs to HHS Theater Dept. and Best Buy of Okemos

Donation of 25 Backpacks filled w/ School Supplies

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Jones to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

**REPORTS**

**Bond Partner Update** – Andrew Howard from GMB presented the Board with the first schematic drawings for Elliott, Midway and Wilcox. A copy of the presentation is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

**Student Representative Report** – Our junior Student Representative, DeAsia Ray, moved to a new school district. Mr. Willard will appoint a new student rep to fill the spot. Senior representative Paige Thompson shared about how excited she is to be back in the classroom. Remote learning was difficult for her and many others. She has been speaking to her peers and they are ready to learn in person again. She is pleasantly surprised to see students adhering to the masking policy. She has a lot of plans that she feels HPS is in a fantastic place and ready to make even more changes. She is excited about the opportunities the students are experiencing by being back face to face and what the rest of the year holds for Holt Public.

**Trustee Halgren - Ingham School Officers Association (ISOA) Report** – Trustee Halgren reported on the meeting. A copy of the meeting minutes is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

**Trustee Amy Dalton – HEAT Update** – Trustee Dalton highlighted many important diverse, commemorative, and celebratory dates in the month of September: Suicide Awareness Month and shared it is a month of hope. She shared the suicide prevention hotline numbers as well. September is also National Guide Dog Month, Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Rosh Hashana, Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, Constitution and Citizenship Day, International Day of Peace.

**Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Hornak presented his Superintendent's Report. A copy of the report is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office. Ingham County has issued two mandates and HPS is participating in them both – mask mandate and Test to Stay in school. We had to call two heat days over the past month. He brought attention to the new Tic Toc challenge which has kids destroying and stealing items from schools. It is very costly and dangerous. He asked parents to please talk to their children about it. There is a labor shortage, food supply chain shortages and other issues that are impacting our District. Contact tracing is causing a great deal of extra work. Especially in our offices. He asked families to please support keeping sick children home from school. Kroger Rewards donated another \$1,610. Friday night is the Band Light Show at halftime at the Football game. Next week is Homecoming week.

**President's Report** – President Perry presented his report. Today he is accepting the resignation of Julie Bureau from her position on the Board. She has impacted many children in the district. She always fought for the students. She has been a very dedicated trustee and community member. He thanked her for her years of service.

The Capital Improvement Committee met recently and went over the schematics and the budgets for the first round of improvements and realized there are budget cuts to be made. The committee along with Administration and the building staff to make decisions and scale back to get the budget back in line.

#### **DISTRICT DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Curriculum Office Update** – Jessica Cotter and Steve Netzel gave the Board a presentation on the Curriculum Office updates. A copy of the presentation is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

President Perry stated that in the past there was a lot of focus on attendance. He is wondering if the Board could get an update on that. Jess and Steve stated they will provide an update on attendance to the Board at the October Board meeting.

**Human Resources Update** – Erin Quinlan gave the Board the monthly HR report. A copy of the report is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

**HR/Finance Salary Adjustment Proposal\*** - Erin Quinlan presented a proposal to the Board for salary adjustment proposals to positions in HR and Finance. A copy of the proposal is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Dalton and supported by Trustee Halgren to approve the Finance Salary Adjustment proposal as presented to a level 5.5. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Dalton and supported by Trustee Halgren to approve moving the HR Specialist position to a level 10 if necessary. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Update** – Matt Morales presented an update from the office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. He stated he has been getting around the district and has met with the HEAT Advisory committee. This team was instrumental in the development of the EOSP. He also wanted to update the Board on the SRO position at Holt Public. He stated he and Lt. Shattuck have met many times to work through the Board's Transportation and Safety Committee's requests.

**Facilities Update - Asphalt Project Approval\*** - Rick Brown presented the Board with a proposal to replace one section of the Washington Woods parking lot. A copy of the proposal is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Leonard to approve the Washington Woods asphalt replacement proposal as presented not to exceed \$226,707 +10% and to be completed by Perfitt Excavating, Inc. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### **WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

SRO Report – Megan Jordan was on hand to give her first SRO report to the Board. A copy of the report is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Monthly Financial Packet – Kim Cosgrove gave the Board her monthly financial update. A copy of the presentation is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

Trustee Halgren stated that at the ISOA meeting it was mentioned that the ESSR 3 funds have not gotten to Holt Public, and he was wondering why. Kim stated that a portion of the funds have been received. She stated that they have not been notified that we will not be getting what has been obligated so we are expecting the funds. Also, the ESSR funds are to go through 2024 so we have not requested or spent all the obligated funds.

**L4029 Tax Rate Request for Eaton and Ingham Counties\*** - Kim Cosgrove presented the Board with the annual L4029 Tax Rate Request for Eaton and Ingham Counties. A copy of the forms and supporting documentation is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Dalton to approve the L4029 rate requests for Eaton and Ingham counties. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Bond Fund Investment Firm Selection\* - Michael Dunckel gave the Board a proposal on the selection of a Bond Fund Investment Firm. A copy of the proposal is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office. His recommendation was for the Board to select PFM Asset Management, LLC.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Dalton to approve PFM Asset Management, LLC for Bond Proceeds Investment Advisory Services. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Trustee Dalton thanked Mike for the thorough walk out on each of the firms who responded to the RFP. She wondered if he was concerned about the recent acquisition by US Bank and it is having an impact on the services. He stated he felt they were safe, and he did not have concerns.

**OLD BUSINESS** – There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS** – President Perry stated that with Trustee Bureau's vacancy she was serving as the Secretary of the Board. Trustee Jones has expressed interest in serving as the secretary for the Board.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Robel and supported by Trustee Leonard to nominate and approve Ms. Jones to serve as the secretary of the Board of Education. Motion carried by unanimous support.

**ADJOURNMENT\*** - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous consent. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Jones, Secretary