

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, October 4, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Robert Halgren

Central Office Team Present: Jessica Cotter, Steve Netzel, Erin Quinlan, Matt Morales, Kim Cosgrove, Mike Dunckel, Christine Lopez

CALL TO ORDER – QUORUM; Pledge of Allegiance, Mission/Vision Statement – The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m.

Dr. Hornak read a statement to open the meeting recognizing the staff, students, and administrators. There have been several thoughtful messages that have been sent. The hate and uncivil emails have ceased since the last meeting. He did receive a very thoughtful message from a parent whose student was a close contact within 3 feet and due to the HPS masking protocol kept their family safe. He encouraged everyone to remain patient with the district. There are supply chain issues nationwide that are impacting Holt Public. We have 50 open positions. We have 54 confirmed and 20 probable cases this school year. He reminded parents to keep sick students home. He also referenced Test to Stay. When students are identified as a close contact they can come and test at the Administration Building in the morning and go to school. He asked for help from the learning community regarding the Tik Tok challenge. The district has spent between \$5,000-\$10,000 on damages from the Tik Tok challenge. He encouraged the students and families to call the hotline to report if there are plans for the next challenge of smack a staff member. It will take each of us to make a difference for all of us.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – There are two changes. Move 8.5.1 forward to item 4. Under Reports, item 8.6 Student Representative Report will be added.

AUDIT PRESENTATION - Jeff Staley from Maner Costerisan gave the Board a presentation on the 2020-2021 audit during the Committee of the Whole meeting. A copy of the presentation is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

Acceptance of the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements*

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Dalton and supported by Trustee Leonard to accept the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements as presented. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

BOND PARTNER / SD DRAWINGS AND ESTIMATES – Jeff Staley from Granger Construction gave the Board a presentation on the schematic design drawing during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

*Requires Board action

Series I Schematic Design Estimate Approval* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the Series I Schematic Design and estimates.

Trustee Robel asked Mr. Tuley if they could be sure the buildings get the updated drawings prior to the Board meetings. Mr. Tuley said he would work to make that happen.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

OVERNIGHT OUT OF STATE TRIP APPROVALS*

HHS Wrestling Trip* - Coach Stan Granger was on hand to take questions from the Board regarding the wrestling trip.

President Perry asked if the team is aware of the COVID protocol for the Ohio wrestling tournament. Renee Sadler answered she is not currently aware of the protocols for the tournament. They will be requesting the protocols prior and if they are not stringent enough, they will not attend the trip.

HHS Softball Trip* - Coach Kim Reichard was on hand to take questions from the Board regarding the softball trip. She stated she certainly has concerns about the trip and is looking for the Board's advisement on the out-of-state trip.

HHS Baseball Trip* - Coach Keith Allen was on hand to take questions from the Board regarding the baseball trip.

Dr. Hornak stated he is not sure about Holt Public participating in out-of-state trips. He wants to be certain there are tests prior to going and then also testing upon return. He also stated not an approval for the spring trips and look at the situation with COVID in January. He also mentioned training someone who will be going on the trip to do the tests prior, mid-trip and at the end as well. He also mentioned that he also wonders what were to happen if an athlete gets sick while away on the trip.

Coach Granger stated last season there was so much anxiety about COVID and he is hopeful that he can instill a sense of normalcy to the extent that he can for the team.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Robel and supported by Trustee Jones to approve the HHS Wrestling trip with the requirement that they test prior to going and when they return. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The Board would like to table softball and baseball to the November 8th Board meeting with the coaches having a plan for if a student tests positive while on the trip. Also, Athletic Director Sadler will speak with other ADs about how they are handling team trips. Trustee Dalton stated we need to have a plan in place and listed out on the form when submitting. We need to be sure we know how it will be handled if a student tests positive for COVID while away on the trip. We should have emergency plans for any trip, but certainly a COVID plan as well.

* Requires Board action

PUBLIC COMMENT – Sally Hock Harrison, stated everyone knew how she feels about masks. She wanted to speak about rules and laws be sure the State constitution is followed. She stated she felt all gender bathrooms are too far out there. Sally said the rapid tests are only 80% accurate. She had concerns about a team being out of state and testing student athletes. She wondered about the process if they test positive. The whole team would have to Quarantine. She inquired if the district will require a parent to fly down to drive their child home. You are asking people to participate in testing and the tests are not accurate. She thanked God for strength and safety.

Kyle Fox – Sgt. 1st class resident for over six years. Would not give address. He has a title that he earned. He wanted his child to enter the school without a mask. She was stopped and masked. It was governmental overreach. He sees others without masks. This will hinder her. There is zero evidence. He implores the district to post the science so parents can make sound decisions. He stated there are many with concerns. There is no legislation to support the mandates. He wanted to remind Board members of their oath. He encouraged others to speak their mind. He is an advocate of freedom and liberty. Stand up for children.

Jennifer Wilcutt – She is a parent and Holt resident. While she appreciates the intentions. Many have not had the same experience with the vaccine. Her grandfather is fighting for his life after getting one shot of the vaccine and they have confirmed it was the vaccine. She wanted to address the football games. The stands had no authority or adult supervision in the stands. Her 7-year-old was almost pushed down the stands. The students in the stand were acting horribly. She wanted to read a communication sent to her as a parent. She read an email that concerned pronouns for students. Parents have the right to send students to a district where they know the policies. Federal law says you cannot hold back information on the students if the parents request it.

Heather Peterson – Dimondale and a teacher. She was at home. She could not just let others speak without coming forward to address the Board as well. She stated she is very thankful we have a mask mandate. Our students are fine. Many embrace it and many parents embrace it. Yes, when outside they are without masks. She has a master's degree in science. She reads the science. She is thankful we have the mitigation strategies we do. She is thankful the district encourages vaccines. She believes there are ways in which the district has allowed people to continue employment and education. The kids handle this so much better than adults do. She embraces the inclusivity for students. She continues to work in the district because kids and staff need to be able to allow people to be who they are. She agrees the light show had some students acting out. We need to keep on keeping on. She thanked the district and said there are thousands of people like her. She continues to choose Holt every day.

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 September 13, 2021*

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 13, 2021*

Approval of Bills Paid*

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

* Requires Board action

REPORTS

Student Representative Report – Paige Thompson was unable to attend the meeting. She provided a statement to Mrs. Lopez to read on her behalf. “Good evening, Board and community members. My sincerest apologies for not being able to join you tonight. I just wanted to share a brief glance at some of the plans I have in the making. First off, I plan on soon scheduling a time to talk to Mr. Morales about the current conditions of our high school from a student perspective, like where we can grow and what we are doing well. Before this meeting, I will be conducting interviews with my peers to get their perspectives as well, so this is not just coming from one party. Hopefully together, me and Mr. Morales can take some steps in the right direction. One of the projects I am hoping to conduct is a student-led LGBTQ+ seminar for the staff. A couple summers ago, a handful of us from the GSA came in during break and did a similar thing with some staff members. The questions we got asked were incredible, and from our understanding, many left with a new mindset and lots of new information. Our LGBTQ+ students are one of the biggest underrepresented groups in our school district, from elementary to high school. I will be putting my fall break to good use and start brainstorming even more plans to help our quieted voices be heard. I will be asking my peers to assist me. I am the speaker for their collective voices, so we must all come together to make our school a better place. Thank you, and I look forward to returning next month.”

Trustee Jessie Jones – Board Policy Update – Trustee Jones stated there was a new policy update from NEOLA and once we have a new trustee named to the committee to replace Trustee Bureau, we will schedule the meeting with Dr. Halik.

Trustee Amy Dalton – HEAT Update – Trustee Dalton shared there are many diverse and celebratory dates in the month of October: Breast Cancer Awareness month, Bullying Prevention Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Down Syndrome Awareness Month, Polish American Heritage Month, Pilipino American Heritage Month, Italian American Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, LGBTQ History Month, World Mental Health Day, National Coming Out Day, Indigenous People’s Day, Blind Awareness Day, LGBTQIAA+ Anti-Bullying Spirit Day, International Stuttering Awareness Day, Día De Los Muertos.

Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Hornak shared highlights from his Superintendent’s Report. A copy of the report is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent’s Office.

He recognized Kim Cosgrove and Mike Dunckel and their team for the clean audit.

Bullying Update/Policy/Response – Dr. Hornak shared the annual updated bullying policy and response. A copy of this is included with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent’s Office.

Dr. Hornak wanted to highlight a few things not in the report that the district is doing to be proactive on bullying. Holt Public has a dedicated hotline used to report discrimination, assault, or anything else someone would like to report. He also wanted to highlight that Holt Public has hired two additional school nurses, additional social workers, a director of mental health, a director of diversity, equity, and inclusion and an inclusion and outreach director. We have also adopted and expanded restorative practices and

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conscious discipline across the district and now have restorative justice facilitators in each school. The entire staff completed a student mental health module. We have hired deans of students at the elementary and middle school level, and we adopted the Equity Oriented Strategic Plan. We have a district wide focused professional development plan to include restorative practice and the Equity Oriented Strategic Plan. We provided LGBTQIA+ training to all our staff in district wide staff training this year. We do have bullying in Holt Public Schools, but we are working diligently to respond.

Trustee Robel said tomorrow is World Teacher Day.

Trustee Leonard wanted to thank the district for the Test to Stay program. His family was able to participate in it and it is a welcomed service to our students and families.

President Perry asked how a mark is given to identify that bullying has occurred. Dr. Hornak stated it could be reported by anyone and a form is sent to his office.

Dr. Hornak thanked the Board for their support in approving the positions and programs. This sets us on a path to truly be able to make a difference.

President's Report – President Perry stated he wanted to address the Tik Tok Challenges that are listed. There are policies and procedures to deal with them. Students who commit an assault on a teacher will face expulsion. It could also result in criminal charges for the students.

Capital Improvement Committee (CIC) Update – President Perry stated the CIC team met last week to go over the presentation the Board saw this evening from Jeff Tuley of Granger Construction.

DISTRICT DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Curriculum Office Updates – Jessica Cotter and Steve Netzel presented their Curriculum Office presentation. A copy of the presentation is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

Update to High School Course Guide Approval* - IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Dalton and supported by Trustee Jones to approve the update to the High School Course Guide by adding Retail Management II. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

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

EduStaff Personnel Wage Increase* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Leonard and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the EduStaff wage increase as presented.

Roll call:

Trustee Dalton

Trustee Jones

Trustee Leonard

Trustee Perry: Abstain

* Requires Board action

Trustee Robel: Yes

Trustee Halgren: Absent

HPS Non-Bargaining Personnel Wage Increase* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the non-bargaining personnel wage increase as presented.

Roll call:

Trustee Dalton - Yes

Trustee Jones - Yes

Trustee Leonard - Yes

Trustee Perry: Yes

Trustee Robel: Yes

Trustee Halgren - Absent

Motion carried.

HPS Child Care Personnel Wage & Benefit Increase* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the HPS Child Care personnel wage & benefit increase as presented.

Roll call:

Trustee Dalton - Yes

Trustee Jones - Yes

Trustee Leonard - Yes

Trustee Perry: Yes

Trustee Robel: Yes

Trustee Halgren - Absent

Motion carried.

EduStaff Community Ed., Enrichment and Child Care Personnel Wage & Benefit Increase* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Leonard and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the EduStaff, Community Ed., Enrichment and Child Care personnel wage and benefit increase as presented.

Roll call:

Trustee Dalton - Yes

Trustee Jones - Yes

Trustee Leonard - Yes

Trustee Perry: Yes

Trustee Robel: Yes

Trustee Halgren - Absent

Motion carried.

HPS Bargaining Unit Sick Leave Letters of Agreement (LOA) Approval* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Leonard and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the HPS Bargaining Unit sick leave LOA as presented.

Roll call:

* Requires Board action

Trustee Dalton - Yes
Trustee Jones - Yes
Trustee Leonard - Yes
Trustee Perry: Yes
Trustee Robel: Yes
Trustee Halgren - Absent
Motion carried.

HPS Non-Bargaining Unit Sick Leave Approval*- IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Dalton and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the HPS non-bargaining unit sick leave as presented.

Roll call:
Trustee Dalton - Yes
Trustee Jones - Yes
Trustee Leonard - Yes
Trustee Perry: Abstain
Trustee Robel: Yes
Trustee Halgren - Absent
Motion carried.

HPS Teamsters Local 243 (Bus Drivers) LOA Stipend Approval*- IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the LOA stipend as presented.

Roll call:
Trustee Dalton - Yes
Trustee Jones - Yes
Trustee Leonard - Yes
Trustee Perry: Yes
Trustee Robel: Yes
Trustee Halgren - Absent
Motion carried.

Administrator, Supervisory, Technical & Administrative Assistant Group Stipend Approval*- IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Leonard and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the LOA as presented.

Roll call:
Trustee Dalton - Yes
Trustee Jones - Yes
Trustee Leonard - Yes
Trustee Perry: Yes
Trustee Robel: Yes
Trustee Halgren - Absent
Motion carried.

* Requires Board action

Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Update – Matt Morales gave the Board an update. He shared information about the pronoun google form process. The purpose is to address the needs of our LGBTQIA+ community. We want them to feel heard and validated and represented while they are in our schools. Holt Public recognizes the person best suited to identify a student's gender identity is the individual student. We will remain student centered as we navigate the process.

FINANCIAL MATTERS – Kim Cosgrove gave the Board an update on the monthly financial packet. A copy of is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

Board Candidate Discussion / Appointment* - The Board interviewed their top two candidates for the vacancy left by Julie Bureau last month.

There was a tally of votes and the Board selected Candidate B as their candidate.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Dalton and supported by Trustee Robel to appoint Marisa Anderson as the new trustee. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Leonard and supported by Trustee Robel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous consent. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Jones, Secretary

* Requires Board action