

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

HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DIMONDALE AND HOLT, MICHIGAN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5780 WEST HOLT ROAD, HOLT

**Monday, February 10, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.**

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

**Central Office Team Present:** Jessica Cotter, Erin Quinlan, Mike Dunckel, Melissa Stuard, Teryn Henderson, Christine Lopez

**CALL TO ORDER – QUORUM; Pledge of Allegiance, Mission/Vision Statement** – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Dr. Hornak shared opening comments. The safety and well-being of our students, educators, and staff is our top priority. We recognize that recent news regarding immigration enforcement has sparked a range of emotions, including uncertainty and anxiety within our school community. In an effort to address the questions our district leaders have worked closely with legal experts to ensure compliance with the law, while remaining steadfast in upholding the values and policies set forth by the Holt Public Schools Board of Education. As always, Holt Public will remain committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all members of our learning community.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA-** There were the following changes to the agenda: Remove items 8.6, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 and add item 9.2.1 SEAB Membership approval and item 13.1 Board Membership.

### **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

HHS Robo Rams Robotics Club - Stephen Potter, Teacher/Program adviser brought some of the Robo Rams to share what their team is up to this season as our student spotlight. They gave a great presentation to the Board and public about their program.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Cynthia Burton. Thank you to the School Board for their value and service. She knows it is a thankless job. I see you as the first and last of all things going on. A strong Board represents a positive relationship in the community. How do you reach everyone? You each have goals, and I assume a goal as a group. I would like to hear more from you about what you are considering. The finances and money spent and changes in policy and curriculum. Have policies available and up to date. Not everyone is online so there should be printed policies and newsletters. Community members want something mailed and need to be on a list so we can be mailed something. Those who don't have online, young people and others in the community need to have outreach. Your goals as a school board should include all.

Scott Laubenthal – Parent and community member for 20 years. You have never seen me as I have never had any issues in the past. We've been happy. We are having issues with bad coaching behavior. We hope our daughters' voices matter. There is a negative culture being created with the girls. The girls genuinely

love and care for each other and the new coaching staff have flipped it upside down. It has continued on this path, and we want it stopped. My daughter expressed mental health concerns and coaches talking to players about other players and also about families and players. These are very disturbing to us and looking for help and support. This is concerning when the AD says there are no issues, and the issues have been resolved.

Jerry Rehm – Father of softball player. Scott touched on a few things, and we are concerned about the recent hire. There are things that have come to our attention that are concerning. We have had a wonderful culture here at HHS Softball. We have a great bond as players and families. Coaches are late and making comments in warmups that are making her uncomfortable and self-conscious and also making comments about the previous coaching staff. There has been conversations from new staff about changing her technique when she has a future in playing college softball. The philosophy is different and there will be no cards or signs to relay plays. We need to be on the same page. Thank you.

Eeva Luoma – I have been on varsity for 3 years. I have been playing since I was 5 years old. I want to share concerns our players have had. I have personally witnessed comments to other players about other players and previous coaches. It is degrading. There is poor management. I had a hitting session, and the coaches were late, so we were locked out for 20 minutes. There is talk about players, families and positions before the season begins. There is broken trust, and we are very concerned about going into my junior season. There is no help with mental health or confidence. They seem inexperienced and their philosophy is not the way to go. They want us to make calls in situations and that should be their job/

Ben Root – Many things have already been discussed. I would like to say I could talk for two hours about the new coaches and what they have done to our girls. They discussed multi-sport athletes and not playing them. Coach has said if they don't see girls in the winter, she will play girls who were at winter practice. I had a coach call and ask me "What's up with that B\*\*\*" referring to a student athlete on the team. The coach discussed a girl and said she would be on JV. The starting pitcher was told she would not be starting pitcher.

Jenny Root – This has been going on too long. I went to the AD and he emailed me back and said he would speak with the coaches. He called down two players, including my daughter, to his office to discuss the situation. I then emailed the AD about it, and he said he would speak with the coaches and set up a meeting with me. A week later my husband and myself were ambushed at the first dual meet at wrestling. We were trying to put away mats. He said they were out of line and should apologize. He felt the issue would be fine. my daughter was told by others on the team that the coach was asking about someone else playing their daughter's position. It is one day later, and we are already having drama. I emailed him and he did not respond. I emailed Board members and Dr. Hornak and have met with them.

Alicia and Darius Knox – Mrs. Knox said she has been a part of Holt community since kindergarten. I love this community and have three daughters that have attended HPS. My last baby is a senior. We have been the longest running family in softball so far. All of my girls played for the previous coaches, and we love the program. We have never had a situation before. The things I have heard about these girls are not fair. I know the coaches from travel ball, and we do not feel these are the people that should be representing the district. It disgusts me that coaches are pitting athletes, educators, parents, previous coaches and the

\* Requires Board action

Athletic Department against us. I have not been able to find it in my gut to tell my daughter the things that were said about her. Coaches saying to others that she will be on JV then. They deserve to be on a team with coaches they can trust and grow and learn from. Something needs to be done to save this program and these athletes and our children.

Darius Knox – The new coach has held my daughter being in a winter sport against her and also to announce to others that their daughter will be playing JV when tryouts have not happened yet, is a horrible reflection of the coaching staff of the program we have known for 18 years. To hear this and know my daughter is the only black player on the team seems suspicious.

**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 January 13, 2025\*

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2025\*

Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 20, 2025\*

Donations

First Presbyterian Church of Holt - Donation to Sycamore Elementary - \$600\*

Materne North America (GoGo Squeez) – Pallet (6000 pkts) of GoGo Squeez Applesauce for HHS and HJH Athletics – value in excess of \$2,500\*

Approval of Bills Paid\*

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

## REPORTS

Student Representative Reports – Maleek shared that things are going pretty good. Second semester is going well. Some students do not like some teachers, but it is going well.

Mark Perry, CIC Committee Meeting Update – Mr. Perry shared that earlier you heard from Granger and GMB about a couple missing pieces. We are thinking the cost of Sycamore will be \$30,000,000 building and Dimondale a \$29,000,000 building so very comparable. Lastly the renovations to Washington Woods were discussed as well.

Jessie Jones, Personnel and Salary Committee – Trustee Jones shared that we reviewed the Enrollment Coordinator position, update on the softball investigation, and future requests about staffing adjustments that will be coming to the committee soon

Jennifer Robel, Transportation and Safety Committee – Trustee Robel shared that there was a recently held due process hearing for Student L. The recommendation from the committee is permanent expulsion of 180 days.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Perry to approve the recommendation for Student L. Motion carried.

\* Requires Board action

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Hornak shared highlights from his Superintendent's Report. Including the progress for the new Dimondale Elementary and also the plans for Sycamore Elementary. The Woods team met last week for their first planning session.

President's Report - Monthly Commemorative, Cultural and Celebratory Events including – February is Black History Month, American Heart Month, National Freedom Day, Rosa Parks Day, International Women and Girls in Science Day, Random Acts of Kindness Day, World Day of Social Justice.

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

HHS DECA State Competition Trip to Detroit\*- IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Leonard and supported by Trustee Halgren to approve the HHS DECA State Competition Trip to Detroit. Motion Carried.

HHS HOSA Trip to State Competition - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Leonard and supported by Trustee Halgren to approve the HHS HOS State Competition Trip to Detroit. Motion Carried.

Sycamore Construction Documents (CD) Drawings \* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Perry and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the Sycamore Construction CD Drawings as presented. Motion carried.

Trustee Robel wanted to be sure the speed bumps and hook as described would be added to the drawings.

Sycamore Construction Documents (CD) Estimate \*- IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Perry and supported by Trustee Jones to approve the Sycamore CD Estimate as presented. Motion carried.

Trustee Halgren that this seems like we are going in a great direction with improved communication with the bond partners.

E-Rate Package Contract for Junior High and Sycamore\* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Halgren to approve the E Rate Package for Junior High and Sycamore. Motion carried.

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

Enrollment Coordinator Position\*- IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Leonard to approve the Enrollment Coordinator position as a new position. Motion.

Sex Ed Advisor Board Membership Approval - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Jones to approve the SEAB membership as presented. Motion carried.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Food Service Shelving Project at HHS Main Campus\*- IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Leonard to approve the Food Service Shelving Project at HHS Main Campus in the amount of \$69,273.51 as presented. Motion carried.

\* Requires Board action

Facilities Exterior Door Replacement at Midway and Transportation\*- IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Leonard to approve the Facilities Department request to purchase exterior doors for replacement at Midway and Transportation not to exceed \$112,871. Motion carried.

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

**NEW BUSINESS** – There was a new business item added regarding Board Membership. President Dalton shared that we received a resignation from Marisa Anderson. We have 30 days to appoint a new member to the Board. We need to schedule 2 meetings, and Mrs. Lopez will send a poll to get those set.

MASB transcripts were placed at your seat this evening and we would like to encourage all members to work towards a CBA certification. The first level of certification is programming provided online. President Dalton would like everyone to complete them by December. These courses are all offered online.

**ADJOURNMENT\***- IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Halgren to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Jones, Secretary

\* Requires Board action