

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (Proposed)

HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DIMONDALE AND HOLT, MICHIGAN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5780 WEST HOLT ROAD, HOLT

Thursday, October 5, 2023 - 4:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Robert Halgren

Central Office Team Present: Mike Dunckel, Melissa Stuard, Alexis Regnier, Christine Lopez

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

MEDICAL INSURANCE CHANGE LETTER OF AGREEMENT*

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Leonard and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the letter of agreement between Holt Public School and Holt Association of Educational Office Personnel/MEA/NEA. Motion carried.

NON-BARGAINING UNIT POSITIONS PRESENTATION* - Dr. Hornak provided a presentation to update the Board on the two non-bargaining unit positions that he and the Executive Admin team have proposed based on the need to support Special Education. A copy of the presentation is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent's Office.

We have added 88 students since 2018 to Special Education. We currently have 788 students on caseload.

Trustee Perry asked if we had the data on the positions we funded with the COVID funds. Mike walked through the positions that are funded through ESSER 3 and 31AA. He asked if some of the positions are to remain in Holt Public? Alexis stated it is her understanding that we will be retaining the 12 positions that are/were grant funded and continue to be.

President Dalton asked how we determine what positions we keep and what we let go. How do we reshuffle? She stated she would like to revisit the pie chart Mr. Dunckel shared in the spring with all the positions laid out that show how the money is divided.

President Dalton stated that she is wondering why we are pulling it from Restorative Practices and moving it to Special Education. She feels she is voting to say that Restorative Practices to longer get funded. How many instructional coaches are we cutting? Are we cutting from other areas as well?

Unrestricted funds (\$2mil was restricted to the Bond work) put us below the 10% threshold.

Trustee Robel stated she is struggling with how we are structuring and using the funds than how we are doing it. She is wondering can we get rid of Restorative Services contract and hire a FT Restorative Practice Coordinator.

Trustee Perry asked if we are billing back to the ISD for staffing. Mrs. Stuard stated using the staff from the ISD comes at a cost. We get a small disbursement for staff they must fill need. We also contract with the ISD for speech pathologist.

Trustee Perry stated the IISD has responsibility for the schools in the ISD. He asked if there is work that IISD should be doing for Holt Public that they are not and it falls to us to take care of, and if so, should HPS be compensated for that work. Mrs. Stuard said she does not believe that is happening. She stated there are requirements for compliance and monitoring each year. The IISD comes in and reviews our records and looks to identify areas we need to improve, and she puts together an improvement and performance plan. It is as needed and as identified.

Trustee Perry asked if they could help us with the math scores for Special Ed. Mrs. Stuard stated they could consult with the ISD, but she would rather have full control over hiring.

Mrs. Stuard stated she is drastically concerned that we are not helping ourselves with staffing. We have 10 teachers who are not certified. There is a shortage in the State of Michigan. There are also shortages for speech pathologists. She understands the Board wanting to look at cutting instructional coaches. The professional organization states that having a strong coaching staff is advised. We have a huge liability risk. We are at risk of having 200 students who may need compensatory services. The General Ed. coaches are also supporting our Special Ed. students. They have been working with the teachers to support. There is some dynamic partnering. She stated how grateful she is to have their support.

President Dalton said she would like to see that if we vote on this today, we do not want this to be the final word on RJ at Holt Public. She is happy to vote on the positions, but she needs to know Restorative Justice will be a priority.

Trustee Robel stated that the charge from the Board was to have a Restorative Practices person. There is no way the new position will be able to support RJ and the other duties.

President Dalton stated she wants the breakdown of where we were at when we were making cuts last spring. She knows many of the cuts have been re-funded, but now Administration is wanting to remove the Restorative Practices Coordinator position. We saw a June budget that included a "where are we now" comparison. She would like to support but wants to continue to dig in on deciding where funds are going and where they are divesting away.

Dr. Hornak stated we are not moving away from a Restorative Practices. Paul was hired to train building staff on RJ. The work is continuing in the buildings. It is our hope that our administrative team and staff will continue to keep RJ as a focus across the district. The restructured position will still have oversight of district wide RJ.

Trustee Robel stated it was requested that "Clinical Experience" be added to the Behavior and Mental Health position and it is not there. She was frustrated and told Dr. Hornak that it was unacceptable to not include it after it was requested. Dr. Hornak pointed out that it was in fact included in the updated posting that was included in the Board packet for the meeting. She apologized and he accepted her apology.

Director of Student Services* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Perry to approve the Director of Student Services posting as presented.

Trustee Robel would like a promise that this administration will hire a RJ Coordinator and a put a retention program in place for the two new positions. She wants it on the record. Trustee Anderson agreed.

President Dalton stated she is not sure what a promise would look like and there can be discussions on this in the future, but now we will be a vote on the two proposed positions.

President Dalton stated if there were no additional questions, she would call for the vote. The motion carried with support of all trustees except for Trustee Robel who abstained.

Behavior and Mental Health Specialist* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Perry to approve the Behavior and Mental Health Specialist posting as presented. Motion carried with support of all trustees except for Trustee Robel who abstained.

OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS– There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Perry and supported by Trustee Leonard to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Jones, Secretary