

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (APPROVED)

HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DIMONDALE AND HOLT, MICHIGAN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5780 WEST HOLT ROAD, HOLT

Monday, March 11, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

Present: Amy Dalton, Jennifer Robel, Jessie Jones, Marisa Anderson, Robert Halgren, Kevin Leonard, David Hornak

Absent: Mark Perry

Central Office Team Present: Jessica Cotter, Erin Quinlan, Mike Dunckel, Christine Lopez

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Hornak made some opening comments. HPS has a lot to be grateful for. As he reflects, he values and appreciates the efforts staff and students are putting in each day. Our students are not only achieving in the classroom, but also in extracurricular activities. Our Robotics Team has advanced to the State Championships, we have a State Championship bowler who attends Holt High, our Science Olympiad teams continue to compete at high levels and recently advanced to the State Championship. He reminded the public that the May 7th Bond proposal would fund upgrades that would help extend the life of our existing facilities, including the replacement of roofs, heating and cooling systems and other improvements that keep our students and staff safe, warm, dry and ready to learn. If approved the new bonds would be rolled into the District's existing debt, extending the total term of the bond repayments by four years without an increase from the current property tax millage rate levied for schools. He shared that construction is wrapping up on the Series I schools, Elliott, Midway and Wilcox. There will be some additional punch list items that will be wrapped up this summer. In addition, the Board's Capital Improvement Committee has requested that our architects work to provide options at Elliott to improve the student drop-off and parking experience for everyone. The Series II bond work is on schedule at Horizon and the Dimondale project will begin soon. He encouraged everyone to check out our website to get ongoing information regarding the 2021 bond as well as the current bond proposal. Next, he stated that the safety and well-being of our students and staff is our number one priority. Our district does not tolerate threats, intimidation, harassment, or violence. Reports of inappropriate or potentially illegal conduct are investigated thoroughly in coordination with law enforcement, consistent with our school policies and protocols. Finally, the local scholarship packets are available to be picked up in the counseling office at both Main and North campus for graduating seniors.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - We removed items 7.2, 7.4, 7.5, 7.5.1, 8.2, 10.2, 11.1 and 12 as they were covered in the Committee of the Whole meeting earlier since there was extra time. We also removed item 8.1 as it will go to Transportation & Safety Committee for consideration before bringing it back to the whole Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jennifer Betz – parent of a graduated student. Good evening. I'm here to share first-hand knowledge about an assault that happened at Holt High School. I am not referring to a recent incident. I am talking about an 18-year-old student who assaulted a 14-year-old student. The assault involved theater students in 2019-2020 in unsupervised rooms and unsupervised stairwells. The school lacked follow-through with safety and supervision. After the school learned about this, there was a safety plan put in place. Effectively all students were supposed to leave together through the front door. This happened one day. After one day this new procedure was disregarded. I am greatly disappointed the safety procedure was not followed through. I wonder did anyone investigate further to see if there were other victims in the group? The school may be thinking the students have graduated and why bring this forward now. There is much reason to bring this forward. I know of two victims or survivors; however you choose to refer to them and there may be more. If you or your children were in the theatre program in 2018-2021, please talk about this. The school encourages if you see something, say something so I am saying something. If I do not say something you and our community may not know about this because of HYTA laws. Laws that keep records sealed and

laws that prevent schools from responding to questions. What about the moral obligations to keep students safe and support all students past and present. To tell them they are not alone.

David Betz – Good evening and thank you. I am the step-parent of the sexual assault victim that she just referred to. I want to go back to ask Dr. Hornak about the letter he wrote to the community in 2018 in regards to Larry Nassar. You did not find out that there were two Holt students affected by him until two years after his arrest. You wrote a nice letter to the community in reference to that situation. You said our students are important. You reached out and said there are code of ethics here and encouraged families to sit down with their children to discuss that situation. I ask the same letter to be sent out to the community now. We currently know of two victims, but we were involved in this investigation and heard of sick stories that went on with this individual and it is disgusting to hear as a dad. You are a dad. There are other victims who are out there and they didn't come forward and that could be because they are embarrassed. We ask you to send out another letter and do your moral obligation. There may be other victims out there still having problems with this. The perpetrator received a punishment of two years in prison and one-year probation and then he doesn't have to sign-up for the sex offenders registry. He is free to go back into his community and volunteer in schools because the background checks will show nothing. He reached out to see if he could volunteer with the theater group and he was told he is not allowed on school property because the school knew about the allegations. With the bond proposal there are no proposals for cameras. I was an assistant coach here for a few years. He heard kids saying things about let's not go there because there are cameras there. Let's put money into security systems and cameras to view all hallways. I beg you to please take this seriously. He will be free to roam the country in three years and my daughter does not get the right to roam free after he is out in two years.

Jennifer Slaughter – I stand before you today as an advocate for the concerned parents, students, and staff at Elliott Elementary and the critical issue of inadequate parking at Elliott. I would first like to express gratitude for your unwavering dedication to the wellbeing of our students, and your commitment to the success of our students. This has not gone unnoticed. We appreciate the countless hours you have given to provide a bright future to all students. The parents are concerned. There are urgent pleas for action. There needs to be greater communication. Why have we not received updates on the bond projects. Where is the same level of communication for the progress updates that we received for the bond proposal request? Why didn't they tell us the plans for the parking lot improvements were scrapped? Why didn't they tell anyone? The wait times for drop off and pick-up are insane, and parents have to carve out an additional 30-45 minutes to drop off their children. Some parents are waiting up to an hour to pick up their children after school. Parents feel bad for the residents that live near Elliott who have blocked driveways while we are waiting to drop-off or pick up our children. There is also concerns relating to a medical emergency situation. What if there was an emergency? The pickup lines are double stacked end to end making it. There is sentiment amongst elementary parents that administration only seems to be concerned about the high school. These are genuine concerns from parents. I stand before you to bring the issues to light. We need more than acknowledgement. We need tangible solutions to mitigate the risk. We need a communication overhaul to keep parents informed about situations. Regular updates are essential to rebuilding trust. I humbly request the Board to take these parental concerns seriously and work towards implementing solutions. Thank you.

STAFF SPOLTIGHT -Lucas Schrauben – Mich. Assoc. for Career & Technical Ed Administrator of the Year. Dr. Hornak shared information about the award. Lucas is honored and humbled by the recognition. It reflects the efforts of the whole team. He is flattered and proud that his team along with Dr. Hornak sent in his nomination. The award protocol required the nomination come from the team. He thanked the Board and administration. He thanked his colleagues. Many came with him to accept the award. Thank you.

INGHAM COUNTY FOSTERING PRESENTATION – A team from MDHHS shared a presentation on the need to have foster homes in Ingham County.

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 February 12, 2024*

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2024*

Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 29, 2024*

Gifts – Kroger Rewards – 1,336.75*

Approval of Bills Paid*

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Leonard to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

REPORTS -

Student Representative Reports – Jake Gillentine shared that spring sports has started, and he is looking forward to spring break.

Jennifer Robel, Transportation and Safety Committee met recently to conduct a due process hearing for Student K.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Leonard to approve the committee’s recommendation for Student K of permanent expulsion of 180 school days. Motion carried.

Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Hornak shared highlights from his report earlier in the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Amy Dalton, President’s Report - President Dalton shared several of the Monthly Commemorative, Cultural and Celebratory Events that take place in March earlier in the Committee of the Whole meeting.

WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS -

SRO Report – Deputy Ernst presented his SRO Report earlier in the Committee of the Whole meeting. A copy of the report is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent’s Office.

Proposals for Overnight/Extended Student Trips* - The Board heard from coaches representing each of the trips submitted this month in the Committee of the Whole meeting.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Jones to approve the HHS Gymnastics Team Bonding Trip as presented. Motion carried.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the HHS Girls Tennis Traverse City Tournament Trip. Motion carried.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Robel to approve the HHS Robotics Team State Championship Trip. Motion carried.

DISTRICT DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

HR Report – Dr. Quinlan shared her report earlier during the Committee of the Whole meeting. A copy of the report is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent’s Office.

Curriculum Office Report – Mrs. Cotter shared her Curriculum Office Report earlier during the Committee of the Whole meeting. 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 – Mr. Dunckel shared his Monthly Financial Report earlier during the Committee of the Whole meeting. A copy of the report is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent’s Office.

Horizon Elementary Furniture Package* - Mr. Dunckel shared the recommendations from GMB earlier during the Committee of the Whole meeting. A copy of the report is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent’s Office.

IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Robel and supported by Trustee Leonard to approve the recommendation from GMB to purchase furniture for Horizon Elementary as presented and as follows: Great Lakes Furniture Supply - \$107,566.48; DBI - \$75,805.48; NBS - \$326,779.95; DEW-EI - \$1,042.28; School Specialty - \$1,090.78; For a total of \$512,284.97

Bond Partner Dimondale New Construction Contract Recommendations* - Greg Brand from Granger shared information earlier in the Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the Bond partners recommendation for the Series 2 Dimondale Elementary new construction contract recommendations. A copy of this report 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 Jones to approve the Bond Partner Recommendations for Series 2 Dimondale Elementary new construction contract not to exceed \$18,940,338. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT* – IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Halgren and supported by Trustee Jones to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Jones, Secretary