

Draft Minutes of November 8, 2010, Regular School Board Meeting – Beaver Island Community School

General - President Barb Schwartzfisher called to order the November 8, 2010, Regular School Board Meeting of the Beaver Island Community School Board at 7:30 p.m.

Present –Barb Schwartzfisher; Dawn Marsh; Karen Johnson; Gail Weede; Dana Hodgson; and Jessica Anderson.

Absent – Nancy Tritsch

Others - Kitty McNamara; Alice Belfy; Connie Boyle; Cindy Gillespie-Cushman; Beth Croswhite.

Public Comment – Cindy Gillespie-Cushman stated that she made a commitment to herself to attend every other school board meeting.

Additions to Agenda – None

Approval of Minutes – Moved by Tritsch, supported by Weede, to approve the October 11, 2010, Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried – unanimous decision.

Treasurer's Report

McNamara stated that we are on track with the budget adopted in June. Some unknowns that may increase revenue include whether the legislature will reinstate some of the original proposed per-pupil deduct; and BI reassessments not impacting the district as hard as originally estimated. More information will be available in January.

Lori Martinchek has met with 5th/3rd Bank last week regarding their company's Purchasing Card program. She is also familiar with the Purchasing Card Program of JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. as they provide the service for Char-Em ISD and many other Michigan school districts. A recommendation will be made at the December board meeting - likely she will recommend that the district sets up the Purchasing Card program with JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A..

Motion by Hodgson, supported by Anderson, to approve the Health Occupations Agreement with Beaver Island EMS to teach one Health Occupations course this year. Motion carried – unanimous decision.

Motion by Johnson, supported by Hodgson, to bid out the 2011, 2012 and 2013 audit with a provision to extend the length of the agreement up to four years if the board so chooses. Motion carried – unanimous decision.

Policy Committee

Minutes of the November 4, 2010 Policy Committee Meeting (see attached) were distributed to the board. The committee will meet once a month until the handbook is up to date. Policy BF – Policy Development and Review – had its first reading. No changes were proposed; however, McNamara will research substituting

“Superintendent” for “Principal” in paragraph three. It was suggested posting meeting agendas to the school website.

Lead Teacher Report

Connie Boyle updated the board on the work of lead teachers Deb Robert, Beth Croswhite & herself and shared a handout she developed for high school students to chart their future (see attached).

Board Goal Setting

It was stated that a timeline for the transition of our current administrator to a new administrator should be the board’s number one priority from the list of goals generated at the board work session. A grooming process and organizational staffing for the transition needs to be defined; Mark Eckhardt and John Fiegen have expressed interest in helping with the process. President and Treasurer will meet with Kitty prior to the January board meeting to develop a timeline for this process.

The board would like Counselor Beth Croswhite to track recent graduates, going back five or six years, much like the follow-up survey CTEIS does. The goal would be to find out what graduates are doing, whether they are enrolled in school, and get opinions from them about how we might better prepare them for after school work.

Suggestions for ensuring a smooth transition of students between grades/classrooms, especially the 6th grade to 7th grade transition included spring and fall meetings with teachers and parents; exposing 6th graders to the 7th grade classrooms in the spring of their 6th grade; implementing buddy partners between the “new” 7th graders and the “experienced” 8th grader; and gathering teacher input on the homework load from elementary to middle school.

Other goals for consideration include more off-island experiences for students, enrollment and programming (How do enrollment levels impact programming?); and maintaining financial stability.

Administrative Update

McNamara reported on the following: Jeff Connor has agreed to assist Matt Richie with the boys basketball team; staff members continue to participate in professional development, some of which is mandatory, at the ISD level and state level; driver’s training Segment 2 is scheduled for the weekend of Nov 12-14; a complimentary note was received from retired educators Gary “Doc” and Carol Huard; a generous donation was received from Island Airways to supplement the color tour fundraiser the 7th/8th grade held; Kitty has discussed with Deb Harwood the possibility of offering a high school cooking elective second semester; probationary teacher evaluations are being scheduled - three teachers are in their fourth year of teaching at BICS and up for tenure; nothing was detected in the last drug dog search.

Round Robin

Each board member had a chance to make a comment or bring up a concern.

Adjournment

Moved by Hodgson to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Alice Belfy, Recording Secretary

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