

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DIMONDALE AND HOLT, MICHIGAN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5780 WEST HOLT ROAD, HOLT

Monday, January 8, 2024 - 5:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Marisa Anderson

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

CALL TO ORDER – QUORUM – The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – We are switching item 3. and 4.

HPS AND DELHI TOWNSHIP JOINT MEETING – John Hayhoe, Township Supervisor, Evan Hope, Clerk, Tom Lenard, Treasurer, Pat Brown, Trustee, TyJuan Thirdgill, Trustee, Matt Lincoln, Trustee, Dianne Warfield, Trustee, Tracy Miller, Township Manager and Gloria Loongo, Assistant Township Clerk/Deputy Clerk were in attendance for Delhi Township

The HPS Board of Education and the Delhi Township Board of Education wanted to resume holding annual joint meetings. This is the first since COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Hornak welcomed everyone. He spoke about the collegial relationship that he and Township Manager, Tracy Miller share when it comes to the work on behalf of the District and Township. He gave a brief update on the Bond work and our goal to reduce transitions for our students. He said that he and Tracy spoke about two topics that the joint Boards could discuss for this meeting.

Resurfacing the roads that lead to Bond Schools – Tracy Miller stated that just today she received an email from Ingham County Road Commission about upcoming road projects. Delhi Township does not have jurisdiction over the roads. They operate a 50/50 county road program to do a project on a road that is not a county eligible road. They will save money from the general fund for a few years and then complete some of the projects. She passed out a map to all trustees. She highlighted roads on the map that do not have funds from local, county or state resources. She referred to them as collector roads. The roads leading to some of our schools such as Khares, Park Lane, Wilcox, etc. are connector roads and it would be unfair to ask the neighborhood residents to pony up to fix those roads. The Township, County and local budgets will pool money to fix Park Lane, a connector road and one that leads to Hope and Elliott. In addition, Krantz Road and Laurelwood are other roads that would fall under this provision as well. This is planned for 2024. She asked what the priorities are for Holt Public Schools. Trustee Brown said he would think Park Lane from Holt Road to Bond. Others agreed. Ms. Miller needs to reach out to Ingham County and would like to be sure she is proposing roads that would benefit the District/Township families.

Future of Hope Middle School – Dr. Hornak said we would love to see Hope have a second life for something. There are 3 gymnasiums, a library and great classroom spaces. We will be decommissioning Hope and the students moved into Washington Woods and Holt Junior High. He is hoping that we could find a Hope 2.0 and

wanted to see if the Township is interested in partnering in something. Trustee Brown asked if Holt Public is planning to bring back adult enrichment/ community education programming. Dr. Hornak stated it is not as easy as just reviving. Trustee Brown stated that if we are talking about doing a joint community center type of situation, that space would be ideal to handle things like that.

Ms. Miller asked for a timeline of the Bond work. Dr. Hornak provided the Bond timeline. Ultimately, we will be moving 5th grade back to the elementary buildings. We will then transition to a 6, 7, 8th grade middle school concept in Washington Woods and the current Junior High building space.

Ms. Miller said she would be interested in looking at one of the gyms and some of the classrooms and then looking at a partnership with the DDA as well for the other spaces in the building. Trustee Brown liked that idea. Trustee Lincoln stated we could also look at leasing spaces in the building as well. He also asked about the Hannah Community Center and how it is funded. We do not know. Mr. Hope said he is also in favor of a community center concept. He feels this is much needed space and is in the triangle of downtown. Dr. Hornak stated the District is committed to keeping the name of the building. Mr. Lenard stated that we have all heard this is the type of thing our community is looking for and believes we all know that this would serve many needs in our community. Trustee Thirdgill also said it would be good to bring in non-profits and job share spaces for lease as well.

Trustee Brown asked a timeline for Hope. Dr. Hornak responded 2-4 years. Ms. Miller said that sounds like a lot of time, but it is not. She recommended that we reach out to specialists who work on transitioning buildings such as this and put together a committee comprised of district and township folks. Ms. Miller also said that maybe we look at selling the building and the sale price is for them to level it and build a new building.

Dr. Hornak and Ms. Miller will meet to flesh out some ideas and report back to both Boards.

Other – Trustee Lincoln said that he wanted to revisit the road situation. At this point, we are only talking one road. Ms. Miller said they have some resources set aside and then they will have to save for a few years again. There was also a discussion about the frustrations townships experience when trying to fix roads. It requires assessments, petitions.

Mr. Lenard said he wanted to ask a question about mental health and knows that HPS has done some things to address the rising mental health issues we are seeing. Dr. Hornak said pre-COVID we were seeing a growing need to support the whole child. Post-COVID we hired additional social workers, school psychologists, nurses and boosted mental health supports. We also partner with Child and Family on the E3 grant to provide on-site therapist for our students with scheduled appointments. He urged all of us to check in with our law makers. President Dalton said the need is great and we are always looking at ways to address it. Educating our staff, who are not mental health professionals, but training them to see signs and to seek out support from on-site mental health professionals. We have 130 staff members who have been trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid.

Dr. Hornak thanked the Delhi Township team for coming and sharing ideas with Holt Public.

Adjournment of joint meeting – The joint meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

BOND DISCUSSION & BOND COMMUNICATION SERVICES – Dr. Hornak shared that with the Board’s support we engaged in conversation regarding seeking out a supplemental bond. Over the break we met with Treasury and submitted a pre-qualification application to meet the deadline. At any point, the Board can decide we are not moving forward. If the Board chooses to move forward, we will need to vote on this at the February meeting. We identified that in order to finish the originally planned bond work we will need an additional \$22 million. He also highlighted the need for communication services. The first time around we used Granger and GMB. This time we asked Byrum & Fisk to also submit a proposal to provide communication services.

Trustee Perry said that GMB is the architect and they provided some pre-bond services, but it seemed like there was not a lot of interest to get involved in this endeavor. When we look at Byrum & Fisk and asked them to get involved there was an excitement and they were able to jump in and help us meet with the attorneys and they challenged the attorneys with the ballot language. When you look at their proposals, you will see a survey where they reach out to a targeted group of taxpayers to help us with pre-bond services and planning for a successful bond.

Trustee Halgren said the next time we go to the public we need to be sure we have what we need. He wanted to make sure this is enough. Trustee Perry stated it is right on. They looked at an ask of \$25 million but this would put us in the school bond loan fund, and he is very much against this. He also feels that \$22 million is the right number to get the work we planned completed.

Trustee Halgren asked if there was thought on whether we look at the 4 vs. 8-week plan regarding the pre-bond services proposals. Dr. Hornak said there are a few more mailings and the cost is a difference of between \$10,000-\$15,000.

CLOSED SESSION* - IT WAS MOVED by Trustee Jones and supported by Trustee Halgren to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268, Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss bargaining unit contract negotiations. Motion carried.

The Board entered closed session at 6:22 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 6:37 p.m.

2023-2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET UPDATE PRESENTATION – Mike Dunckel presented the 23-24 General Fund Budget Update. A copy of the presentation is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent’s Office.

Trustee Halgren asked if we could see the number of students per teaching staff and the same data for our certified staff. Mr. Dunckel stated he has shared that before and can get that information.

President Dalton expressed how much she appreciated the spreadsheets. She would like to see the student enrollment added to the top line of the last spreadsheet.

HR MONTHLY REPORT – Erin Quinlan asked if the Board had any questions about the monthly HR report. There were no questions. A copy of the report is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent’s Office.

CURRICULUM OFFICE UPDATE – Jessica Cotter gave an update on the High School and Junior High Index Data. A copy of the presentation is on file with the official Board meeting materials located in the Superintendent’s Office.

SRO REPORT – Deputy Ernst was unable to attend the meeting this evening due to a family illness.

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 Robel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Jones, Secretary