

**MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APRIL 25, 2011**

Regular meeting of the Hale Area Schools Board of Education called to order by President Brandt at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present – Members: Bovee, Brandt, Braun, Cryderman, Heuss, McKulsky, Shellenbarger  
Absent-Members: None

Guests in Attendance: 38

Additions/deletions/corrections to the agenda: None

Visitor Comments: No visitor comments.

Board Comments: McKulsky said that financial problems are not only happening in Hale, but are statewide. Shellenbarger: the science fair was wonderful. She thanked Mrs. Aldrich for her efforts. Braun, Bovee, Brandt, Cryderman and Heuss had none at this time.

Motion by McKulsky, supported by Shellenbarger to adopt **Resolution No. 11-21** (Reduction of Staff/Layoff Action). Motion Carried. (7 Yes, 0 No)

The board reviewed purchasing policy 3610-R. Current policy allows an employee the ability to spend \$500.00 without prior approval. Brandt explained that when MDE was here they recommended that the amount be lowered. It was recommended that all purchases over \$100 require the superintendent's approval. Bovee read the policy. Policies are in place for the entire purchasing process.

7600-R Student retention and grade level acceleration. Staff wanted clarification of what the process is and how should it be addressed. School board policy implies that the final decision rests with the parents. Revised School Code implies that the School board has authority to direct that a student be retained. Parents can be involved in the process but the school board has final authority. Brandt explained the documentation required to recommend that student be withheld. Braun would like our policy changed to allow the school board to have the final decision which would comply with the law. Will add a step to allow for an appeal to the superintendent before it goes to the school board. Suggestion was to make notification 6 weeks prior to the last school day for the year. Braun suggested that action be taken at this meeting in order to be able to apply the change to the policy this year.

Specific wording for the policy was discussed.

Policy 7601 "There will be no acceleration of a student outside of one grade level promotion per academic year."

7600-R #4 “The final recommendation of retention shall be made to the Principal by the Teacher at least six weeks before the final student day of the academic year.”

7600-R #6 “ A written statement of parent(s)/guardian(s) approval of the retention should be obtained if possible, and included in the student’s permanent record file. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) do not agree to retention, they may follow the appeals process which is defined at the end of this section.”

7600-R #8 Appeals Process: This process applies to all students (K-12)

1. The Teacher has a meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s)
2. The Teacher and Principal meet with the parent(s)/guardian(s)
3. The Principal and Superintendent meet with the parent(s)/guardian(s)
4. The final appeal will be to the Board of Education. The final decision rests with the Board of Education.

Motion by Cryderman, supported by McKulsky to amend Board Policy section(s) 3610-R, 7600-R and create Board Policy 7601. Motion Carried. (7 Yes, 0 No)

District Updates: Mr. Boensch reported on the Finance Committee Meeting which was held on April 22. His projections show a \$216,000.00 deficit for this fiscal year due to the carryover of \$180,000 in federal funding which had been budgeted for personnel. Expenditures are projected to be \$500,000 over budget, mainly caused by under budgeting of employee costs and costs associated with employee retirements. Boensch, Brandt, Provoast, and Mr. Kraft will travel to Lansing to meet with Jeff Kolb and others from MDE to present this information and to talk about our plan to get out of deficit. No date has been set for this meeting.

Brandt updated the board about the fiscal monitoring report. When MDE was here on April 15, they recommended that the board review the conflict of interest policy annually. Mrs. Provoast updated the board on the fiscal monitoring progress and the progress of the consolidation application. She discussed the RFP for the audit firm, the recommendations on the business office procedures and the process to get some more of the consolidated application provisions approved.

Final Comments: Provoast – Senior student awards evening has been changed from May 26 to May 25. Mr. Kraft will be bringing his Technology Director with him on Friday to demonstrate the technology they are using at Harbor Beach. Mrs. Frank asked what other cuts other than layoffs can be expected? Mr. Kraft was in the district to work on financial issues and to work on a bare bones schedule. The schedule is not done yet. The only people who won’t get a layoff notice will be those who are reasonably assured to have a position next year. Mrs. Barnes suggested having a meeting after school to give the notices rather than doing it during the day. Nothing is off the table such as athletics, bussing, etc. Everything is being considered. Brandt explained the DEP process and the steps that we have taken thus far, we have requested to meet with MDE in Lansing and are waiting for a reply. She asked about a timeline with the new legislation for getting notice if an Emergency Financial Manager will be brought into the district; there is no timeline. When will teachers be notified of job assignments? Assignments are not available at this time. Much depends on the meeting with MDE before decisions can be made.

Mrs. Aldrich addressed the community perception that we will be paying a part-time Superintendent more than the current one; concerned about the community reaction with regards to relocation and handling of emergencies. Brandt - no negotiations to date with Mr. Kraft; being on-site only three days a week doesn't mean a part-time Superintendent. When not on-site, available by phone and electronically, if needed. Meetings with community leaders; willing to accept lack of relocation based on financial qualities of candidate. Mrs. Lauria asked if the board has adopted a vision and mission statement. Bovee recommended that we hold off on completing that until the new Superintendent comes on board. Brandt - nothing has been finalized. Mrs. Frank asked what the teachers could do to demonstrate the good things that are happening in Hale. Brandt replied that they will probably be interested only in the numbers, but everyone should be advocating positively for the district.

Final Board Comments: Braun asked whether the schedule would be changed because of the April snow day. Provoast indicated that the request to MDE is to waive April 20 since it falls after the April 1 days/hours requirement. How does this affect seniors? Only if seniors have not earned required credits. Seniors' last day is scheduled for May 28, 2011 with graduation on June 5, 2011. McKulsky: none, Heuss: none, Bovee: none, Shellenbarger: none, Cryderman: everyone needs to work together and not assign blame. Brandt: that was the theme for Friday's meeting, work together and not assign blame. We need to focus on the positives and keep the interests of the kids first.

Motion by Shellenbarger, supported by Cryderman to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Motion Carried. (7 Yes, 0 No)

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Sarah Heuss, Secretary