

**Hillsdale County Intermediate School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 21, 2019 ~ 5:30 P.M.
DRAFT MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Brandes, Grossheim, Gutowski, Nye, Vanlerberg Absent: --
HCISD Staff: Reehl, Svacha, Shaffer, Crabtree, Ellison, Lawless, Double, Cross, Frank, Magda, D. Anspaugh, R. Anspaugh, Boardman, Flint, McFeters, Wilson, Buelow, Quigley, Raymond, K. Jones, O'Heran, Estel
Guests: Debby Kerr, HCISD Retiree; Catherine Adams, School Improvement; Leah Ortiz, The Arc of Calhoun County; Liz Young, The Arc of Calhoun County

CALL TO ORDER

President Laura Nye called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COMMON CALENDAR WAIVER

Chad Urchike joined the meeting via a conference call at 5:32 pm. Mr. Urchike reported that per Section 160 of the State School Aid act a common calendar waiver hearing must take place before the department can approve it.

Troy stated that the LEA superintendents requested the pre-labor day start of the school year. Troy stated that the county will evaluate the number of students going into the EMS program over the next three years as the tool of measurement.

The floor was opened for public comment at 5:34. Hearing no comments the floor was closed at 5:35.

Mr. Urchike announced that the waiver has been approved starting in 2020/21 for 3 years. This waiver allows all districts the option to start before Labor Day during the 3-year period; however, a school district is not obligated to the early start date.

The hearing was closed at 5:36.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes, Meeting on October 17, 2019, Regular
- B. Report on Investments
- C. Bills Payable

Brandes/Gutowski to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

COMMENTS FROM GUEST

Leah Ortiz, Arc of Calhoun County, stated the Arc is an advocacy organization. Ms. Ortiz said that she met with Troy to discuss students, and mentioned four complaints that will be filed as a result of non-compliance. Ms. Ortiz stated she understands that the culture is problematic and that the HCISD is the oversight for direction of the county.

OTHER BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

- A. New Hire

Vanlerberg/Gutowski to approve the hire of Sarah Long as a Speech Language Pathologist.

Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

- B. HCISD Audit Presentation, 6/30/2019, Audit Presentation

Handouts: Annual Financial Audit and Single Audit; Audit Letter; Financial Graphs

Dave Neilson from Manor Consterian, presented the District's June 30, 2019, audit report. Mr. Neilson reviewed the report and offered an unmodified (clean) opinion. The June 30, 2019, audit offers a snapshot of the district's finances. Mr. Neilson reported that the audit went very well stating that Belinda and staff are great to work with and the numbers are accurate. In a single audit, IDEA funding was tested on compliance and was found to be a clean report.

Brandes/Gutowski to accept the June 30, 2019, audit as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

Belinda thanked her staff and their hard work on the audit.

C. Annual Summer Tax Resolution

Brandes/Vanlerberg to accept the annual summer tax resolution. Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

D. Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) 2019/2020 Contracts

Gutowski/Brandes to accept the GSRP 2019/2020 contracts as presented. Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

E. Lochaven Easement Restatement and Amendment

Gutowski/Grossheim to accept the "Lochaven" easement restatement and amendment presented. Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

F. PAC Member, Jennifer Swy for Waldron

Brandes/Gutowski to accept Jennifer Swy as the Parent Advisory Committee representative for Waldron Area Schools. Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

A. Emergency Operations Plan

Superintendent Reehl reported that the EOP plan is required to be completed by January 1 and will be presented to the Board in December.

MILLAGE RESOLUTION

Superintendent Reehl reported that the LEA superintendents would like to go out for a vocational education millage. A millage is allowed for 20 years. Currently, a Headlee override is held. The Headlee override was originally 1 mill. However, it is now at .898 mill as it has reduced over time. Superintendent Reehl stated he and the LEA superintendents would like to look at EMC (Early Middle College) with the HACC. Mr. Reehl is putting all of the partners at the table for discussion. Data collected from the Marshall Plan application process may be utilized. Belinda Shaffer presented three options for a potential millage.

Vanlerberg/Grossheim approved moving ahead with a potential millage for vocational education at a rate of 1.5 mills. Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Director Shaffer included a report in her board report. Director Shaffer highlighted the financials for the period ending October 31, 2019.

Director Shaffer presented the three major operating funds of special, vocational, and general education. The Board requested that the "minor" funds be presented twice a year and that a reference point as to the percentage of the budget used is indicated.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Cathy Adams, Consultant for Special Education

Handout: Supporting Documents

Ms. Adams described the work, and how information was gathered to help guide the future of special education services in Hillsdale County. A presentation provided information on stakeholder feedback in areas of doing well and needs improvement in regard to the IEP process, professional development, programs and services, and ISD staff/professionalism, and leadership.

Support Staff, Letter of Agreement

Laurie Brandes, on behalf of the Board, read a statement: "The Board recognizes the hard work and dedication of all staff. The Board also recognizes that the support staff has not been granted a percentage increase in the last few years. The Board would like to provide a good-will gesture by issuing a 1%, one-time payment on base salary for 2019/20 to each support staff personnel." The payment would be issued in December.

Brandes/Gutowski to approve the following:

"... The Board would like to provide a good-will gesture by issuing a 1%, one-time payment on base salary for 2019/20 to each support staff personnel." Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

GENERAL EDUCATION

A report was submitted in the board book.

Superintendent Reehl reported that we were notified of 31(n) funding in the amount of \$410K to be used toward mental health. The funding has a matching grant component. The HCISD is currently working with Lifeways to build a partnership to see if we can find a way to keep the funding within the community.

Superintendent Reehl reported on a Literacy Grant that allows funding toward a literacy coach. This is a matching grant and Mr. Reehl is reaching out to a couple different groups to explore the possibility of getting some of the matching funds.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Susanne Masters included a report in her board report.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Presentation

Pam Cross, Teacher Consultant for DHH, gave a presentation on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Ms. Cross reported that not only does she support "her children", but also supports their families, and the teachers. Recently, a parent was trying to get road signs near their home. Pam was able to help the parent through a local service club and through working with the road commission to reduce the costs. The family now has signage by their home. Pam also shared that a CTE student was having difficulty receiving information, as scripting on video tapes does not always match the physical cues of the person speaking. Pam was able to get a written script with the teacher's help. Ms. Cross stated that she is proud to work at the HCISD.

HILLSDALE AREA CAREER CENTER

Jamie Mueller provided a report in the board book.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM GUESTS

Leah Ortiz, Exec Director of the ARC of Calhoun County, stated that due to the presentations she would like to remind the HCISD that they will not exist if the ISD is not in compliant. Mr. Ortiz stated that perception is reality

but the law is the law. Ms. Ortiz said she has been impressed with staff that she has worked with in special education but the disconnect is that the locals are unaware of the law. Mr. Ortiz encouraged the Board – maybe the locals as well – to be aware that Inclusion is not written in law but Least Restrictive Environment is written in the law.

Shivawn O’Heran, on behalf of her and Danette Boardman, said she appreciates that Mr. Reehl is interested in moving forward in a positive manner and that she and the staff appreciate the 1%, one-time payout.

Julie Lawless, in regard to the audit, said she appreciates Belinda and her leadership.

CLOSED SESSION FOR ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

Gutowski/Grossheim to convene to closed session at 7:29 pm for the purpose of attorney-client privilege.

Roll Call Vote: Vanlerberg, Brandes, Grossheim, Gutowski, Nye

Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

Present in closed session: Board Members Laura Nye, Laurie Brandes, Scott Gutowski, Ron Grossheim, and Maxine Vanlerberg; Employees Reehl, Svacha, Shaffer, and Lawless.

President Nye to convene to open session at 8:15 pm.

The Board asked questions about the millage and about different funding models for special education

ADJOURNMENT

Grossheim/Gutowski to adjourn at 8:33 PM

Ayes: All Nays: None ***Carried***

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Svacha