

**SOUTH HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Study Meeting**  
**September 7, 2011**

The Study meeting of the Board of Education of South Haven Public Schools of Van Buren and Allegan Counties, Michigan was held on September 7, 2011 at the Maple Grove Elementary Cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order by Bryan Lewis, President at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Joe DeGrandchamp, Corey Davis (6:35), Bryan Lewis, Cindy Liscow, Mike Rainey, Annie Brown

Absent: Charlie Dotson

Motion was made by Joe DeGrandchamp, supported by Corey Davis to approve the agenda as printed. Cindy Liscow asked that the discussion on Supt. Search Firms be tabled and that Strategic Planning be added to the Discussion Items. Bryan Lewis said he preferred keeping a brief discussion of search firms on the agenda. A time for a separate workshop on strategic planning was added to Discussion Items as Item I. Mr. Black also added Client/Attorney Communications to the Closed Session areas of discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no Community Comments.

Superintendent Report:

- Mr. Black announced that Albemarle donated a \$5,800 grant to Maple Grove Elementary School and a \$5,800 grant to Lincoln Elementary School to be used in the area of science. Bryan Lewis suggested that a thank you note be written from the Board of Education.
- Mr. Black indicated that there have been questions about the Non-Homestead millage not being on the November ballot. He explained that last year's election was a three-year renewal and will not expire until November of 2014.
- Mr. Black announced that Kevin Ortiz has been hired as director of the PASS room at the high school. The job is 35 hours a week.
- With regard to Mr. Black's goals for the school year, he indicated that the teacher evaluation system needs to be finalized. Dashboard information and the Pinnacle data system are also in progress. Mrs. Brown reminded Mr. Black that there is a difference between goals and a to-do list.

#### Action Items:

- a. Corey Davis moved, supported by Joe DeGrandchamp to approve the August 17 Regular Meeting minutes and the August 17 Closed Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Motion was made by Annie Brown, supported by Corey Davis, to approve the recommendation to hire elementary teachers Jodie Novotny and Anita Wright. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Motion by Joe DeGrandchamp, supported by Corey Davis to approve the counter offer for the Baseline property. The addition of a utility easement was added to the offer. Much discussion was held regarding if and how it would benefit the school district. The board wants to know the purpose of the utility easement. The board requested that Mr. Black get that information from Ryan Servatius and supply the details to them at the next meeting. An amendment was made to the motion. Mike Rainey moved to approve the counter offer striking the utility easement, supported by Cindy Liscow. The amended motion passed unanimously.

#### Discussion Items:

- a. Diann Tosh was present along with Scott Wall from New Age Landmark to discuss the Farm to School grant through the USDA. The 2 year grant is for \$2,000 for the first year for planning and \$2,000 for the second year for implementation. A procedure plan will be developed to continue for future years. Scott has assisted Diann with writing of the grant and also will assist with the connection from farms to school. Annie Brown questioned the need for the assistance from New Age Landmark. Much discussion was held regarding the purchase of locally grown foods and processing, as well as food safety regulations involved.
- b. The feasibility of developing a paid preschool program for 3 to 4 year olds who do not qualify for the GRSP preschools was discussed. There may be staff and community members interested in this program. Cost and expense scenarios were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Black will survey staff to see who may be interested in this service. A recommendation will be available by the next Board of Education meeting.
- c. Principals Chip Jenkins and Carey Frost presented their K-3 School Improvement Plans. Academic goals in the areas of Language Arts/Reading, Math, Special Education and Sub-groups, i.e. Hispanic students, were expressed. Also noted was Teacher/Staff academic reporting. Special programs were highlighted, i.e. Marvin and Jesse at Lincoln School, parent involvement in both schools, and positive school culture at Maple Grove.
- d. The Health Consortium Agreement involving all Van Buren County schools was discussed. The consortium would give staff different options of insurance and would be a cost saving of 2%-3% to the district. The Board will need to vote at the next regular meeting regarding joining the health consortium.
- e. For the Board's information, Mr. Black distributed a list of current teaching staff and their assignments.

- f. Mr. Black reported that as of Sept. 7, preliminary enrollment for the district is 2280, an increase over last year and a 3% increase over the enrollment of 2009. The official student count day is October 5, a week later than usual.
- g. Mr. Black gave details about the “Community College Without Walls”. The concept is to provide college experience to students in Van Buren and Allegan counties at a lower than average tuition rate. The college will target teaching staff from area schools as well as business and industry who are certified and qualified or willing to attain credentials necessary for teaching at the college level. South Haven and Mattawan are the only schools in the Van Buren and Allegan counties who have community colleges in their area.
- h. Bryan Lewis distributed superintendent search proposals received from several firms that he contacted. He would like the search firm choice to be an action item at the September 21 Board meeting. He asked the Board to review them and stated the need for the Board to be very serious and very thorough in the process of the superintendent search.
- i. Strategic planning was discussed. Cindy Liscow asked that the plans be reviewed and to be clearly defined before a new superintendent is hired. Bryan Lewis suggested a retreat for the Board to spend time on reviewing the plans and for revisions. The present board members decided that they could schedule a retreat for a Sunday afternoon in early October. The date will be decided at the September 21 Board meeting.

There were no Community Comments.

#### Announcements:

Cindy Liscow spoke to teachers in attendance saying that she was unaware of and not in agreement with the pay cut proposal that was made in the SHEA negotiation session.

Annie Brown introduced Victoria Mulick and thanked her for running for a School Board position in the upcoming election, along with incumbent Joe DeGrandchamp.

Bryan Lewis praised the girls’ golf team for their higher participation numbers indicating the benefit of new coach, Barry Shanley. He also noted that football team numbers were up.

Bryan Lewis called for a 5 minutes recess at 9:00 p.m. before entering into closed session to discuss contract negotiations with SHEA, paraprofessionals and food service employees, and for client-attorney communications.

Motion made by Mike Rainey, supported by Joe DeGrandchamp to adjourn at 10:37 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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Anne I Brown. Secretary  
Board of Education  
South Haven, Michigan

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Janet Lynam  
Administrative Secretary