

**SOUTH HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting  
October 18, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Haven Public Schools of Van Buren and Allegan Counties, Michigan was held on October 18, 2011 at the L.C. Mohr High School Media Center.

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Bryan Lewis, at 6:33 p.m.

Present: Corey Davis, Annie Brown, Bryan Lewis, Cindy Liscow, Joe DeGrandchamp,  
Mike Rainey

Absent: Charlie Dotson

Motion was made by Corey Davis, supported by Joe DeGrandchamp to approve the agenda. Annie Brown asked that Discussion Item B. regarding Bullying be postponed until the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Annie also asked that Discussion Item E., Field Trip Policy, be moved to Discussion item A. Corey Davis added Strategic Planning Committee Minutes to the Consent Agenda under Action Item A. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no Community Comments at this time.

Superintendent's Report:

- Mr. Black gave the Good to Best report. He announced that Diann Tosh has added several specialty salads to the menu at the middle school and high school. He also passed around a photo picturing food service employees accepting a farm to school delivery of locally grown produce on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Black announced that the Technology Department is seeking a contracted service to conduct work that was done by Mike Strebeck in the past.
- Mr. Black reported that Trevor Smiley was hired to fill the middle school PASS room position, beginning October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Black invited everyone to attend the kick off of the Safe Route to School Committee on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the Administration Center.
- Mr. Black reported that the district is in the second week of MEAP testing.
- Superintendent goals were distributed to board members

Action Items:

- a. Motion was made by Joe DeGrandchamp, supported by Corey Davis to approve the Consent Items as presented.
  - Approval of Board Minutes
    - October 4, 2011 Study Meeting
    - October 4, 2011 Closed Session
  - Audit Committee

- Strategic Planning Committee
- Payment of Bills for General Fund in the amount of \$400,631.24 and to receive the financial report.
- Revised grading system

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Brian Wisneski from Gerbel and Company presented the June 30, 2011 financial audit for South Haven Public Schools. He indicated that South Haven Public Schools is in good financial condition, although the fund balance is a bit lower than desired for school districts. Bryan Lewis thanked Carol Stricklin for her hard work during the audit process. Motion was made by Joe DeGrandchamp, supported by Corey Davis to approve the auditor's report dated June 30, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Bryan Lewis recommended that NorthStar Staffing be hired as the Superintendent search firm. He conducted reference checks with positive responses. Cindy Liscow suggested that the board consider extending Mr. Black's contract during this time of financial difficulty instead of spending money on a superintendent search, or to conduct a superintendent search on their own. Bryan Lewis indicated that the cost for NorthStar is \$4,200 and that they have been assured that the other expenses would be capped at \$500. Annie Brown moved, supported by Corey Davis, to approve NorthStar as the superintendent search firm. Yes votes from DeGrandchamp, Davis, Lewis, Rainey, Brown. No vote from Cindy Liscow. The motion passed.

#### Discussion Items:

- a. Field Trip Policy #7490 was addressed and discussed at length. The policy committee suggested that field trips under 40 miles must be approved by the principal and a minimal fee, if any, would be charged to the students. Field trips over 40 miles must be approved by the superintendent and the cost must be covered completely by field trip funds or outside sources. This is a first reading of the policy. A final version will be presented at the next Board of Ed. meeting. Annie Brown asked the policy committee to look into NEOLA for automated policies through MASB.
- b. The vendor list was presented. It was noted that food service vendors are not indicated on the general fund vendor list. Bryan Lewis asked if the food service vendors could be added to the list in the future.
- c. Al Mulick addressed the Board updating them on the Operation Graduation/Virtual Learning program. He reviewed the learning suppliers that are being used. Cindy Liscow encouraged adoption of the E2020 program which is a cost saver and is used in many school districts. It is available through the VBISD. Al would like to see an overall district policy on virtual learning and to see a committee formed to study when, where, and how we are using virtual learning. Mr. Black praised Al Mulick for his work on the program and for his time communicating with parents during the summer.
- d. GMB Architects met with Kevin Dee and Bob Black regarding facility study services. The cost for the service is \$16,000, but would not be billed at this time. It would be incorporated into the overall cost of a future successful bond issue. The Board asked for Kevin Dee's thoughts on the cost. Kevin indicated that the cost is representative of the

level of work to be done including very in depth study of the middle school and high school buildings.

Community Comments:

High School teacher Jeff Arnold addressed the Board on a field trip issue. He is concerned with the limited time frame allowed for field trips (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) due to transportation issues and asked the Board to keep that in mind. Mr. Black told Mr. Arnold that if teachers need a bus for a field trip, they would be provided with one.

Announcements:

Cindy Liscow thanked the Ed Heinz farm for donating boulders to be used for landscaping at the Liberty Hyde Bailey garden. She also thanked the Cub Scout Troop 188 for moving the rocks into the garden area.

Corey Davis praised the soccer team for winning conference. A district semi-final game will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Dowagiac.

Annie Brown thanked the South Haven Performance Series for bringing the WMU symphony orchestra to South Haven to perform at Listiak Auditorium on October 10<sup>th</sup>. She also thanked Dave Hughes, Bob Black and Kevin Dee for working to make things run so smoothly.

Bryan Lewis announced the choir performance being held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Listiak. This is the first concert for Benjamin Rodgers as our new choir director.

Joe DeGrandchamp expressed appreciation for the Freshman class sponsor, Ron Nizinski. The Freshman class built their Homecoming float in one of his buildings. They were very responsible and did a wonderful job of cleaning up.

At 8:07 p.m. Bryan Lewis called for a 5 minute recess before moving into closed session to discuss negotiations.

Bryan Lewis brought the Board out of closed session at 8:51 p.m. Motion made by Corey Davis, supported by Mike Rainey to adjourn at 8:51 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