

HYDE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
HYDE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

Board members present: Mark Freeman, Jim Lipinski, Kalee Roberts, Raven Walters.
Others: Debra Taylor, Brian Marshall.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Items highlighted for follow-up are shown like this.

1. Call to Order

J. Lipinski called the meeting to order at 6:32.

2. Approve Consent Agenda (Minutes – April 19, 2010; Minutes – April 26, 2010; Directors’ Orders, Principal’s Report, Central Office Report)

M. Freeman moved to approve the consent agenda, including directors’ orders in the amount of \$22,001.14, seconded by K. Roberts. It was clarified that

approval of the principal’s report does not imply approval of the proposed actions described in the report. K. Roberts said she doesn’t feel the board has a way of knowing whether or not we are near the upper cap set on consultant contracts. She suggested maybe the board could have a periodic vendor report. **The motion was passed.**

3. Negotiation Updates

K. Roberts moved to enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations, inviting B. Marshall and D. Taylor to remain, and the motion was seconded and passed. The board entered executive session at 6:43 and consented out at 7:38. (B. Marshall left at 7:38.)

A special meeting will be held on May 13, at 7 PM, with the only topic being staffing decisions.

4. Board Development Work on Guiding Principles

J. Lipinski reminded everyone that the board had planned to discuss what it would like and how we would know if we were achieving Guiding Principle #1 (ensuring an academic and social atmosphere that will assist each learner toward his or her highest potential.) K. Roberts said AIMSweb and NECAP results will be useful. She doesn’t understand why we are not looking at more than 3 benchmarks for AIMSweb. She’s also not sure why the board does not see data on progress reports and report cards. M. Freeman said he would like to know how students in each grade are doing on their report cards. R. Walters said she would like to have a discussion about changing report cards. She wonders how subjective report cards are. K. Roberts said it would be interesting to see if they line up with other data. J. Lipinski said he wants at least as much information on whether we are meeting this objective as we get on finances. He suggested maybe the EST team could give reports to the board on how many kids are in trouble. He also suggested maybe each teacher each month could fill out a monthly report, checking off for each student whether the teacher was or was not concerned about that student. R. Walters said she agrees with those ideas, but would

like a broader discussion about what the report card should be like. K. Roberts said she would like to see the curriculum map. She thinks the board does not understand what our curriculum is. Then the question will be, do we agree with that curriculum? M. Freeman asked why the board is not involved in developing curriculum.

J. Lipinski said he's hearing that we can't decide how to measure this objective until we know what we're teaching. He suggested devoting 45 minutes at the next meeting to getting information about the curriculum. K. Roberts said she thinks at some point we will need to have serious conversations about which teachers are teaching each subject well and which are not. If a teacher is not doing something well, that doesn't mean that person doesn't belong in our school, but there is the question of what their role should be. M. Freeman said his concern is how much buy-in there is from staff about curriculum plans. K. Roberts said she thinks there has been some positive motion. R. Walters said she was unhappy to hear that it would be several years before an LNSU-wide curriculum is developed. K. Roberts said she thinks 5 years is too long for that. J. Lipinski said he will ask M. Mathias to bring information about the curriculum to the next meeting.

5. Preparation for Monthly Meeting Schedule

J. Lipinski noted that the board needs to figure out how to accommodate approving directors' orders. It was agreed to find out whether orders can be approved monthly; if not, the board will authorize the clerk to sign them if there are no objections after everyone has had a chance to review them.

6. Long-Term Planning – Retreat Planning

The board reviewed the memo D. Taylor had distributed on her conversations with Jim Lengel. It looks as if he would be able to work with us, within our budget. August 27 was discussed as a possible date to have Jim Lengel meet with the board, teachers, and members of the public.

There was discussion about the culture at the school. J. Lipinski suggested the board could start talking at its next meeting about how to address the school culture.

Jim Lengel wants more information about our goals and expectations. K. Roberts said she thinks he needs to understand we're trying to get to environment first, before thinking about the structure. We want to know what elementary school for HPES will need to be like in 15 years. She suggested focusing on information for J. Lengel at the June meeting, but J. Lipinski will not be there. He may be able to call in, or we may be able to fit that discussion into the next meeting.

7. School Improvement Grant

It was agreed to postpone the discussion until M. Mathias can be here. K. Roberts said she is concerned about the large difference between the amount we are asking for and the amount we are likely to get.

8. Discussion on Policy for Non-Resident Students/Tuition

J. Lipinski said the policy committee met earlier today. They considered a working draft and realized there is still much to be done with it. They want to get an idea what the whole board feels the policy needs to be.

K. Roberts said there is the issue of whether we require another district to apply, or allow a parent to do so. It is a question of whether the state contributes. J. Lipinski said that is irrelevant after the date when the student count is done. K. Roberts asked, but does the same principle apply? If a parent is willing to pay tuition, but the other district won't request it, is that student part of the public school population? How does that come into the funding formula? K. Roberts said she has gotten different answers about that at different times. M. Freeman said he doesn't see why a non-resident student should be admitted without paying tuition if they are coming at the start of the year. But he could see it if they are finishing the year. He is not in favor of students from other districts coming without paying tuition, except for preschool.

There was discussion about allowing children of non-resident staff to attend preschool. M. Freeman would like to offer preschool at HPES to children of employees as a benefit. J. Lipinski said it would be hard to justify at town meeting any expenses that are due to non-resident students. R. Walters agreed that taxpayers might balk.

There was agreement that the policy should allow tuition waivers for students who move out partway through a marking period. K. Roberts said a general policy of admission may be important. She suggested perhaps the policy committee should get a legal opinion on the issue of our legal responsibility to a non-resident student once we let that student in.

9. Future Agenda Items

Items J. Lipinski plans to put on future agendas include the School Improvement Grant, curriculum, the proposed actions in the principal's report, monthly approval of directors' orders, long term planning, and school culture issues.

10. Other

K. Roberts said the News & Citizen had an article about an angry parent meeting over bullying in Eden. She thinks we need to have a discussion at some point about bullying, particularly with the superintendent. We defer to the principal and superintendent to handle bullying incidents, but the board needs to know what supports we can put around a kid who is in trouble and whether we are doing that. She thinks we need to address accountability and know how often complaints occur.

11. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded to adjourn, the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 9:17.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

Items highlighted for follow-up:

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UNAPPROVED