

APPROVED
MINUTES

SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING
9-30-09

A special meeting of the Essexville-Hampton Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009, in the Jaffe Administration Building, 303 Pine Street, Essexville, Michigan.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Martin at 8:39 a.m.

ROLL CALL
- Members Present

John Martin, David Lovely, Charles Rochow, William Mahoney, Joseph Pergande, Jill Urban, Michael Rowley.

- Members Absent

None.

ALSO PRESENT

John Mertz, Tom Trombley, Steve Lenar, Joan Douglas, Barry Kenniston, Allen Atkari, Andrew Dodson, Ann Hebert.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS
FROM BOARD/SUPT.

Superintendent Mertz thanked the board for taking the time to attend this special meeting/board workshop.

STATEMENTS

There were no statements from the public.

MINUTES
APPROVED

Moved by Joe Pergande, supported by Charlie Rochow, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting and executive session held September 14, 2009, as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Martin, Lovely, Rochow, Mahoney, Pergande, Urban, Rowley

No: None

DISTRICT
UPDATE AND
PROJECTIONS

Superintendent Mertz reviewed the meeting agenda and presentation goals which included: (1) updates to provide the board with comprehensive information on key factors related to the budget and planning; (2) brainstorming that included discussion on options for budget issues facing the district; and (3) timelines for the next steps in the process.

BUDGET
UPDATE

Steve Lenar presented an update on the state budget. Mr. Lenar talked about the 2009-10 school year and provided projections for the 2010-11 school year. Mr. Lenar projected that the district will need to reduce the budget by approximately \$1.1 million for the 2010-11 school year.

As part of the presentation, Superintendent Mertz provided to the board enrollment projections, including a 25 year history. There has been a slight population decline over the past five years but has stabilized due to "right-sizing". Current enrollment numbers leads administration to question the viability of maintaining five buildings.

Tom Trombley reviewed the current status of employee contracts, including which contracts are currently open and the status for 2010-11.

Superintendent Mertz indicated to the board that approximately \$3.4 million in budget cuts have taken place in the district since the 2003-04 school year.

Dave Lovely encouraged all board members to attend the Legislative Breakfast meeting at the Bay-Arenac I.S.D. on Friday, October 2, at 8:30 a.m.

Superintendent Mertz stated that there are a variety of budget options and ideas that will need to be reviewed. Difficult choices will need to be made, and it was determined that administration should begin to investigate all options presented that included changes in transportation, privatization of services, reductions in personnel, athletics, and a possible building closure.

Administration will bring to the board in November general ideas on cost savings. A state budget update for 2010-11 will be provided at the January meeting. By February or March, budget reduction proposals will be brought before the board for their consideration.

SCHOOL
ELECTION
CONSOLIDATION
UPDATE

Superintendent Mertz stated that legal counsel was contacted after the September 14, 2009, board meeting to provide the rotation of board member terms based on election law. The following points were discussed: (1) six year terms, (2) cycles, (3) 2012 election, (4) stability, and (5) election apathy.

It was the consensus of the board to further discuss this issue at the October 12th board meeting and look at the potential of calling a public hearing.

ADJOURN

Moved by Joe Pergande, supported by Bill Mahoney, to adjourn.

Voice Vote: All Ayes

President Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill M. Urban
Secretary