

**Marquette Area Public Schools
BOARD OF EDUCATION
1201 W. Fair Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Telephone 906-225-4200
WEBSITE: www.mapsnet.org**

**Special Meeting
Wednesday, June 4, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Vandenboom Elementary School Gymnasium
1175 Erie Street**

MINUTES

- **Call to Order**

A work session of the Marquette Area Public Schools Board of Education was held Wednesday, June 4, in the Gymnasium of the Vandenboom Elementary School. The meeting was called to order by Board President **Alan Hawker** at 7:00 p.m. Due to the absence of Scott Brogan, Mr. Hawker named **Mark Smith** Temporary Secretary-Treasurer.

- **Roll Call**

Members Present

Alan Hawker	President
Kellie A. Holmstrom, DVM	Vice President
Mark Smith	Trustee/Temporary Secretary-Treasurer
Norman Gruber	Trustee
Tony Retaskie	Trustee

Member Absent

Scott Brogan	Secretary-Treasurer
Laura Songer	Trustee

Central Administration Present

Jon Hartwig	Superintendent
Deborah Veiht	Assistant Superintendent
Tim Yeadon	Assistant Superintendent for Finance
Sharon Thum	Human Resources Manager
Jackie Winkowski	Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

Others Present

MAPS Administrators, teachers, counselors, and other employees; parents; Township officials and other citizens; Mining Journal Reporter Miriam Moeller; TV6 Reporter (about 25 people, total)

- **Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by Kellie Holmstrom and seconded by Tony Retaskie to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.

- **Approve Minutes of May 28, 2008, Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Tony Retaskie and seconded by Mark Smith to approve the minutes of the May 28 regular Board meeting as presented. Motion carried, 5-0.

- **Board Work Session on Administrative Recommendations regarding Vandenberg Elementary School**

Board President Al Hawker explained:

- The purpose of the meeting tonight is to begin discussion of three Administrative recommendations (copy attached).
- There will be no decisions this evening on the issues to be discussed.
- Our interest is in generating discussion.
- In this workshop, Board will enter into discussions with participants.
- Two additional board meetings are scheduled where there can be further discussions.

Superintendent Jon Hartwig reported:

- The work session design is intended to provide all participants with opportunities for discussion.
- The administration's three recommendations, financial information, MAPS and comparable school districts' enrollment data (he presented the information using PowerPoint).
- Garee Zellmer will facilitate the discussion session.
- Participants will divide into groups, with each group seated at round tables.
- Five participating board members will select and be seated at tables.
- Each group will include MAPS administrators, one of whom will act as facilitator and one as a recorder/reporter.
- Groups will discuss each of three recommendations, followed by "reporting out" discussions.
- Following small group discussions, board members will reconvene and conduct summary discussions.
- An opportunity for further public input will be provided prior to adjournment.

The attendees divided into three groups. **Garee Zellmer** facilitated discussion on the Administration's three recommendations. The following administrators served as reporter/recorders for each group: **Sharon Thum, Tim Yeadon, and Dan Gannon.**

The groups' discussion and reports concluded at 8:42 p.m. **Al Hawker** invited Board members' questions/comments. **Tony Retaskie** expressed appreciation to the meeting participants and for their questions, to which he mentioned the Superintendent will respond. **Norm Gruber** asked about the effect of busing Vandenberg-area students elsewhere, in light of increased fuel costs.

A summary of the "positives" and "concerns" the groups expressed and recorded on flip charts will be compiled by the Superintendent's Office.

- **Comments from the Public**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Ray Adamini, Township Supervisor	Believes lines were drawn to accommodate this change; Township children have been denied attendance at Vandenboom, impacting enrollment. The Twp. is trying to build a sense of community, but it's hard without a school.
Ernie Johnson, Former Vand. School Board member	Data is skewed due to students being denied attendance at Vandenboom; concern with how attendance boundaries have been changed over the years. Twp. has greater room for growth than City.
Lou Myefski, Mgt. Twp. Treasurer	Appreciation for this opportunity for input; understanding about declining enrollment; asks that Twp. Board to look at situation and recommendations objectively: What makes the most sense?
Melissa Andrews, Vandenboom Parent	Support for Vandenboom staying open and remaining a neighborhood school.

- **Board President's/Members' Comments**

Al Hawker and other Board members expressed appreciation to all meeting participants and for the input and questions. It was noted Mr. Hartwig will respond to questions presented.

- **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Kellie Holmstrom and seconded by Mark Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, 5-0. Adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Al Hawker
President

Mark Smith
Temporary Secretary

Jackie Winkowski
Recording Secretary

Attachment: Recommendations 1, 2, and 3

Administrative Recommendations – May 2008

- 1) The Administration is recommending that beginning September, 2009, Vandenoomb Elementary will no longer house K-3 students. Youngsters attending Vandenoomb Elementary would be reassigned to Sandy Knoll Elementary and Superior Hills Elementary beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, thus reducing the number of K-3 programs from four to three. This classroom consolidation measure will provide for more efficient education of Marquette Area Public Schools' youngest students while maintaining outstanding support of all early elementary programs.

- 2) The Administration is recommending that educational uses other than traditional K-3 classroom programming be developed and placed within Vandenoomb School beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, allowing the building to remain part of the district's infrastructure.

- 3) The Administration recommends appointment of a building leadership team comprised of one Principal and one Assistant Principal to oversee both Cherry Creek Elementary and Vandenoomb Elementary for the 2008-2009 school year.