

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

**Work Session  
Monday, March 9, 2009, 5:15 p.m.  
Marquette Senior High School Library  
1203 W. Fair Avenue**

**MINUTES**

- **Call to Order**

A work session of the Marquette Area Public Schools Board of Education was held Monday, March 9, in the Library of the Marquette Senior High School. The meeting was called to order by Board President **Kellie Holmstrom** at 5:17 p.m.

- **Roll Call**

**Members Present**

Kellie A. Holmstrom, DVM	President
Alan Hawker	Vice President
Mark Smith	Secretary-Treasurer
Scott Brogan	Trustee
Norman Gruber	Trustee
Tony Retaskie	Trustee
Laura Songer	Trustee

**Central Administration Present**

Jon Hartwig	Superintendent
Deborah Veiht	Assistant Superintendent
Jackie Winkowski	Administrative Assistant / Recording Secretary

**Others Present**

MAPS employees, parents / citizens, news media representatives (about 20 people, total)

- **Approval of Agenda**

**A motion was made by Tony Retaskie and seconded by Al Hawker to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.**

- **Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2009, Regular Board Meeting**

**A motion was made by Norm Gruber and seconded by Tony Retaskie to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2009, Regular Board meeting as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.**

- **Board Work Session on Expenditure Reduction Strategies**

**Dr. Kellie Holmstrom** mentioned that Phyllis Burrell, Bothwell / High School Speech Pathologist who began working at MAPS in September 2005, passed away Sunday. Dr. Holmstrom expressed condolences to Ms. Burrell's family.

The Administration and Board discussed expenditure reduction strategies as described in the following documents:

- *Expenditure Reduction Strategies Background Information* dated March 9, 2009; and
  - *Expenditure Reduction Strategies* dated February 2009 (from February 16 Work Session).
- The March 9 document was reviewed item by item and the February document was referenced as necessary.

During discussion:

- NEOLA (existing service) and MASB policy services costs were compared.
- NSBA's annual membership cost of \$4,000 and related benefits were reviewed.
- K-5 counselors: Could statistics on their daily contacts be obtained?
- School Psychologists: Could "a day in the life of"-type report be provided?
- **Tony Retaskie** expressed concern about the impact privatization of custodial services would have on 23 employees / community members and questioned whether a contracted service would provide the same quality and extent of work. He requested that this item be removed from consideration now. Other Board members concurred with Mr. Retaskie regarding the quality of the present workforce and the impact such a change would have on employees, their families, and the community. There was mention of the substantial savings which would be experienced with contracted services. Several Board members expressed support for considering budget reductions that do not directly impact the instruction of students. Mr. Hartwig reported on the extent of services which could be provided through contracted services.

**Dr. Holmstrom** recessed the meeting from 6:45 p.m. to 6:55 p.m.

During continued discussion:

- It was suggested that the size of Marquette Senior High School's administrative staff be examined, as well as other areas of administration.
- Could savings in the custodial area through attrition be examined?
- It was suggested that the Transportation Department be examined for possible savings.
- There was discussion about the concept of 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Bothwell. Dr. Holmstrom suggested that the Administration look at data related to students still in our district who attended Bothwell as 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- It was suggested that the Performance Committee hold a meeting at Bothwell, as the Planning Committee did recently.
- Reviewing a recent district energy audit or conducting a new one was suggested.
- Federal Stimulus: Mr. Hartwig advised it is not likely to provide MAPS with significant sustainable funding; the district has a structural deficit in that we do not have numbers of students to increase revenue.

At the close of discussion it was requested that the Administration schedule three public meetings on the topic of Expenditure Reduction Strategies, with the meetings taking place in the near future. One is to be held in the morning, one during the afternoon, and another in the evening. The meetings will provide additional opportunities for input from the public.

- **Comments from the Public**

**Name / topic**

**Matt Edgell**, MAEA President, commented while doubts have been expressed about forthcoming stimulus money, it's still good news – before cuts are made we should wait to hear the news from Lansing.

**Ann Carter**, Graveraet 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, expressed concern about possibly moving the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Bothwell and about the impact of 54 students in a classroom; also concern about the timing of such a move.

**Linda Goodman**, Graveraet 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, expressed concern about the human factor of the budget reductions and mentioned several people who do essential work.

**Lynn Mattson**, Graveraet Custodian and grandparent, expressed concern about the possible move of 5<sup>th</sup> graders to Bothwell, also concern about the possibility of contracted custodial services.

**Toni Landick**, Bothwell Counselor, invited the Board members to visit Bothwell and observe a group of 54 students with two teachers in one classroom. She suggested that if the move takes place, the walls between rooms be insulated to avert noise problems.

**Carolyn Northey**, Bothwell Social Studies / Science Teacher, commented on the strengths of team teaching but acknowledged that noise at BMS is an issue that would need resolution.

**Cathy Calderwood**, Graveraet parent, suggested that when details on the three public meetings have been determined, they be posted prominently at each school. She also commented that “small” – e.g., smaller learning communities – is often preferable to “big.”

**James Gorieski**, Graveraet parent, expressed concern about being able to hear one classroom from another at Bothwell.

- **Board Members’ Comments**

**Board Members’ comments** covered the following topics:

- Bothwell pod / classroom configuration.
- Legal requirements for adopting a balanced budget.
- Necessity of making budget reductions.
- Condolences to the family of Phyllis Burrell.
- Board members are open to hearing information and ideas from the public when it is from a known source.

- **Board President’s Comments**

**Dr. Kellie Holmstrom** commented on the difficulty of this process, the impact of budget reductions on employees and families, and on how helpful and pleasant members of our custodial service are. She advised that the next phase of meetings will be well posted.

- **Adjourn**

**A motion was made by Al Hawker and seconded by Mark Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, 7-0. Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.**

Kellie A. Holmstrom, DVM  
President

Mark Smith  
Secretary-Treasurer

Jackie Winkowski  
Admin. Assistant / Recording Secretary