

**Hillsdale County Intermediate School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
Special Board Meeting  
May 1, 2019 ~ 6:00 P.M.  
DRAFT MINUTES**

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**Board Members Present:** Brandes, Gutowski, Leininger, Nye, Vanlerberg

**HCISD Staff:** Steel, Svacha, Lawless, Johnston, double, R. Anspaugh, D. Anspaugh, Boardman, Magda, Wilson, Slamka, Rathburn, Langston, O’Heran, Ansel, Tobar, Mach, Iffland, Alley, Frank

**Guests:** Sally Wood, Jonesville; Katherine Fedosuk, JCS; Linc Miller, self; Kathy Schmitt, JCS Board; Kristi Saunders, self/Pittsford; Char Cole, self; Dick Storehalder, Waldron; Mary Halley, Jonesville; Sid Halley, Jonesville BOE; Eric Moore, HCS Board; Debby Kerr, retiree; Gary Morrison, Camden-Frontier; Laurel Spencer, Jonesville; Deborah Berlin, parent; Kathy Bondsteel, community member; Stacey Clark, Pittsford Schools; Amy Hinkley, Pittsford Schools; Ann Harris, citizen; Karen Hill, retiree; Colleen Vogt, WCA

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**CALL TO ORDER**

President Leininger called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bonnie Leinginger read a statement to address misinformation.

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS**

Linc Miller read a statement in regard to the critical nature of the HCISD needing to be revitalized and the Board stepping up to the plate.

Mary Halley, Jonesville taxpayer, read a statement about the nature of a leader of the eight superintendents of the local schools.

Dick Storehalder, Waldron, board president for many years. Mr. Storehalder expressed his pleasure with the HCISD services and stated that Waldron has had better service than they have had the last 10 years. Mr. Storehalder said he thinks that the current superintendent has done an excellent job.

Sid Halley, Jonesville BOE, read a statement in regard to the impact that this position has on all schools.

Kathy Bondsteel, Hillsdale, stated she has been in Hillsdale for 30 years. Ms. Bondsteel stated that as taxpayer and employee she asks that the Board use due diligence in hiring the new superintendent as this person has the highest position in the county. Ms. Bondsteel invited everyone to Jonesville to see how services with special education are going.

Debby Kerr stated that a parent called her and questioned where to find superintendent candidate information.

Brandy, a parent from Pittsford, stated that a superintendent search needs to be done for more than 10 days. Brandy added that her daughter has been in speech since 2012 and that she has had 9 different speech therapists in six years. Brandy stated her daughter was showing progress with Lynn English and Doreen Ruede. Tele-therapy for speech services was tried for a time and did not work. Brandy stated that kids need services that are not being provided.

Eric Moore, Hillsdale Schools BOE, read a letter from the Hillsdale Community Schools Board of Education in regard to the superintendent search.

Chellie Broesamle, Superintendent at Jonesville Community Schools, stated that hiring a superintendent is a very big decision. Chellie stated that she appreciates that the Board is interested in local talent. However, even in a broader search if local people apply and qualified they should rise to the top regardless. A good, quality search is a must. Chellie stated that the local schools are all willing to help with the search.

### **RESIGNATION/STEEL**

Nye/Gutowski to accept Ronna Steel's resignation effective June 30, 2019.

Ayes: All      Nays: None      ***Carried***

The agenda item "Review Search Proposals and Timelines" was moved forward on the agenda.

### **REVIEW SEARCH PROPOSALS & TIMELINES**

Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan Leadership Institute, and Executive Search and Coaching submitted proposals to conduct a search for the position of superintendent. Laura Nye, Maxine Vanlerberg, and Scott Gutowski all expressed interest in doing a broader search. Ronna Steel reported that all three companies have sent proposals, and each company is willing to present to the Board. There was discussion in regard to each company.

Gutowski/Brandes to approve the hire of Michigan Leadership Institute to conduct a superintendent search.

Ayes: All      Nays: None      ***Carried***

The Board discussed scheduling a meeting to meet with Dave Killips of MLI to review the process and address questions.

Brandes/Nye to schedule a special meeting on Tuesday, May 7, at 4:00 PM.

Ayes: All      Nays: None      ***Carried***

### **REVIEW OF RESUMES**

President Leininger will contact the candidates who applied to notify them of the process change and ask if they would like to stay in the candidate pool.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS FROM GUESTS**

Mary Halley stated that she is fortunate to have a flexible schedule, however, many people cannot attend a 4:00 meeting.

Kathy Bondsteel, Jonesville, requested that each LEA Board is notified when HCISD Board meetings are. Ms. Bondsteel stated that she would have liked to see the superintendent search proposals and thanked the Board for the consideration to extend the search.

Linc Miller stated that he has received 13 unsolicited contacts from community members from a variety of vocations. Linc stated that they have expressed consistent concern in regard to the search, and that there is an understanding of the overall challenges at the HCISD at this time. Linc stated that he could testify that the two largest districts in this county have significant concerns and they are most concerned that there is a degree of inertness on the part of the Board in terms of being critical and objective.

Shawn Vondra, HCS Superintendent, thanked the general audience for voicing concerns. Mr. Vondra stated that this is an important position and comes with much scrutiny. Mr. Vondra stated that he does recognize that the Board members are all volunteers and appreciates their service to the community. Mr. Vondra stated that the ISD is unique in that it affects the entire county: The election is done differently at the ISD and the reason is to allow input from all. Mr. Vondra appreciates the focus group sessions and the availability of an online forum. Mr. Vondra shared that "we" are willing to share the responsibility with the Board.

Karen Hill apologized to a mom in the audience for her experience with the services.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Brandes/Gutowski to adjourn at 6:59 PM

Ayes: All

Nays: None

***Carried***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Svacha