

**Hillsdale County Intermediate School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
January 18, 2018 ~ 5:30 P.M.  
DRAFT MINUTES**

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**Board Members Present:** Brandes, Leininger, Nye, White

**Absent:** Gutowski

**HCISD Staff:** Steel, Svacha, Shaffer, Slamka, Quigley, Pelc, Lawless, McDowell, Ballee-Stone, Tobar, Rathburn, Dunten, Masters, Wilson, Iffland, Ellison

**Guests:** Gary Morrison, Camden Board; Chuck Sigler, Hillsdale Bus Supervisor; Debby Kerr, HCISD retired

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**CALL TO ORDER**

President Leininger called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes, Meeting on December 21, 2017, regular meeting
- B. Minutes, Board Workshop on January 11, 2018
- C. Report on Investments
- D. Bills Payable

White/Nye to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

***Carried***

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS**

There were no comments from guests.

**BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION**

Stacy Slamka and Liz Quigley, co-presidents of the professional staff union, thanked the board for giving their service, energy, time, and thoughtfulness. Liz stated that it is really making a difference for the HCISD. The professional staff has donated on the board's behalf to the local chapter of Special Olympics.

Connie Dunten, on behalf of the support staff, thanked the Board for their service and stated that a donation of \$25 was made to Special Olympics in the name of the Board.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Lisa Pelc presented a proclamation for the blind. A family requested a proclamation for White Cane Awareness Day. Gia Jackson and Ivy Snyder both wrote a letter to the National Federation of the Blind; it was declared locally by Mayor Scott Sessions that the City of Hillsdale would recognize October 15 each year as White Cane day.

Susanne Masters, Chelsea Iffland, Shawn Ellison, and Mindy Wilson presented on state level changes concerned with least restrictive environment (LRE) in special education. Susanne reviewed law and the progression of special education from 1975 (PL 94-142) through 2004. Special education is a service not a "place". The federal government audited the State of Michigan: It was found that Michigan was not following the spirit of the law. The HCISD provided professional development for training on LRE law and provisions for accommodations in the classroom. Family Matters is an electronic newsletter from the State that allows families to look at special education law and information in layman's terms. The HCISD is working to increase general education classroom time, to improve data for each student, field questions, coaching, and direct support accommodations. The Early Childhood Department is working from the beginning for LRE in their natural environment. At the preschool level, inclusion teachers go into the classrooms throughout the county to support a child that needs extra help.

**OTHER BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS**

**Item A**

Bus Purchase. Three bids were presented: Chuck Sigler recommended the bid from Capital City. The bids were gathered through MSBO’s collaborative bid service. Chuck provided a spreadsheet with the current status of the buses along with mileage.

White/Nye to approve the purchase of a new bus from Capital City \$108,989.

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

**Item B**

Out-of-state travel for Jonathan Tobar.

White/Nye to approve out-of-state travel for a conference in New Mexico for Jonathan Tobar as presented.

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

**Item C**

Out-of-state travel for Allison Mach.

Nye/White to approve out-of-state travel for a conference in Toledo, Ohio, for Allison Mach.

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

**Item D**

School Finance Resolution. Superintendent Steel provided a presentation at the December 2017 meeting. Oakland County ISD requested resolutions and/or financial support for a study. The Board will consider financial support after the general education budget has been reviewed at the end of the fiscal year.

Brandes/White to pass a resolution of support for Oakland County ISD’s study on the cost of educating a student and that financial support is reviewed at the end of the fiscal year. *Formal language on the attached resolution.*

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

**BUSINESS ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

- A. Facility Use Neola 7510, First Reading  
Director Shaffer requested a few months to consider further changes.
- B. Transitions Classroom Rental Agreement
- C. Career Center Fire Alarm System Upgrade  
Bids are being solicited at this time.
- D. Pupil Auditor (Future Hire/Conversation)  
This position may come before the Board. Director Shaffer stated that assistance is need in the business office.
- E. Lawn Mowing Bids
- F. Revocation of Charter Authorization for Hillsdale Preparatory School  
Hillsdale Preparatory is moving forward with their request to be chartered by GVSU.
- G. Review Neola Policy 1230 & 2220  
Work is currently being done to update the policies.
- H. Construction Trades House Roof Truss Pkg. Bids  
Bids are being solicited at this time.

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**BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT**

Director Shaffer presented general information in the board book.

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**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Steel reported on the following:

- The legislature is talking about school calendars, weapon carry in school, language for police officers that work in a school to maintain their weapons, and federal tax laws – there are six different bills that “intersect”.

- The supreme court ruled that the 3% that was withheld from 2010 to 2012 is unconstitutional and must be returned. A judge needs to release the judgment and that is still in process. The State reported they would release on Jan. 22. Until the judge releases it, it cannot be released to staff.
- As a follow up to the special education presentation, the general education teachers are not prepared for special education or other issues in their classrooms. Our general education teachers need support. A recommendation for a new job to support the local districts is likely to be presented soon, perhaps in the arena of an instructional coach. The HCISD has been released from the IDEA maintenance-of-effort funds; this funding could pay for a full-time position. Superintendent Steel will work with the union on what the position would look like and what the scale would be. Susanne Masters shared that a survey was sent to the LEAs. Nine responses have been received and are very favorable to add additional support in both the general and special education settings.
- BoardBook is an electronic avenue to share the agenda and content of the board book. We currently have a trial version and will be rolling it out soon.

### **GENERAL EDUCATION**

Director Tobar provided a report in the board book. Jonathan Tobar reported on the following: General Education is working on building capacity within the districts; they are starting to see the fruits from the literacy coaching model; the community baby shower is coming back in April or May; and each superintendent in the county has been asked about their individual professional development needs. A monthly newsletter will begin being provided; the information will come from many sources.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Director Masters provided a report in the board book. Susanne Masters reported that January 24 is the Community Conversations meeting. It will take place at Olivia's from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. The focus is on adults with autism.

### **HILLSDALE AREA CAREER CENTER**

Jonathan Tobar provided a report in the board book. Brooke Ballee-Stone stated that Tim Walburg is visiting as he is interested in the Cyber Security Program. Brooke is also hoping that Mike Shirkey will visit as well. The HACC is sending seven students to the HOSA competition. Jonathan Tobar reported that the Hillsdale County Early Middle College had a meeting where principals, superintendents, and counselors were able to talk openly about the program thus far. All LEAs were represented at the meeting. The group is currently working on the selection and credentialing process of students.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

A countywide school board meeting is scheduled for February 8 at 6:00 PM. A light dinner will be provided at 5:30 pm.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS FROM GUESTS**

Julie Lawless thanked the Board for their service and imitated a round of applause.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Brandes/Nye to adjourn at 7:45 PM

Ayes: All

Nays: None

***Carried***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Svacha