

**HAZEN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 7TH, 2010
HAZEN UNION SCHOOL LIBRARY**

APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Suellen Bottiggi, Finn Galloway-Kane, Edwin Karp, Jim Lovinsky, Monty Shatney and Hannah Schwartz

Administration: Principal Elaine Laine, Associate Principal Tom Pound, Superintendent Mark Andrews, Bill Kimball, OSSU Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment

Scribe: Joannie Stinson

Guests: Faculty Matt Dickstein, Mary Morrison, Sue Trecartin, Cindy Donlon, Nicole Foster; Consultant Bill Romond; and community member, Charles Burbank.

1. **Meeting called to order** by Chairperson Jim Lovinsky at 5:31 PM.
2. **Welcome to community member:** Chairperson Lovinsky welcomed Charles Burbank from Calais. Mr. Burbank thanked the Board for its decision to allow students from District schools that do not offer sports to participate in sports activities offered at Hazen; Mr. Burbank's son has played baseball on the Hazen team for the past three years as the school he attended did not have a team.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Monty Shatney, seconded by Suellen Bottiggi; motion passed unanimously.
 - Accounts Payable \$ 318,186.63
 - Payroll \$ 294,908.80
 - Minutes December 3rd, 2009
4. **Superintendent Policy Monitoring.**
 - **Ends Monitoring:** Proficiency in World Languages and English/Language Arts, Mary Morrison and Matt Dickstein, Department Team Leaders, and Sue Trecartin, English Teacher. Presentation led by Mary Morrison, beginning with a film clip from a Spanish telenovela about a ski accident. All data indicators show positive trends. Scores on CLEP tests and SAT's indicate high performance in language. Presentation led by Matt Dickstein reviewing the Ends Monitoring Report. Focus on reading and writing accomplishments as indicated in NECAP, OSSU District Reading Assessments and classroom grades. Conclusion: a significant number of Hazen students are not proficient in reading and writing according to these assessment tools. Discussion: Consider looking at longer periods of time. Why 11th and 12th grade writing prompts are not taken by Hazen students who attend voc/tech programs elsewhere? What are "assessment conditions" for prompts? Superintendent Andrews will be working with GMTCC staff in the near future to address academic (including reading and writing) needs of those students attending that campus. What is the difference between NECAP performance and in-building prompts? What steps have been taken to improve reading and writing performance? The result is that teachers are talking to each other, between grades and between departments; there is a standing agreement between non-English content teachers and the English Department to collaborate on the students' work in all areas of instruction. Description given of the process of learning how to write about a piece of text: five step process. This collaboration between departments has opened many doors; there is a benefit of time when professionals can get together over students' work: the mastery of the content and the passion the staff bring to the task is very evident, per Superintendent Andrews.
 - EL 11: Focus of Grants and Contracts, **Presentation, Bill Romond, Vision 2020 Consultant** Principal Laine introduced Bill Romond, including a description of the process around developing and collating the Vision 2020 results.

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Presentation given by Mr. Romond, utilizing PowerPoint. Information from faculty, students and the community were collated in four areas: time, space, academics, and culture. One conclusion: in the current system, “time is the constant and learning is the variable; whereas the opposite should be true”. Discussion: How to get community more involved? Go where they go; feed them; use other community events to connect with people disenfranchised with school.

Comments: students really got into the process, envisioning the future; students came up with some very good ideas; need to get all stakeholders involved; students want more opportunities. Finn Galloway-Kane correlated the most common responses from students (handout).

Suggestion: questions were quite broad; responses may have been more realistic if the questions were more specific or narrow versus the global presentation given. There were many consistencies with faculty ideas. Suggestion that parents/community might get more involved if offered opportunity to visit classroom during school. Discussion followed of grant opportunities to fund implementation of Vision ideas. Question about cultural exchange opportunities. How does the Board revise their Ends Statements to cover those means?

Principal Laine reviewed a compilation of suggestions/survey results. Some ideas will be implemented on a trial basis so students can see that they are being listened to.

Handout: Student Survey Results for review by the Board for discussion at February meeting.

- EL 8: Communication and Support of the Board, Hazen Recognition, Elaine Laine, Principal
Bronze Medal: US News and World Report has analyzed the 2007-2008 school data from 18,743 high schools nationwide. Hazen Union has been determined to be one of the best high schools in the United States for the third year in a row! This year, Hazen was awarded a Bronze Medal by US News and World Report! Data from 18,743 schools was analyzed and Hazen was found to be in the top 1750 schools that outperformed state standards, within the top 9% of the schools in the NATION! Out of 63 high schools in Vermont, Hazen was one of 8 high schools to share in this honor of Best High Schools in the United States. Of the 48 contiguous states, Vermont ranked 7th in the nation as having the highest percentage of high schools being ranked as America’s Best. Vermont had 12.7% of its schools receiving a bronze or silver medal. Among those joining Hazen are Danville, Montpelier, Mt. Mansfield Union, North Country Union, Peoples Academy, Stowe High School, and U-32.
- EL 6: Financial Conditions and Activities, FY 10 2nd ¼ Report.
Superintendent Andrews reviewed the report: Instruction – four students identified as needing special assistance outside of the schoolhouse; Special Education – one child has been placed outside of District; Adult Diploma Program – is fully reimbursed by the state; unsure about carry-forward on Office of Principal (\$ 7,000 less than last year); “maintenance of the plant” – same as last quarter; “care and custody” – should be 100% reimbursed by the state, but there is talk in Montpelier about reducing that reimbursement to 60:40. Last quarter a higher number of tuition students was tabulated incorrectly. Number of tuition students is fractioned because each student is weighted according to eligibility.

5. Board Policy Monitoring

- GP 1: Global Governance Process

Discussion led by Chairperson Lovinsky re: researching what-if and result on budget (over a 3year period). “Cost Reduction” being discussed in Montpelier is really “Cost Shifting” to local taxpayers. Ultimately this will become a triage situation. It’s been fortunate to be able to level budget. The Board is going to have to be proactive. Local schools will be faced with increases in their portion of local responsibility. Hard times are being felt by many in the community. The bottom line will be the focus by the community. Legislative Breakfasts are a good place to get

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voices heard. "Current Use" may be on the cut list, for example. Looking at it now, the Board can make an educated decision when the time comes.

1. Level funding means cuts; 2. Could look at tax rate, but that's not feasible; 3. Look at population projections for the next three years; 4. Look at students to adult ratio.

Can the Superintendent project some budgets out so the Board can begin to get a handle on what needs to be done? Look at line items that are static. Already know of an increase of special needs students coming into 7th grade next year; may possibly need to hire a full time Special Education teacher. It is important now to look at different opportunities, alternatives to the traditional classroom teaching. The Board needs to look "outside the box" to find answers to decrease costs. "Using local resources as alternatives to achieve the same ends" may be one possibility. What can we do as a school community to generate income, other than tuition? Could we look at one unified union of schools instead of six different schools? Look at transportation efficiencies? Need to have a unified voice, to legislature, with the community.

- GP 5: Role of the Chairperson. (Handout) *Consensus to table until next meeting.*
- GP 6: Agenda Planning. *Consensus to table until next meeting.*

6. Set Tuition Rate: \$ 13,185 is the maximum allowable amount.

Adding ~4% to the current rate equals \$ 13,185 (\$ 12,700 is the current rate).

Monty Shatney made a motion to accept the tuition rate of \$ 13,185, seconded by Suellen Bottiggi. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

Allowable Excess Spending Cost for a special education student is \$ 4,179; this is charged to the sending school. Motion made by Monty Shatney to accept the Allowable Excess Spending Cost of \$ 4,179, seconded by Suellen Bottiggi. Motion passed unanimously.

- 7. Debrief Meeting:** Good meeting, the English/Language Arts and World Languages presentation was very informative; presentation by Bill Romond was good. The fact that the Board is discussing future budget/financial concerns is timely; glad that the Board is considering alternatives to simply bottom-line cutting. The work that Mr. Romond and Principal Laine have done with envisioning and brainstorming 2020 is timely considering tonight's discussion about future alternatives in programming and financing. It was a good meeting, but attendance remains an issue, tonight being an example that one less person would not have constituted a quorum. Yes, attendance is an issue and would have been on the agenda if two members had not called in advance to say they couldn't make the meeting – "Attendance" will be on the agenda at the next meeting. Finn's role, as student representative, warrants consideration; it is important not to put him on the spot and remember that he is one student; perhaps other students could be encouraged to attend Board meetings, as part of the Departmental Ends presentations. The Board needs to revisit their Ends statements, particularly with the results of the Vision 2020 outcomes and the Student Survey Results, as well as potential future financial restraints.
- 8. Executive session:** Motion by to go into Executive Session at 8:55 PM by Monty Shatney, seconded by Suellen Bottiggi, consensus. Out of Executive Session at 9:09 p.m.
- 9.** Motion to Adjourn by Monty Shatney, Second by Suellen Bottiggi at 9:11 pm, consensus.

NEXT MEETING: February 16th, 2010, OSSU Carousel Meeting at Hazen Union School

Respectfully submitted,
Joannie Stinson, Scribe