

SPECIAL MEETING
HURON BOARD OF EDUCATION – HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
JULY 18, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: John Halbkat, President; and members: Nichole Yost, Tim VanBerkum, Steve Fryberger, and Michele Bennett. Student member: Arthur Hines. Superintendent Terry Nebelsick, and Kelly Christopherson, Business Manager. Rodney Freeman, School Attorney, was also present.

Motion by Bennett, second by Yost, and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Education.

Bennett started the meeting by stating three questions. 1. What is the role of the Board and their responsibilities, especially in regard to hiring? 2. What is the definition of open meetings and how do emails fit in? 3. How should a Board member handle issues raised by a patron and should a Board member follow the same procedure as other patrons?

Freeman stated email that is informational is acceptable and is not a violation of the open meetings laws. Email that is a discussion of policy or other issues would be a violation of open meeting laws.

Freeman said complaints from patrons directly to a Board member should be forwarded to the Superintendent or other appropriate Administrator so that policy can be explained and followed. School Board members with complaints should follow the same process as other patrons.

The bullying policy and proposed changes were discussed. All incidents will be logged in all buildings.

Freeman stated the School Board has the general charge to run the school, including the hiring of employees. He said most Boards hire the Superintendent and the Superintendent oversees the hiring of all other employees.

Bennett stated she wants more information regarding hiring recommendations because the Board is responsible for approving the contracts. Bennett wants to know how many applicants there are, how many people were interviewed, of those interviewed what is their level of education and experience, is the person selected for the position certified, and why is the Superintendent recommending the person selected. Bennett stated she is not comfortable accepting the Superintendent's recommendation without legitimate justification. Bennett wants this information for all positions in the District.

Fryberger stated he wants more information on certified staff members only.

VanBerkum stated he is comfortable with the current procedures and information being provided.

Halbkat stated he is starting his 10th year on the Board and also feels the current procedures are adequate and information being provided is sufficient.

Freeman said the model followed in Huron is used across the state and nation by schools and businesses; however the Board can make its own policy to follow.

Freeman advised that, in his opinion, it is a mistake to not invite the Superintendent into all executive sessions unless the Board is discussing the Superintendent. The Board was also reminded that votes cannot be taken in executive session.

Motion by Yost, second by Bennett, and unanimously approved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

John Halbkat, President

Kelly Christopherson, Business Manager