

PROPOSED

10-042 Minutes of the Special Meeting - Community Forum of the Gibraltar Board of Education held on February 3, 2010 at the Carlson High School Auditorium.

Meeting

10-043 The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Elton Laura, Board President

Roll Call

10-044 Roll Call showed members in attendance were Camilleri, Crapko, Cox-Szakaly, Dean, Kozmor, Hesson and Laura. Superintendent Burger was also present.

Approval of Agenda

10-045 Moved by Crapko, supported by Kozmor that the agenda be approved as presented.

Ayes: Camilleri, Crapko, Cox-Szakaly, Dean, Kozmor, Hesson and Laura.

Nays:

Motion Carried: 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

Community Forum Considerations

Budget

10-046 Mr. Laura, Board President opened the meeting indicating that audience members could approach the podium, state their name and have 5 minutes of conversation regarding the budget considerations that were posted on the screens. Also, new suggestions can be heard. The following audience members came to the podium and had some conversation with the board. Their suggestions are listed below.

Greg Lusk

The school district should partner up with the cities for maintenance services such as snow removal and lawn maintenance. The school district should purchase salt from the cities and buy in bulk. Mr. Lusk also stated that Central Office could close and move into one of the other buildings in the district.

Kim Blaksley

All athletic bussing should be eliminated, this would create more parent involvement.

Margaret

If the district closes Weiss school, where would all the students be placed?

Glen Zuks

Mandatory direct deposit, or being paid monthly would be a savings to the district.

Ann Marie Quinn, Gibraltar employee

Is the district considering teacher buy-outs?

Cheri Fraser, Gibraltar Bus Driver

Bussing at athletic events is important due to the fact that many parents work late and can not pick up or drive their children to events, not to mention the camaraderie of the students.

Jami Antosiewicz, Shumate Middle School Counselor

Is there a short list of possible budget cuts?

Debbie

Praised the tutoring program in the district and is happy to see that it is not on the list of possible cuts. What about a work program for detention students to help clean the buildings?

Sherrie Donaldson, Carlson Teacher

The board needs to be proactive and not leave children behind academically in this ever changing world.

Cindy Brown, Gibraltar Bus Driver

Going back to 1/2 day kindergarten would save the district a lot of money. Also latchkey could be moved to one building. Do we really need young 5's?

Cheri Fraser, Gibraltar Bus Driver

Cutting lunch moms and using volunteers is ridiculous. Volunteers will not show up. Young 5's should be cut to 1/2 day to save money.

Mary Ellen Crapko, Gibraltar School District Kindergarten Teacher

To clear up the mis-information regarding all day kindergarten; first of all, students have a 20-30 minute brain rest, not nap. This time is spent being read to or listening to music. The young 5's and kindergarten programs that we currently have make for successful students. 80% if the nations schools have all day kindergarten. We need to stay competitive and look at this as a business and be able to attract new customers.

**Kathy Melody, RESA Math
Consultant**

Works at RESA, as a math consultant. Kindergarten is no longer just coloring pictures and playing. These students have standard and benchmarks that must be met. These students have content expectations that they must also meet.

**Sherri Donaldson, Carlson High
School Teacher**

The \$450,000 savings from going back to 1/2 day kindergarten would cover many salaries in the district.

**Brenda Greear, Gibraltar School
District Athletic Secretary**

Would the board please consider consulting with the athletic department before implementing any cuts such as eliminating 9th grade sports. There are many other factors to consider before making any decisions. Pay to Participate is a good idea and is used in many other school districts with a family cap. Gate receipts are low. Booster clubs could help out with some of the costs involved with the sports teams.

Crystal Gardner

The district could close Gibraltar Early Childhood Center and combine with another building. Also, job sharing would be a good idea.

Glen Zuks

Before and After school things help market our school district. Also young 5's is good for the Gibraltar image.

Jim Brown

Examine benefits and possibly pool with other school districts or county.

Charlie Frias

Local businesses may be interested in renting our electronic signs to advertise for their business. Have the benefits of the board been looked at for reduction?

**Bob Esordi, Gibraltar School
District Maintenance Worker**

One position has already been eliminated in the maintenance department. The city of Gibraltar workers already make more hourly than the Gibraltar Maintenance Department. The maintenance department has cut out overtime. City workers would not be able to plow snow at 4 in the morning or chalk the fields before a game.

Sue Palazzolo, Chapman parent

Privatizing are the 3 biggest ticket items on the list of budget considerations. Why aren't these being looked at more seriously? They will not impact academics at all. Where is the Board with this?

**Brook Spano, Carlson High
School Secretary, Union
President**

All other areas should be looked at before even considering privatizing.

**Melanie Palmatier, Gibraltar
Transportation Dispatcher**

Does the district remember the time that the students were taken to the DIA field trip because of a grant? These students were bussed by a private bus company and Gibraltar had to go to the expressway and get the kids. The Gibraltar Bus drivers are parents in the district.

**Katondra Danley Gibraltar bus
driver**

The transportation department could receive jackets ever other year. All uniforms purchases could be suspended. Little things all add up. We could have family swim nights, rent out our cafeteria space for things like wedding, baby showers and etc.

The following comments were made by board members:

Elton Laura

We will investigate the additional suggestions that were made tonight. Also, thanked the audience for coming out for the community forum. He was pleased with the amount of audience participation.

James Crapko

Gibraltar needs to stay competitive with other school districts that have full day kindergarten. Would like Tracy Richardson and Mike Quinn create the pro's and con's of the list of budget considerations from the athletic department. All groups need to get together and provide input on their ideas.

Marsha Kozmor

How much savings would the district see if we eliminated all day kindergarten. All day kindergarten was not mandated by the State of Michigan. Gibraltar School District has already spent money to implement the all day kindergarten. Gibraltar already has Wednesday night family swims.

Linda Cox-Szakaly

Her main concern is for the academics of the Gibraltar students. A lot of thought and consideration went into the implementation of full day kindergarten. She is a person who moves forward, not backward and will not support going back to 1/2 day kindergarten. Ms. Cox-Szakaly urged the audience not to believe rumors. They need to place a call to the Superintendent and get a real answer.

Tim Dean

The board does not want to make these cuts, but they are being forced to make some difficult decisions by the State of Michigan.

Jennifer Hesson

Gibraltar could look into the legalities of using city services for maintenance of lawns and snow removal. Also suggested that Gibraltar check into the cost savings of having once a month payrolls instead of bi-weekly. The mobility report shows that several (33) students left Gibraltar to go to Summit Academy and St. Mary's because they had full day kindergarten. When Gibraltar implemented full day kindergarten, we got some of those students back. Could we consolidate 7 & 8 grade sports? In summary we need to cut \$600,000 from this year's budget and 2.2 from next years.

Ed Camilleri

Gibraltar is spending more money than it is taking in. We are burning through our fund equity.

Superintendent Burger

The City of Gibraltar currently buys their salt from the Gibraltar School District. Weiss can not be closed due to the fact that the other buildings cannot absorb the students. Mandatory direct deposit can only be implemented by law to new employees. Buy outs need to be negotiated with the unions, however it has been initiated by the Superintendent's office. Full day kindergarten has not been mandated by the State at this time. But who knows what the future will bring. There will be a meeting of Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors to discuss budget considerations of sports. Gibraltar Early Childhood is on the list as closing the building, not eliminating the program. Bruce will be attending a county wide meeting at RESA regarding request for proposals for privatizing for the 2010/2011 school year. Legislative new laws require that recent employees can bid on their jobs when privatizing. Therefore we would be able to use the current employees. Gibraltar does rent out facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

10-047 Moved by Crapko, Supported by Hesson that the special meeting - community forum of the Gibraltar Board of Education be adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Ayes: Camilleri, Crapko, Cox-Szakaly, Dean, Kozmor, Hesson and Laura

Nays:

Motion Carried: 7-0