

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ARENAC EASTERN BOARD OF EDUCATION
ARENAC COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN**

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Arenac Eastern School District, Arenac County, State of Michigan, was held in the Arenac Eastern School District MS/HS Library on Monday, February 8, 2010.

Tom Brandimore called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Dick Klender, Sue Wilson, Tim Nelson, Tom Brandimore, Kathleen Clark, Jerry Hollenbeck, Marjorie Lockwood

Members Absent: NONE

3. Pledge and Mission Statement

The pledge of allegiance and mission statement were recited.

4. Positive Highlights

Laurel Baird , 4th Grade Teacher along with 5th Grader Reese King and 4th Grader Art Papke III. Mrs. Baird shared with the board the importance of the Tri”math”alon. Increasing the students knowledge of the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division is very important as they continue their education. Both Reese and Art have earned their medals for passing all of the math facts. Art Papke shared a letter with the board about his experience and learning the facts.

5. Consent Agenda

- 5.1. Minutes
- 5.2. Bills

Marjorie Lockwood moved to accept the consent agenda with a switch of items 9.1 & 9.2. Kathy Clark supported. All in favor. Motion unanimously carried.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Administrative Reports

7.1. Bill Grusecki, Superintendent

Legislative: Some highlights from MASB. The school aid fund is projecting a \$425 million dollar shortfall for 2010-11. This cut would necessitate a \$268 per pupil decrease. This along with our projected loss of 15 students is a big hit. According to this article, schools and the state need a structural fix.

A common theme expressed was the need to address health care and retirement costs for school districts as the costs of these programs will rise faster than the long term revenue growth that schools will receive from the state. Economists seem to favor changes in the tax structure that would include services in the sales tax and support moving Michigan to a graduated income tax. These two changes will supposedly stabilize our tax base and shift our tax system to where the growth is.

MASB and MASA will jointly host the Legislative conference on Wednesday, March 10. Both organizations encourage superintendents and board members to attend this conference due to the high importance of the economy and taxes. If anyone wishes to attend, please let me know for information.

School boards provide the link between schools, parents and the community. School boards need to model teamwork and collaboration, especially in these uncertain times.

MOU's – There were more than 700 districts that submitted MOU's to the state's RTTT application. State application was due on Jan. 19, with no further information at this time.

The state Republicans have drawn their line in the sand with regard to their ideas on cuts to the budget. Some are sweeping and will have a dramatic effect on how all state employees and school personnel will be compensated and what their benefits will be. We now have to wait for the Republican side.

New retirement information is out there also that will affect those who are able to retire and their dental and vision benefits. This is just information as of now, but like everything else, changes will occur.

8. Old Business

8.1 Consolidation of Services

Dick Klender moved to bring item 8.1. off table for discussion. Tim Nelson supported.

Mr. Grusecki updated the board on the Governor's Reform Package which will be Proposal 11.

8.2. Cheerleading

Mr. Grusecki referred to the December 2009 meeting of the parents lack of concern of the numbers of cheerleaders. MHSAA recognizes cheerleading as a competitive sport and only requires 4 cheerleaders. Side line cheering is not competitive. However, to stay in line with MHSAA regulations Mr. Grusecki recommends changing the minimum number to 4 from 6.

Dick Klender moved to change the minimum number of cheerleaders to 4, instead of 6. Marjorie Lockwood supported. All in favor. Motion carries.

9. New Business

9.1. 2009-10 Budget Update

Dick Klender, Jerry Hollenbeck, and Kathy Clark of the Finance Committee along with Mr. Grusecki and the bookkeepers met. The conclusion of that meetings was that the district is not prepared to amend the budget at this time.

Mr. Hollenbeck, chairman of the committee discussed changes being made in the appearance of the budget print out. This change is in hopes of simplifying the line items and their balances.

9.2. Driver's Training

Mr. Grusecki informed the board that KARS of West Branch has been using classroom space to teach driver's education. There is a number of benefiting factors to consider utilizing King of the Road Driving School for the students here at A.E. The rates are less expensive, company is based in Arenac County, \$25.00/student for Segment I will be paid to A.E., scholarships are awarded to

students. During driving time, instructors will pickup/drop off students at their homes. Each student receives a King of the Road t-shirt.

Karla Jurek of King of the Road was present for any questions. She also informed the board that there are 6 instructors. 3 vehicles for students which are a Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger, and a Grand Prix.

Jerry Hollenbeck moved to approve rental of classroom space to King of the Road for \$25.00/student subject to insurance policy be provided. Marjorie Lockwood supported. All in favor. Motion carries.

9.3. Executive Session - Negotiations

Dick Klender moved to go into executive session and informed the public that upon entering back into regular session only to adjourn. Marjorie Lockwood supported.

Recess at 6:45 p.m.

Closed session at 6:50 p.m.

Reconvened at 7:28 p.m.

10. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is Monday, March 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Library.

11. Adjournment

Marjorie Lockwood moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:29p.m. Dick Klender supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Nelson
Secretary, Board of Education