

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SD #4

The trustees met in regular session Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Those present throughout the meeting were Chair Rhonda Hogstad, trustee Manny Zuniga, Mark Berg, Charlene Sieverson, Billie Bergstrom, Superintendent Brent Lindgren, and Business Manager Jeanne Carroll. There were four visitors (list attached).

The chair called the meeting to order and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

### AGENDA ADJ

*Manny Zuniga made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Charlene Sieverson seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.*

### CONSENT AGENDA

There was no correspondence.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Lipp reviewed his administrative report with the trustees.

### ADMIN REPORT

- Brent congratulated Suzie on 32 years as Business Manager/Clerk. He said thank you for doing so much for this district. She has made so many contributions. He said there are some cookies to enjoy afterwards to celebrate. Also, to celebrate tomorrow, there will be cake with the students for Suzie at lunchtime. The district had gotten her flowers on Monday. January 31<sup>st</sup>, will be the staff and board for her retirement party at the Rib and Chop House from 4-6 p.m.. Suzie said it has been a pleasure and there have been so many wonderful things about working here, and having her own kids come here. She's enjoyed all of the wonderful people here. She's worked with 30 or 40 trustees, a couple of hundred staff members and students. Suzie said it has truly been a labor of love. She is very grateful. Brent said Suzie's last day is Friday officially. He also welcomed Jeanne and he feels it's been a very seamless transition. He said we are also saying goodbye to Charlene and the Board thanked her as well for her time spent. He said it is hard to say goodbye to people who have done such great things. Brent said it says a lot for Canyon Creek to get such quality people.
- Jim Staab is coming in tomorrow. They have completed all assessments. It's taken seven years to do so.
- The level of musicianship in this district is very high. It's an eight year process. He said this is the best concert as far as quality of music. Kudos to the music teacher. The kids also went to St. Johns and shared music with them.
- The Smarter Balanced testing handout in the packet is regarding pilot testing schools. He explained these are western US states that came up with data. This is a recommendation of data where students should fall in math and achievement levels. In the past, Canyon Creek has been 88% and higher, and he predicts we will not make 60% this spring. He doesn't think it's a fair thing to say why aren't we there now. CRT's were based off of different criteria. Testing is done on different grades and there will be achievement gaps. Teachers have worked extremely hard at this, but this test is coming about two years ahead of when it should be. He feels K-2 students should be the ones tested. He plans to put information out in newsletters, etc, on this, so it's known this is not a fair evaluation. Third grade testing will be typed and that alone will affect scores.
- Superintendent Evaluation forms are going out tonight to Board. Brent asked them to be honest with him and let him know good things as well. Constructive criticism is welcomed also. The deadline to have them back to Jeanne in a sealed envelope is on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January.

- Congratulations to students on their placement in the YBR tourney and on sportsmanship. The season is going really well. Coaches are doing really well.
- The team made changes to homework expectations. He said they have seen some really good results from that process and have had to make some changes, which is to be expected. He included team, teachers, and students in this process. He said he has adjusted that students get partial grades for homework completed. This is another avenue for students to have free time to complete homework. The real reason is to find out what you really know. Staff is seeing more positive than negative. Brent said the majority of students are not after school. Grades are actually getting better. He said if they continue to refine it as a team, students will continue to embrace it. Coupons are being used responsibly. Kids call it detention, we call it after school. It's an expectation we have to have. Manny has a question regarding after school change, his daughter is in middle school, and in talking with her on the letter parents received, he asked to make sure teachers aren't referring to it as a detention. He says the handbook reflects differently and feels the responsibility is the Board's. His daughter felt it was not fair that students weren't receiving any grade. He is confused on that grading. Brent said it was a miscommunication. The grade would be a zero because it was late. He said that's the problem because the team then felt that was not fair. Brent says he felt they were not talking about same thing. Manny says the handbook says the kids have 10 days. Brent said several students responses talk about that. He said as of Monday, that's been changed, they get partial credit for work done late. Brent said the handbook talks about students who are absent. Manny says it is about not turning in work also. He'd like to have it continue being reported on. Brent says he will definitely check in the handbook to make sure he didn't miss anything. He said this came about because students were not turning in anything. Billie said she assumed also that students would get partial credit, but she said this is a work in progress, let's see how it goes. She feels it's great the change is made to change it to partial credit. Brent said this is being done as a team. Manny asked if this should've been brain-stormed or had ducks in row before it was implemented. Rhonda said they were told ahead of time (the students, and they had input into it as well. Brent talked to the students before the Board even knew about it) She said why not try to work the quirks out as they are trying it. They tried to get possible problems worked out. Brent needed the teachers on board as a collaborative effort. Was it perfect no, but it was better than what we were getting. Mark said as professional educator, that is one of most frustrating things and he is all for it. It was reiterated that as of Monday, partial credit was given. Brent said they all have to realize that they hired him as a manager of the district. He has worked with parents and fixed it if it's a scheduling issue. What's best for kids is what is being looked at and Brent agreed with it. Changes were made. Billie said it's data and getting the process in check to make it work. Brent said all students have increased some of their grades. Standards are still there, grades are better and that's what we are about He also called other schools. Everybody has a similar system. Brent says if it stops working, we'll change it. He said it will have to evolve with students. He said he is more than happy to spend more time with Manny if he wants. Charlene asked about the guidelines on it. Brent said they get 50% of whatever grade they get. He said it's like going to work and not doing anything and still getting paid the same. Charlene and Rhonda said it is a good change to give partial credit; good decision. Brent said to some kids this is seen as a relief.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Billie said this will be done after the holidays.  
(Charlene, Billie)

Manny said same. No meeting.  
(Manny, Billie)

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

## **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Brent suggests the District join MQEC. Charlene made motion to move forward. Billie seconded the motion. Mark said this is \$500 annually. Brent said this is an annual decision. And they are an advocate for schools in a positive manner. Brent said he feels a responsibility to put it out for consideration. Mark asked about reporting. Suzie said they send out a flyer and we will probably be on a mailing list. Suzie explained this was originally done to fight the lawsuit on legislative funding. It will be talked about again this legislative year. Brent explained how groups such as MASBO, MASS, MSBA, and MEA have come to work together and that has been a positive light. Rhonda said it is unfortunate to have to look at our budget, and she's worries about that as a small school. This was a concern for others as well. Charlene said it's a small investment to try for a year with a big return. Mark said they are advocates regardless of whether they have our money or not. The Board was polled: Charlene, Billie and Manny voted in favor. Mark and Rhonda opposed. Motion passed 3 to 2 in favor. This is to be looked at annually.

**MQEC**

Mark made a motion to approve the Tetra Tech proposal for \$11,300. Charlene seconded the motion to approve as presented. Brent said they may be able to use the current pump in the well, so there may be some significant savings in the cost. Work is scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> of December. Everything is running as planned. Suzie thought it was about \$1400 difference in cost if we could use the same pump. All in favor.

**TETRA TECH**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Charlene made a motion to appoint Jeanne Carroll as Clerk of the District. Mark seconded the motion. All in favor. Jeanne was sworn in as Clerk of the District.

**APPOINT CLERK OF THE DISTRICT**

Charlene is resigning as Trustee due to moving out of district. Mark made a motion to accept her letter of resignation. Rhonda seconded the motion. Mark thanked Charlene for all her hours of service. All agree. Manny thanked her for being on the Board and being part of the community; he valued her as a true friend, and is honored to serve on this Board with her. All in favor of the motion..

**TRUSTEE RESIGNATION**

Manny wanted to thank Suzie. He said he has been on the board since 2008. He thanked her for her dedication and hard work and what goes on behind the scenes. He said her knowledge is awesome. He appreciates hearing other schools praise her and how lucky we are to have had her. Suzie said it's been a pleasure.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sissel Goldberg would like to talk about the length of lunch time and homework. She feels students need more time to eat. She said they have 8 minutes or less to eat if they have to go through the hot lunch line. She gave several suggestions. She asked the Board to talk about it. Also, she stated homework is valuable. She has done some research. She said if they have a new expectation, clarify consequences. She feels there is a lot of fear from good kids about detention. Differences she found she talked about, but homework only made up 10% of grade. She suggested calling it learning lab not detention teaching in lab and attend to get help. She thanked all the Board for being willing to serve.

Chris Fears said she feels the same. She said page 13 talks about an incomplete grade and a student has 10 days to complete work. She agrees with Manny. She said her daughter is worrying about all her fellow students. She mentioned MBI. She feels it was not very positive in how it was presented to students or parents. Page 30 of the handbook talks about the right to perform in atmosphere free of intimidation. She said there was a lack of communication how was credit was communicated to all students. Lunches are less than 8 minutes to eat. They are able to be late to their next class, but she doesn't think that's fair to the next class. She also suggested reducing recess. She says there is not enough time to eat cold lunch.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Curriculum Committee Report  
Report on Lunches—Brent  
Update on After-school Homework  
Superintendent Evaluation Results  
Buildings and Grounds Committee Report  
Community Relations Committee Report

There being no further business, Manny Zuniga made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeanne Carroll, District Clerk

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Rhonda Hogstad, Chair