

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

The trustees met in regular session Monday, November 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Those present throughout the meeting were Chair Rhonda Hogstad, trustees Billie Bergstrom, Mark Berg, Manny Zuniga, Charlene Severson, Superintendent Brent Lipp, and Business Manager Suzie Zentz. There were three visitors (list attached).

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

Chair Rhonda Hogstad introduced newly hired Business Manager Jeanne Carroll to the trustees and audience members. The chair welcomed Mrs. Carroll to the district.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

AGENDA ADJ

Manny Zuniga made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Charlene Severson seconded the motion. Manny asked about check #35777 to Bradford Roofing. Suzie explained that it was to cover the last of the roof repairs we encumbered funds for. All voted in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no correspondence.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Lipp reviewed his administrative report with the trustees.

ADMN REPORT

- Brent commended Kim Dugan for her work setting up Red Ribbon week. Students had a great time dressing up for various themed days.
- Parent conferences went well.
- The Community Relations and Building/Grounds committees have met and begun preliminary work on their 5 year goals and the Strategic Plan. They set meeting dates for Community Relations (Nov. 19, 3:30 p.m.) and Curriculum (Nov. 21, 3:00 p.m.). The Building/Grounds committee will also try to schedule a meeting.
- Brent met with Pat Baltzley from OPI to discuss the Montana standards. She felt our district was doing very well with the curriculum we have already completed. She offered to send Brent more resources for teachers and to help with implementation.
- ACE is working on a revamp of the music and art standards. Kalli is addressing the standards for music—not much has been done in these fields. The national standards are really unclear. Brent plans to help guide this work.
- We had a good assembly with students to reward them for academic and citizenship performance. They played some games and handed out rewards. Thanks to Kim Dugan and Taisha Rocha for their work on this event.
- The staff Christmas party will be held on December 5th at 6:30 at the Rex. All trustees are invited!
- The Gazette and KULR8 provided some great coverage of a Farm Bureau agriculture presentation provided for our students.

- Brent provided information to trustees regarding the program we are initiating to encourage students to turn in their work. The Junior High team has worked on an expectation change to stimulate students to take responsibility for their own work. They will be given two “late homework” passes for the quarter. These passes may be used to get a one day extension for turning in work. If they don’t come through, then students must stay after school to complete their work. The pass system allows students to be more in charge of their own time.

Manny expressed concern about how parents are going to be notified and then how they would get students home. Brent stated that the process is that students call their parents during study time. He stressed that if there is a parent issue or problem, we will find a way to work it out. The staff felt it was necessary to make a change regarding this issue because when students simply have missing work, the overall grade is not an accurate interpretation of their actual knowledge. This protocol will emphasize the importance of positive academic practices. Mark said that he had been using this practice in his classroom. He hoped to find a way to reward the kids who are NOT using their passes. Brent added that we intend to reward those students.

Manny felt that there should have been communication to the board regarding this matter. Brent said it was explained to the students ahead of time to work out some of the kinks. When parents contact trustees about such things, encourage them to communicate with him. He emphasized that there is also a parent responsibility to accomplish these things...the homework needs to be done. Our students were told that a letter would be coming out and Brent felt that he could explain to the board better in person. This information will be on the website. Brent stated that this practice only applies to the Junior High at this point and is a management responsibility of the Superintendent—not a policy change.

- Brent provided some information regarding the MQEC (Montana Quality Education Coalition). This group was formed in 2001 to support adequate funding for schools. The group has done some good work over these last few years as lobbyists for school funding. He is asking the trustees to study their work and consider joining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Manny reported that the Building/Grounds committee (Manny, Mark) met with Brent, Suzie, and Earl to determine goals and priorities for the facility. The group made a list of various needs which they plan to prioritize at their next meeting.

Charlene reported that the Community Relations committee (Charlene, Billie) met with Brent and Suzie. Teachers Janet Weston and Lynette Brug also attended the meeting. The committee talked about having someone to do PR for the district and really focus on getting information out. Concern was

BUILDING/GROUNDS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

expressed about the perception of the school by the elderly and non-parents in the district. The committee would like to make an effort to do more outreach to the whole community for all school events. Consideration will be given to hosting two community dinners in the future. The suggestion was made to see about implementing the Foster Grandparent program. Additional discussion followed regarding implementation of a 3 times a year brief newsletter for the community—Fall, Winter, and Spring. The committee plans to meet again soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Brent reviewed his report on the water project. It is very frustrating to have to do this pump test and we are jumping through many hoops to get this work done in a timely manner. Our request for a deviation to use the irrigation well was denied, so the pump will have to be pulled and the process becomes much more complex. Our second deviation request to ask for a shorter wait time for shocking the well was approved. Tetra Tech is scheduling their staff to do this work over Christmas with the hope that we are approved to connect the two water systems over the next substantial school break.

WATER PROJECT

The updates to the website have improved it greatly thanks to Dani Egan, Terri Linger, and Suzie Zentz. We are still working to improve the way photos come through. Some of the website responsibilities are still being shared with Rimrock Computers, but we hope to gradually gain more independence. The Facebook page is also doing well. Dani is doing a great job. Please let us know if something doesn't seem right on that platform.

WEBSITE

NEW BUSINESS

Brent informed the trustees that MQEC has put out some information on the preschool education proposal. He asked the trustees to look at this information carefully and to consider the possibility of a ½ day program if the funding comes through. There are many unanswered questions at this time about licensure and working with outside providers. Many concerns need to be addressed about how the funding would work, who would be in control, and how to handle cooperation with other entities within the community.

PRESCHOOL LEGISLATION

Mark Berg made a motion to approve the proposal from Bradford Roofing to replace the gas pipe block supports on the 2003 roof for a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00; Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. Brent explained that the old supports were actually close to wearing holes in the roof. The new systems are on rollers and extra reinforcement will be added underneath to provide more protection. *All voted in favor of the motion.*

ROOF GASLINE SUPPORTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Appoint Jeanne Carroll as Clerk of the District
Distribute forms for the Superintendent's Evaluation
Committee reports
MQEC discussion

There being no further business, Manny Zuniga made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Zentz, Clerk

Rhonda Hogstad, Chair