

*****10-11 MINUTES*****

St. Regis School

March 9th, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairman Dunlap.

>>>Board Roll Call<<<

H = Here

A = Absent

P = Partial

P- John Cheesman

H- Shelly Dunlap

H- Jackie Sanford

H- Jolie Skelton

H- Carol Young

H- Patrick Low, Superintendent

H-Tammy Demien

H-Tina Hill, Clerk

>>>Visitors<<<

Visitors (according to Sign-in sheet): Diane Gingerich, Gerry Gotcher, John Kittridge

>>>Public Forum<<<

The chairman made the following statement, "Public Forum is an opportunity to discuss items that are not on the agenda. These items may not be voted on by the board, however. Also, a reminder that individual's right-to-privacy laws usually exceed the public's right-to-know, therefore prohibiting any discussions of individual performance during the public forum section, or any other time during the meeting."

- Diane Gingerich – Students are featured in the Newspaper in Education section of the Missoulian.
- Gerry Gotcher – Discussed the possible need for a change within the basketball program. Students could be lost if there is not a change.
- John Kittridge – student citation was dismissed.
- Patrick Low – music appreciation month. Fabulous event yesterday

>>>Communications<<<

The District is in receipt of the accreditation letter for all schools.

>>>Minutes<<<

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Young to approve the minutes of the February 9th meeting.

Motion carries 4-0

A motion was made by Trustee Young and seconded by Trustee Sanford to approve the notes from the hearing minutes of the February 18th meeting.

Motion carries 4-0

>>>Finance Committee<<<

The committee found the beginning and ending warrant numbers of both claims and payroll to be accurate.

>>>Activity Accounts<<<

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Young to approve activity accounts with an ending balance of **\$18590.49** including check number **5527 to 5539**. Check # 5537 was voided. Athletics is still in the negative. There were 9 outstanding checks.

Motion carries 5-0

>>>Payroll and Bills<<<

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve the Payroll Warrants from number **24555 to 24587** and direct deposit transactions from – **88916 to -88869** and Claim Warrants from number **34978 to 35037**. Payroll warrant numbers 24555-24557 were authorized to be added after the board meeting due to an employee paycheck not being printed as well as the corresponding liability checks. Claim Warrant # 35035 and 34956 were voided due to duplication.

Motion Carries 5-0

>>>Old Business<<<

1. Review All Contracts

The Board wants to maintain certain aspects of the individual contracts that MTSBA suggests to remove. The Board requested that MTSBA provide examples or templates of other contracts, and they would also like to review the teacher contract from Superior School District.

2. Payroll Assistance Options

Kern Wilson will create a connection for a couple of employees to access the Daily Timecard module to enter their timecards.

3. Negotiation Scheduling

Diane Gingerich and Julie Burklund will be the representatives from the SREA. The first meeting was set for March 17th at 5:30 in the Counselor's Room.

4. Policy Updates (3rd Reading)

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve Policy 5510F, 3310, 3415, 3415P, 5328P

Motion Carries 5-0

Form 5122F - AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION – will be on next month's agenda as well as Policy 5122. The Board would also like to review policy 3511.

5. Job Posting – Web Master

A position has been posted for 45 minute per week, paid at minimum wage.

6. Driver's Ed Vehicle

Superintendent offered numerous documents for consideration including the Top 10 safe vehicles for less than \$25,000.

The Board would like to see cost projections as well as suggestions on how to pay for the vehicle at the next meeting.

>>>New Business<<<

1. Substitute List addition – Eileen Wolff

A motion was made by Trustee Cheesman and seconded by Trustee Young to add Eileen Wolff to sub list pending receipt of background check.

Diane Gingerich supports due to observation

Motion Carries 5-0

2. Request for days from teacher sick leave pool

This portion of the meeting was turned over to Trustee Sanford.

The Board was in receipt of a request for up to 10 days of sick leave for medical purposes. The recommendation of the Superintendent was to approve the leave pending board discussion.

The Board feels that this topic will more than likely be a negotiation topic in order to clarify the intent of the sick leave pool.

Some of the Board members feel that the purpose of the sick leave pool is for emergencies and extended illnesses for consecutive absences.

Diane Gingerich clarified that the request was not a “blanket” 10 days, but “up to” 10 days, and the leave would only be transferred as needed.

A motion was made by Trustee Young to grant 5 days of sick leave from the sick leave pool with the understanding that the teacher could come back to the board as necessary.

Motion died due to a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton the grant two days to cover the prior Dr. appointments.

Motion died due to a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheesman to approve 4 days in the future. The motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made by Trustee Young Carol and seconded by Trustee Cheesman to approve 6 days from the sick leave pool for appointments that are scheduled or have

already occurred since our last meeting. The use of days for appointments will be verified by a Dr.'s note.

Trustee Cheesman stated that something "sound" needs to be set. Chairman Dunlap does not feel that the sick leave pool is for long term disability and extended illness. Trustee Skelton wants to create something that is fair to everybody that contributed to the sick leave pool.

Vote – in favor (2) Trustee Sanford, Trustee Young, opposed (2) Trustee Skelton, Trustee Cheesman. Chairman Dunlap abstained.

Motion dies.

The Board discussed the vagueness of the sick leave procedure.

Principal Demien stated that if appointments are with a specialist, they can't often be rescheduled for a more convenient time.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Cheesman to approve the 2 days that have already occurred, and the discussion can happen next month to approve days that occur within the month.

Motion 4-0 Chairman Dunlap abstained

3. Strategic Plan Approval

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve the Strategic Plan

Quite a few action steps are already underway. The Board would like to work on the timeline for action steps at the next meeting.

Motion Carries 5-0

4. Teacher lane advancement notifications

Staff was reminded via e-mail that requests to advance need to be submitted by the March Board meeting. One such request was received from Mrs. McLinden.

5. Principal Evaluation >>>Executive Session<<<

Superintendent Low completed the evaluation document.

Question was raised whether staff members were allowed to comment in the evaluation process. Staff could be encouraged to offer feed back.

Executive session began 7:49

Open session resumed 8:16

6. Hiring Principal

A motion was made by Trustee Cheesman and seconded by Trustee Young to hire Tammy Demien as principal for the 11/12 school year with salary to be determined after budgeting and negotiations.

Motion Carries 5-0

7. Athletic Code “Section A” language changes

Section A is conflicting with current policy. It will need to be revisited in April for next year. It is a handbook change. It is incomplete the way it is written to be in sync with policies.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Sanford to suspend the last two sentences in the first paragraph of section 3 A, retroactive to the beginning of the school year.

Motion Carries 5-0

Handbooks should be approved by July.

8. Student Handbook language change (electronic device use during lunch)

To allow electronic devices during lunch. As a staff, it was discussed that with closed campus it should be allowed. Updating the language to reflect what staff would like.

The current procedure is to confiscate and hold with security measures.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Cheesman to approve language changes for student handbook to allow electronic devices during lunch.

The items are confiscated, and parents have to come get the phone on the 2nd offense.

Motion Carries 5-0

9. Trustee Election Resolution

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Cheesman to call for a trustee election

Motion Carries 4-0 Trustee Young absent for vote.

10. General Fund Levy Resolution

The Board is waiting for definitive funding information from legislature.

According to Superintendent Low, without a levy at all we would have 40K less available. Even with the levy at this time the figures show only a 1,500 to 2,000 increase. In order to show good faith estimate, the board feels they need to run the levy.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Sanford to make plans to hold a general fund levy - date to be determined.

Motion Carries 5-0

11. Policy 3350 and 3350F – Suspension of policy for remainder of 2010/2011 school year

The Board, MTSBA and Administration have deemed this policy unnecessary as it has never been followed/used. This policy speaks to mandatory drug testing of athletes, which our district has never done and does not intend to do in the near future.

A motion was made by Trustee Young and seconded by Trustee Sanford to suspend 3350 and 3350F retroactive for the school year 2010/11

Motion Carries 5-0

12. Special Education Summer School Proposal

Co-Op ARRA monies will cover the program for 3 weeks June for 3 days each week targeting elementary students.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Cheesman to approve special education summer school proposal using ARRA funds through the Co-Op

Motion Carries 5-0

13. Gear Up scholarships to post secondary education

Approximately 6 Seniors have earned \$1500 scholarship through Gear Up. Superintendent Low shared a special thank you to Darlene Jasper, Jess Tuchscherer, and Dave Jensen for their work with students and the application process.

A motion was made by Trustee Young and seconded by Trustee Sanford to accept the Gear Up Scholarships to post secondary education.

Trustee Skelton stated that it is impressive we have so many that are awarded scholarships.

Motion Carries 5-0

14. Gear Up Summer Program

This program was proposed by Principal Demien, and would be for grades 7-12 for intervention and remediation. Holding kids accountable by having them attend classes in the summer is very effective. The program will be for 32 hours in June. There are two teachers that have expressed interest. A number of kids would qualify for this program. We will not know the results of the application until March 25th.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Young to approve the Gear Up Summer Program pending adequate funding.

Motion Carries 5-0

15. Recommendation for Hiring Pending Approval of Grant for Gear Up Summer Program - Teresa Wilson & Amber Faulkner

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Cheesman to hire Teresa Wilson and Amber Faulkner, pending approval of the grant, to run the Gear Up summer program.

Motion Carries 5-0

16. Relay for Life

Superintendent would like Board approval for participation in supporting a team for Relay for Life, per staff member interest.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Young to approve sponsoring of Relay for Life team at the cost of approximately \$100.

Motion Carries 5-0

17. MTSBA webinar trainings

The webinar training is available from time to time as a member of MTSBA. Chairman Dunlap believes they are free; a time just needs to be coordinated among the members. time.

18. Medical Marijuana Policy Update

In communications from MTSBA we have been informed that they construe medical marijuana to be contraband when carried by students on a school campus. The Board advised that we check the updated policies that are available on MTSBA's website. This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

19. Student Notification of Policy 3231 – Search and Seizures

Earlier this school year, we checked with MTSBA about the appropriateness of checking vehicles parked on school property for contraband/drugs. We were informed this was within our rights of daily operation. Property lines have been determined, and drug dogs can be ran through the parking lot.

Students, staff and parents need to be informed prior to implementing any such procedures.

If a dog "hits" on a vehicle then law enforcement can search anything and everything in view.

Policy 3231 will be placed on next month's agenda. Clarification from MTSBA regarding cell phone searches will be sought. Our current procedure is that we don't search, but policy states that we can. An audience member stated that the District claims that we do not search cell phones, but policy states that phones can be searched.

Superintendent Low stated that the District works within MTSBA policy and closely with law enforcement and the District will do what is necessary to keep campus safe.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Young to authorize Administration to notify staff and students regarding Policy 3231 Searches and Seizures including the school parking areas.

Motion Carries 5-0

>>>Information/Discussion Items<<<

A. - Big Sky Pathways website

Board would like to know what is specifically inhibiting running 2 pathways. The Board would prefer 2 pathways instead of 1. The District has to have at least one to access funds. The Board would like to take advantage of available funds this year to have subs so teachers could focus on 2 pathways. An update was requested for the next meeting.

B. - SchoolMaster – Parent access to grade books

Kern Wilson believes he can this available on April 6. A demo will be available.

C. - Speech/Debate Update

Demo debate on May 3rd.

D. - Technology Plan review

The Board will receive the agenda for the upcoming meeting, as they routinely do.

E. Budget 2011/2012

This topic was previously discussed.

Projecting student case load for next year was reviewed in a Title/Special Ed meeting.

A freeze or soft freeze on expenditures for everything other than trainings already in the process may be a consideration. A hard freeze is when all expenditures are frozen, even if they are in place. Things like lodging, mileage, etc.

F. - 21st Century Spring Programming

Superintendent Low suggested swimming lessons for May through the YMCA or other facility. He will put out info to parents. This item will be on next month's agenda under new business.

>>>Administrative Report<<<

Principal Report Highlights

-Dakota Wickham won the County Spelling Bee. Diane Gingerich was one of the judges. The last 5 spellers included 3 St. Regis students. The State Spelling Bee is March 26th in Billings.

-MCT was a huge success.

- 12 students have stated that they would like to join pep band next year.

- MontCas testing is almost complete.

- Bullying prevention assembly next week.

- MBI training staff this month

- Drug testing started today. All drivers were tested and it will be random from now on.

- Scott's bus is oldest in fleet. It doesn't have a camera. A 78 passenger bus would be the recommended size of replacement.

Superintendent's Report Highlights

- The Board referenced outcome notes from a Scheduling meeting, and noticed that music appreciation may be on the schedule as an option. They remember the discussion from last year regarding music appreciation, and 2010/2011 was the last year that class would be offered. They would also like to see that Music is mandatory for all 9th grade students.

The Board would also like to see “Math labs” given a different name.

The requirement for online courses is that the District provides a safe setting for the student and that attendance be taken. The Board feels that it is a large investment to have certified teachers proxy on-line students versus teaching a class. . What is the best use of our teachers?

Digital academy has been a wonderful resource because the potential options are enormous.

- Some Junior High Girls will be participating in a basketball tournament in Anaconda
- Calendar development – 3 different calendars and input from staff.
- Faculty Room and School Store had paint work done.
- 3 in-line boilers run at 90% efficiency. One backup boiler is only 60% efficient. Need to get Boiler #3 running for efficiency reasons.
- The Board is interested in having the windows replaced in the high school (on the library side).

>>>Clerk’s Report<<<

- Provided the Board with fund balances and updated amounts for the Restitution Funds.

>>>Set Next Meeting/Adjourn<<<

The next regular meeting will be April 13th at 6 p.m. in Room 107. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dunlap at 9:44 p.m.

District Clerk

Board Chairperson