

*****08-09 MINUTES*****

St. Regis School

April 8th, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Dunlap.

>>>Board Roll Call<<<

H = Here

A = Absent

P = Partial

H- Ken Jasper
H- Shelly Dunlap
P- Jolie Skelton
P- Tina Dockter
H-Jackie Sanford

H- Patty Kero, Superintendent
H- Don Almquist, Principal
H-Tina Hill, Clerk

>>>Visitors<<<

Visitors (according to Sign-in sheet): Chris West, Charlee Thompson, Terri Barclay, Jacki Gorshe, Rebecca Colip, Cindy Feasel, John Cheesman, Scott Lowry, Darlene Jasper, Mary Johnston, Tamara Williams, Jim Martin, Jim Warnken, Monica Wilson

>>>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."

Trustee Dunlap introduced the 3 trustee candidates that were in the audience; Charlee Thompson, John Cheesman, and Bonnie Mizener.

>>>Minutes<<<

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Jasper to approve the minutes of the March 10th meeting.

Motion carries 3-0

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Jasper to approve the minutes of the March 16th meeting.

Motion carries 3-0

>>>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 Jasper and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve activity accounts with an ending balance of **\$16497.20 including check number 5106 to 5131.**

There are 27 outstanding checks.

Trustee Skelton joined the meeting at this time.

Motion carries 4-0

>>>Payroll and Bills<<<

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve the Payroll Warrants from number **23553 to 23583 and direct deposit transactions from -89830 to -89788**, and Claim Warrants from number **33421 to 33470**.

Motion Carries 4-0

Trustee Dockter joined the meeting at this time.

>>>Old Business<<<

1. Set Negotiation date with the Teacher's Union

Vicki Knudsen of the Department of Labor is not available the 29th to assist in administering the first set of meetings using the new Interest Based Bargaining techniques, but coworker Paul Melvin is available. Both parties felt comfortable having Paul Melvin administer the meetings on April 29th and 30th from 4 p.m – 8 p.m.

2. Policy 3521 – Admission to Athletic Events

It was suggested that with the introduction of student activity cards, that these could be given as Tiger Pride awards, or there could be corporate sponsorship. The general feeling of the board is they did not want to charge our students for admission to games. Cindy Feasel recommended that due to the athletic activity fund deficit, all students should be charged \$3 admission, or purchase a student activity card for \$15 that gains them access for the entire school year. By purchasing the activity card students would save \$48 as well as be provided with another form of identification.

3. Policy – 3512 – Extra Curricular Meal Policy

Cindy Feasel also presented changing the policy to add wording that states that the school will pay \$5.00 for breakfast, \$7.00 for lunch, and \$10.00 for dinner when our teams advance to the Divisional and State level.

A motion was made by Trustee Dockter and seconded by Trustee Sanford to approve policy 3512 including the divisional and state price levels.

Motion Carries 5-0

4. Policy 2120 – Curriculum Development & Assessment

This is the 2nd reading of this policy.

A motion was made by Trustee Jasper and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve policy 2120 as read.

Motion Carries 5-0

There will not be any assessments mailed with 3rd quarter grades, but they will be mailed with 4th quarter grades.

5. Updated Policies – MTSBA Recommendations

*Policy 3226 – Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation/Hazing

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve policy 3226.

Motion Carries 5-0

*Policy 3231 – Searches and Seizure

The Board suggested that the District's current policy be kept, but adopt the additions suggested by MTSBA. This policy will be on the May agenda for a 3rd reading

*Policy 5015 – Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation

We do not have a current policy in place.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Dockter to adopt Policy 5015.

Motion Carries 5-0

*Policy 5130 – Staff Health

The Board suggested that the District's current policy be kept, but make the changes to our policy to reflect the updates from MTSBA. This policy will be on the May agenda for a 3rd reading

*Policy 1700 - Uniform Grievance Procedure

The Board suggested that the District's current policy be kept, but make the changes to our policy to reflect the updates from MTSBA.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve policy 1700.

Motion Carries 5-0

6. Retirement Incentives

The subject of retirement incentives was discussed at two staff meeting in March. It appears, at this time, that no one is interested in proposing an incentive.

7. Bus (trade-in vs. sell)

Beach Transportation is not interested in purchasing our bus. Chairman Dunlap gave some information on a new grant that promotes cleaner fuel. Scott will look into this and also present more information at the May meeting on the pros/cons of trade-in vs. selling the bus that is to be retired.

8. RoofNet proposal

We do not have a contract for the RoofNet proposal as assumed last meeting. If financing allows, Superintendent Kero would recommend the program.

>>>New Business<<<

1. Co-op for Construction Projects (Scott)

TCPN does the bidding process for the construction process for schools. It is a purchasing network offered at no cost to the district. The Board requested a list of pre-qualification requirements and companies. Safety records and criminal background checks are part of the process. There is no contract required. Scott recommends this program. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting once the board can review the list of pre-qualification requirements and list of companies.

2. Boiler Repair

Some work has been performed on the boiler, and the cost exceeded the spending threshold. The Board gave Scott the authority to perform emergency maintenance, with a report given to the board at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to pay the Electro Controls bill for boiler maintenance in the amount of \$6181. To be paid out of OTO Weatherization.

Motion Carries 5-0

3. General Fund Levy (Cancellation/Postponement)

The levy committee met, and it is their recommendation that the levy election not be held on May 5th, but postponed until school funding is finalized with the legislature.

A motion was made by Trustee Dockter and seconded by Trustee Jasper to cancel the resolution to run a general levy election on May 5th.

Motion Carries 5-0

4. Resolution for General Fund Levy Election

Tabled for May board meeting.

5. Health Insurance Renewal - MUST

Clerk will provide the Federation with the renewal information.

6. School Calendar

Principal Almquist presented 4 calendar proposals. All calendars presented were for 180 instructional days. One calendar proposes an extra PIR day for staff development. Teachers are required to come to 7 PIR days and would be paid for the 8th. Calendar #1 was voted most high by the staff. On this calendar, the first day of school will be August 27th, and the last day of school will be June 4th.

A motion was made by Trustee Jasper and seconded by Trustee Sanford to adopt Calendar #1 as presented.

Motion Carries 5-0

There was a break from 7:20 to 7:27.

7. Policy 5314 - Substitutes

The substitute wage rates are reflected in the handbook. Superintendent Kero recommends that when a certified substitute has subbed for the same teacher for 20 consecutive days, their rate should be retroactive to the teacher's absence and the rate should be minimum wage + \$2.00.

A motion was made by Trustee Jasper and seconded by Trustee Skelton to update the staff handbook to reflect changes to sub rates and include long-term subs to be effective today.

Motion Carries 5-0

8. Hire Christine Kuschel – Math Curriculum

The recommendation of the Superintendent is to hire Christine Kuschel as the professional consultant to work with the math teachers in developing a math curriculum document.

There was some discussion about when the contract can be paid due to the work being performed next fiscal year. Staff in attendance felt that it was beneficial to have Christine present to facilitate, but could adjust the document on their own, with visits by Christine being less frequent. This item will be placed on the next agenda, and Superintendent Kero will develop a different proposal. It was also requested that "reading curriculum" be added to the May agenda.

9. Hire – JV Golf Coach – Hank Jensen/Gloria Hermes

Hank Jensen was originally hired, but could not fulfill all of the practice days. So, Dan Park has selected Gloria Hermes and Hank Jensen to split the duties. There are currently 15 kids out for golf. Cindy Feasel, as well as the Administration recommends hiring these two individuals to share the duties.

A motion was made by Trustee Dockter and seconded by Trustee Sanford to hire Hank Jensen and Gloria Hermes to split the JV golf coach stipend.

Motion Carries 5-0

10. Hire – JH Assistant Track Coach – Cindy Feasel

There are 19 JH kids and 9 HS kids out for track. The recommendation by the administration and athletic direct is to hire Cindy Feasel as the JH Assistant Track Coach.

A motion was made by Trustee Dockter and seconded by Trustee Sanford to hire Cindy Feasel as the assistant Track Coach

The request of the Board is to have the recommendation for assistant positions pending numbers prior to the start of the season. By June, the list of coaches for next year could be recommended.

Motion Carries 5-0

11. Updated Substitute List – Brooke Hill

The background check for Brooke Hill has not been received, so the motion should reflect that fact.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Dockter to approve Brooke Hill to be added to the Substitute list pending acceptable background check.

Motion Carries 5-0

12. Class Schedule

Darlene Jasper started the discussion by addressing some of the questions of Board members from last year. Darlene presented information that she compiled after performing a preferencing schedule for students.

Principal Almquist explained what steps have occurred in this process so far in regards to the Class Schedule. The first conversations between administration and counselor began in the middle of January and the process has continued with regular meetings between administration, counselor, staff and school board until this date.

Two class schedule options were presented, one as status quo and another with a possible reduction/restructuring in staff. Handouts of the two options were presented at this time and are attached to the minutes.

Due to funding being unknown for next year, the Administration doesn't feel that it can make a decision on full staffing levels at this time, but feels that the discussion concerning the class schedule and staffing needs to happen in a meeting to make people aware of the unknowns. The main concern of staying status quo, by the administration is funding, and without knowing how much is going to be received, they caution against trying to maintain or increase positions.

The consensus of the Board feels as if it is too late to make staffing reductions, and that with the anticipation of stabilization and Title funds, a status quo in staffing could be maintained for the 2009/2010 school year. Also, if staffing reductions are to be made for the 2010/2011 school year, the process needs to begin in the near future. Things such as the strategic plan and 5 year plan need to be considered and reviewed in this process. It was suggested to stay with the status quo for the 2009/2010 school year, and then develop a long term plan for the 2010/2011 school year, and that the process begins now.

The Board spoke specifically about not wanting positions, such as Title to be eliminated, and Terri Barclay addressed those concerns. Everyone in the Title program is working in a similar function as a parapro (that is assisting classroom teachers or remediation on skills).

There was a break from 9:46 to 9:51.

A motion was made by Trustee Jasper to keep staffing at the current levels for the 2009-2010, and start the staffing options for 2010-2011 as soon as possible.

Motion dies for lack of a second.

The Board asked the administration if there was another recommendation, and Superintendent Kero stated that the administration had given their recommendation in one of the options that was presented, and if the board is not comfortable with that option, then another meeting will need to be held.

It was suggested that a new meeting be set up for next week in order for the Board to have time to review this information. A meeting was set for Monday the 13th at 5. There will be further discussion on the Class Schedule at this meeting.

13. Staffing Options - Music, Business, English, Title

The Administration recommends an increase to the music position by 1 period.

Trustee Dockter left the meeting at this time.

Mary Johnston commented that she would love to continue with the preschool program, but if the music program is expanded, she may not be able to fulfill both of those roles.

The Board would like a fact sheet that would reflect the cost of the music position expansion as well as the preschool.

14. Bell Schedule

Darlene Jasper supplied the board with the bell schedule at this time. The board would like this item placed on the May agenda so that the Board can have time to review the bell schedule.

15. Hiring – Math Position – Bernard J. Luger, III

It is the recommendation of the Administration that Bernard J. Luger, III be hired for the HS Math Position.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Jasper to hire Bernard J. Luger, III for the math position.

Motion Carries 4-0

>>>Information/Discussion Items<<<

A. Trustee Election – Candidate Announcement (Jackie Sanford, John Cheesman, Charlee Thompson, Jolene Cantrell-Field, Bonnie Mizener, Ellen Wiles)

B. MTSBA Advocacy Update

Trustee Jasper provided information on the legislature. The projected increase of 3% has been reduced to 1%. The bills to watch that cover these issues are HB 2 and 645.

C. Hiring Committee Update

12 applications have been received for the Elementary position, and then screened down to interview 4. 14 applications have been received for the English position, and those have been screened down to 6. 4 applications have been received for the Business Ed position, and 1 conference call interview has been scheduled.

D. Dishwasher Position Update

Have interviewed and will be making a recommendation at the next board meeting.

>>>Administrative Report<<<

Accreditation – The accreditation results have been received and the District received one default for the Junior High and High School due to the substitute music teacher not being licensed in time. The deadline was December 1st, and the license was issued on December 12th.

>>>Set Next Meeting/Adjourn<<<

The next regular meeting will be May 13th at 6 p.m. in Room 107. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dunlap at 10:20 p.m.

District Clerk

Board Chairperson