

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

St. Regis School

April 13th, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Dunlap.

>>>Board Roll Call<<<

H = Here

A = Absent

P = Partial

A- John Cheesman

H- Shelly Dunlap

H- Jackie Sanford

H- Jolie Skelton

A- Carol Young

H- Patrick Low, Superintendent

A-Tammy Demien

H-Tina Hill, Clerk

>>>Visitors<<<

Visitors (according to Sign-in sheet): Diane Gingerich, Brooke Lincoln, Charlee Thompson, Kat Tjensvold, Marlyss Schwaderer, Bobbie Reiche, Ronda Christensen, John Kittridge, Gerry Gotcher, Julie Burkland, Cindy Feasel, Michelle Chaffin, Linda McLinden

>>>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."

- Gerry Gotcher addressed the Board on the topic of policies, handbook or athletic codes that address students who have been found guilty of possession of drugs or alcohol. She feels that students that find themselves in this position should be removed from leadership roles within the school.

>>>Radio Station Update – Marlys Schwaderer<<<

Marlys Schwaderer presented information about the radio station to the Board and audience. The station is a "low power FM station". The frequency is defined by law and cannot be increase. It appears that the license information needs to be updated as it lists individuals that are no longer employed by the District. There are 5 years remaining on the contract. The radio cannot be moved to another site, and if it is shutdown for any reason, the equipment is to be given to the local emergency planning committee.

Marlys provided a photo of the room and a description of each piece of equipment. This information is on file with the board packet information from this meeting.

Some additional points discussed were the emergency response system. It is currently not wired in, but Hugh Hopwood knows how to wire it. The system could be accessed with a 4 digit code to transmit live remotely. The computer has been running constantly since July of 2007, and it is recommended that this system be upgraded to a commercial grade computer. The air conditioner also needs to be updated in the near future.

The computer technician for the school in 2007 stated that the system is hard wired to the gym for live broadcasting.

>>>Communications<<<

-The District is in receipt of a Certificate of Recognition for academic achievement from the Office of Public Instruction

-At the May meeting, we will be visited by a representative of the Foreign Exchange Program.

-The Board and Administration is in receipt of a resignation letter from Becky Colip. This item will be added to the May agenda.

>>>Minutes<<<

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve the minutes of the March 9th 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 Skelton and seconded by Trustee Sanford to approve activity accounts with an ending balance of **\$17,544.36** including check number **5540 to 5549**. There are 13 outstanding checks

Motion carries 3-0

>>>Payroll and Bills<<<

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Sanford to approve the Payroll Warrants from number **24588 to 24619** and **direct deposit transactions from – 88868 to -88821**, and Claim Warrants from number **35038 to 35106**. Claim warrant #35064 was voided due to overpayment. Claim warrant #35069 was overpaid by \$3.10 and will be applied to the next bill. There were a couple of checks over the \$2500 spending threshold. These payments were for the safety and maintenance of the building and operations. The Board was aware and approve of such payments.

Motion Carries 3-0

>>>Old Business<<<

1. Review All Contracts

The Board reviewed a template received from Superior School and prefers the language contained within that document compared to our template. The Board would exclude item #10 as the master agreement would be in conflict with that provision. The suggestions received from MTSBA are not something that the Board would like to adopt.

This item will be on the May agenda for adoption.

2. Payroll Assistance Options

The Board would like to try to implement the timecard module for next school year. Two staff members have been given access to enter their time starting this month.

3. Negotiations Update

The next negotiations meeting is set for April 20th from 3:45 – 6:45. There are 16 issues on the table, and the team has finalized a few.

4. Policy Updates (4th Reading)

- 5122F - AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

Line 30 needs to be removed as it is Strike line 30. A copy of the updated policy will be attached to the minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Sanford to approve policy 5122 with the elimination of line 30.

Motion Carries 3-0

5. Job Posting – Web Master

We have a staff member that is interested in the position. Superintendent Low hopes to be able to recommend a name at the May meeting.

6. Driver's Ed Vehicle

Superintendent Low researched the options for a Driver's Ed Vehicle. To lease a vehicle from the Chevrolet dealer in Missoula, the cost for 9 weeks would be approximately \$1200. The Ford dealer in Plains will provide the school a loaner vehicle at no cost.

7. Medical Marijuana Policy Update (1st readings)

These policies will be on the May agenda as a 2nd reading.

Policy 3340 – Student Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs

Policy 5226 – Drug-Free Workplace

Policy 8123 – Driver Training and Responsibility

8. Policy 3231 – Search and Seizures

This policy will be on the May agenda as a 3rd reading.

A parent in the audience inquired as to the method in which parents would be notified. The Board responded that notice was given at the last meeting, and that is the purpose for reviewing the policy, to so inform students and parents.

9. Athletic Code Section A – 2011/2012 school year

Chairman Dunlap will meet with Superintendent Low and bring a proposal to the next meeting.

It would be helpful to look at what other schools have for athletic codes.

>>>New Business<<<

1. Parent topics

Chairman Dunlap provided information to those in attendance regarding open meeting laws.

Five parents addressed the Board in support of their children. Two of the parents read letters that they prepared. A summary of the discussion is that they feel that their students are being “targeted”, and would like to see it stop. The parents also mentioned Closed Campus, and felt that the topic should be addressed again to gain more input. The Board and Administration responded regarding Closed Campus and informed parents of the several attempts to gain input and opinions from everyone that would be affected. The information went home through several mailings as well as discussions at 3 board meetings, and was also addressed in the student handbook.

Another audience member spoke in regard to feeling personally targeted and excluded from employment opportunities at the school due to rumors.

Administration emphasized their willingness to speak with concerned parents and individuals.

2. Policy 3511 – review

There was extensive discussion on the topic of the timeline for hiring assistant coaches. The Board stated that the assistant coach will be hired prior to the sports season and prior to the coach helping with practice or anything. The assistant coach will not be activated until the AD determines that there is a need.

This item will be on the next meeting agenda.

3. Substitute List addition – Nikita Gilbert, Susan Martin

Susan’s background check has not been received yet.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee to add Nikita Gilbert to the Substitute list and pending receipt of background check, Susan Martin be added to the substitute list.

Motion dies due to lack of a second

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

4. 21st Century Spring Programming – swim lessons

The YMCA has a program that can accommodate a wide age range of students. The program includes water safety, and river rescue. The date range is from April 30th – May 21st. The cost is \$16 per child, with an additional \$4 for the last session to accommodate for extended swim time. After reviewing the budget, Julie Burklund plans to send a letter and sign-up sheet home to parents. This would be for grades 2-6.

5. Request for days from teacher sick leave pool

Due to nepotism, this topic would not result in a quorum of the Board, so there could not be any action taken. This item will be added to the agenda of the special meeting at the end of April.

6. Strategic Plan - work on timeline for action steps

This item was moved to the regular June meeting, or a separate work session in June.

7. Teacher lane advancement request

Due to nepotism, this topic would not result in a quorum of the Board, so there could not be any action taken. This item will be added to the agenda of the special meeting at the end of April.

8. Class Schedule 2011/2012

Three planning meetings have been conducted to date. The addition of Honors courses, several technology courses, Drivers Education, and a new Work-Study program through Tricon are being drafted.

The Board asked about more information for the courses titled “study hall” or “math lab”. Superintendent Low stated that those courses will be high quality programs that are proctored by a para, aide or teacher that can maintain an academic setting. The Board suggested that the study hall be moved to after school, and discussed the possibility of it being required for students that are ineligible.

Superintendent Low explained that the “math lab” would be a remedial program where students work with the instructor in small groups in order to give additional assistance. The Board would like it called something other than Math Lab, and suggested Applied Math instead. The Board would also like a “School-to- work” program implemented. Sometimes students just don’t want to take another class, and potentially, and program such as this would spark interest.

The Board requested a work session for the Class Schedule.

Business courses were discussed, and the Board discussed the option of having a class such as Intro to Business required for Sophomores. The course titled “Microsoft Office” could be expanded to computer applications or business technology.

The discussion then turned toward the subject of Music. Trustee Sanford stated that “music appreciation” should not be on the schedule because when the course was approved last year, she stated in the motion that the course would not be offered past the 10/11 school year. Superintendent Low responded that the course would include such things as percussion and keyboard. The Board expressed concern of pulling students away from the Band program for courses such as music appreciation. The position of the instructor is to have students enrolled because they want to be there, the result is better.

Due to funding, the number of hours devoted to the Preschool and PreK program may decrease and allow for additional time to devote to Band.

Student preferencing is scheduled for April 26-29. The Board does not want preferencing to occur prior to an official class schedule being in place.

The Board authorized Superintendent Low to post the Foreign Language position. They would like two postings, one for a full time teacher, and one for a ½ time teacher.

9. School Calendar 2011/2012

Staff voted on the Calendars that were presented, and Calendar #1 was selected. There were some staff members in favor of starting the school year later, but that does not allow much time to

prepare for the MontCas. The last day of school is set for Tuesday the 5th of June. There are 3 PIR days scheduled for August, and an additional PIR is desired in the second semester.

Another Calendar was presented, and Superintendent Low will take that option to the staff for another vote.

This topic was tabled until the special meeting to be held at the end April.

Linda McLinden noted that Policy states that a committee will review and build the schedule. It was decided that a Committee meeting take place to stay in line with policy.

10. Hiring – Special Ed Aide – Amy Cheesman

Due to nepotism, this item cannot be voted on. All members have to be present.

11. Hiring – Academic Tutor – Jennifer Pruitt

Due to nepotism, this item cannot be voted on. All members have to be present.

12. Contracted Services – Nicole Noonan – restitution funds audit

Nicole is able to begin this project on May 1st.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to perform an audit of the restitution funds at \$65 per hour, not to exceed \$650.

Motion Carries 3-0

13. Boiler Repair Quote

We are working to have In-Line Boiler #3 operational once again to be able to run in tandem with In-Line Units #1 and #2. #3 had been taken off line years ago and used for parts to keep #2 running. By restoring #3, we will be able to take a separate, very large back-up boiler off-line. The back-up boiler only operates at 60% efficiency. We received a quote from Electro Controls for \$9,310 and are trying to get a better quote from another vendor.

This item was tabled to gain additional information.

14. Quote from Contractors for storage shed

This topic was discussed last Fall. A shed would help in the efforts to clean up the campus, and allow equipment to be stored out of the elements.

The District received a quote from Noonan Construction for \$11,700. The structure would include an overhead door, and have a dirt floor. Superintendent Low suggested not investing in the shed until the Boilers have been fixed.

The Board would like to have at least two quotes to review.

This topic was tabled until the May meeting.

15. Bus Routes for 2011/2012 – possible combination of town routes

This item was tabled until the May meeting, in order for the Transportation Director to participate in the discussion.

16. Trustee Election

No additional information

17. General Fund Levy

The Board had a brief meeting on the 8th to discuss when to run the General Fund Levy. The Board felt it prudent to run a levy after we know exact numbers from the Legislature.

18. MTSBA webinar trainings

Table until June meeting.

19. MTSBA – template language for working from home

Districts that provide access from home do not need additional policy language.

All staff for grades 4-12 will have the ability to access the online grade book system by Fall. . The K-3 grade book system in place is objective based, and is not accessible through SchoolMaster.

>>>Information/Discussion Items<<<

A. MTSBA webinar trainings

Previously discussed.

B. Big Sky Pathways website update

The Pathway needs to be adjusted to allow for Intro to Business or an equivalent as well as a Business Applications course. Intro to Business should be added to both pathways.

C. SchoolMaster – Parent access to grade books

Previously discussed.

D. Gifted and Talented update for 2011/2012 school year

Kern Wilson and Superintendent Low will talk with Darlene Jasper and Tammy to develop some visions for the future. One more student was identified as G & T this winter.

E. Technology Plan update

The next Technology Committee meeting is 26th. Superintendent Low routed the notes via email. Academic Achievement targets were no longer necessary in the Tech Plan because those targets are in the Strategic Plan and Curriculum. Board would like a copy of the current Tech Plan.

>>>Administrative Report<<<

Superintendent Report Highlights

- Publicly recognize staff and principal for going above and beyond for our students. Emphasized the fact that we will continue to strive to promote and maintain a positive learning environment within our school.
- Supports Closed Campus and feels that it has provided a better setting for the students. The vast majority of state education facilities participate in closed campus

>>>Set Next Meeting/Adjourn<<<

The next regular meeting will be May 10th at 6 p.m. in Room 107. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dunlap at 9:23 p.m.

District Clerk

Board Chairperson