

*****09-10 MINUTES*****

St. Regis School

April 14th, 2010

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- Jolie Skelton

H- Tina Dockter

H-Jackie Sanford

H- Patrick Low, Superintendent

H-Edward Huenemann

H-Tina Hill, Clerk

>>>Visitors<<<

Visitors (according to Sign-in sheet): Tim Palmer, Charlee Thompson, Julie Burklund, Cindy Feasel, Linda McLinden, Carol Young, Diane Gingerich, Melody Adamson, Mary Johnston, Gary Strate

>>>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."

>>>Minutes<<<

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Dockter to approve the minutes of the March 10th 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 Skelton to approve activity accounts with an ending balance of **\$13,963.60 including check number 5339 to 5364. There were 16 outstanding checks. Balance is different by \$15 due to cancelled outstanding checks. They do not show on the report because they were cancelled, not voided. The cancelled checks were #5251 for \$5, and 5261 for \$10.**

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 24077 to 24114 **and direct deposit transactions from - 89404 to -89358**, and Claim Warrants from number **34192 to 34262**. Warrant #'s 24077 through 24080 do not show on 3/10 report, but do show up on the 2/10 report. They were printed after the last meeting due to voided warrants for last meeting. Copies of the

printed warrants as well as the report for 02/10 are attached to the finance committee check sheet for this month.

Motion Carries 4-0

>>>Old Business<<<

1. Building Reserve Fund Levy

Shelly read the ballot language to the audience.

>>>New Business<<<

1. Update Substitute List – Mary Nichols

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to add Mary Nichols to the substitute list pending receipt of background check.

Motion Carries 4-0

2. Bus Driver Substitute Approval – Steve Pruitt

Due to relationship to a board member, we need to post that Steve is seeking employment with the District in order to comply with the Nepotism Law. This item was tabled until the 2 week requirement could be fulfilled.

3. Trustee Election – Candidate Announcement (Shelly Dunlap, Charlee Thompson, Carol Young)

The election will be held May 4th from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. The polling places are the St. Regis School Library, and the DeBorgia Schoolhouse.

4. Resignation Math Teacher – Bernie Luger

Letter received and read at the March board meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Dockter and seconded by Trustee Sanford to accept Bernie Luger's resignation as Math Teacher

Motion Carries 4-0

5. Resignation Principal – Edward Huenemann

Letter received and read at the March board meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Dockter to accept Edward Huenemann's resignation as Principal.

Motion Carries 4-0

6. Hiring Maintenance Director – FINALISTS (alphabetically)

Curtis Cochran, Tom Heacock, Scott Lowry, Tim Palmer, Rick Wiard, Bruce Wood

The Superintendent received 13 applications for this position and interviewed 9 applicants.

The Superintendent thanked Gary Strate for additional assistance during this transitional time. Joe Shaw and Tim Palmer have been substituting and their service has been very helpful.

Executive Session started at 6:21

Reopened at 6:58 p.m.

The Superintendent recommended Tim Palmer for the position for the remainder of the 2009/2010 school year with a performance review to be conducted by the June 9th board meeting. in order to renew contract or proceed otherwise.

The applicants that were not considered as finalists were phoned to notify that they were not selected, and Superintendent Low will call the other candidates tomorrow if a decision is made tonight.

Due to relationship to a board member, we need to post that Tim is seeking employment with the District in order to comply with the Nepotism Law. This item was tabled until the 2 week requirement could be fulfilled.

7. Policy 1420 – School Board Meeting Procedure

Policy specifically states that the Clerk is to keep written minutes. Needs to be amended to allow for an alternate person to take minutes as appointed by Clerk. This item will be on the May agenda as a 2nd reading.

8. Approval of premium for All School Accident Insurance from Northwestern Scholastic Insurers

Annual cost is \$3135.

A motion was made by Trustee Dockter and seconded by Trustee Skelton to continue coverage with Northwestern Scholastic Insurers at a rate of \$3135 for the 2010/2011 school year.

Motion Carries 4-0

9. Montana High School Association Application and Dues

Dues are \$2500 plus liability coverage is \$145. The activities listed on the application for membership are: Boys Basketball, Football, Golf, Track, Girls Basketball, Volleyball, Band and Chorus.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to approve the application and dues of \$2500 and \$145 for the MHSA.

Motion Carries 4-0

10. Student Enrollment topic (Executive Session Anticipated)

Moved to the end of the meeting.

Executive Session started at 9:10

Ended at 9:25

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Sanford to admit the student to the Pre-School Program for 2010/11 even though he misses the official state birth-date requirement by two days (9/12 rather than 9/10). Enrollment is applicable to Pre-School only and has no bearing on potential upcoming enrollment in Pre-K or K.

Motion Carries 4-0

11. Hiring Title Teacher – Teresa Wilson

No fact sheet for this item. Recommended by Superintendent Low. Interviewed over spring break.

A motion was made by Trustee Sanford and seconded by Trustee Skelton to hire Teresa Wilson as the Title Teacher for the 2010/2011 school year.

Motion Carries 4-0

12. Daily Course Schedule for 2010/2011 – Policy 2115 – Class Schedule 1st Reading

Administration will proceed as Board prefers regarding development and implementation of next year's Daily Course Schedule. If a change is made to use an 8 period day starting next year, it is requested that a commitment of four years be made for this approach. This could be anchored in Board policy if Board so wished.

Trustee Skelton gave her perspective on the staff meeting regarding the 8 period day. Perhaps the schedule could be utilized better. For example, if there are only a few students in a class, the schedule could be reworked. Part of the reason the 8 period hadn't worked in the past, was that it wasn't utilized to its full potential. Low test scores and time away from core subjects were perceived as negatives at the meeting. She feels that with current staff and alignment of standards this will not be an issue.

Trustee Sanford was also in favor of the 8 period day based on the Strategic Plan which focuses on the school being a better learning environment in order to better prepare our students for the future. Career Pathways will be better suited with an 8 period day as well as life skill classes. The District will also be able to implement more rigor for college bound students.

Trustee Dockter was also in favor of the 8 period day. Needs to be implemented more than a year and that is why it hadn't worked in the past.

Chairman Dunlap was in favor because she believes in the Strategic Plan work that was completed in order to implement those suggestions, as well as increasing the offerings of band, choir, and p.e. Such a schedule will allow for increased tech, vocational, and career to work type classes and having more time slots in the schedule to get those classes in as well as honor classes

and career pathways (OPI sponsored program). She would also like to see expansion of MT Visionette.

Board is in favor of a 4 year commitment.

A motion was made by Trustee Skelton and seconded by Trustee Sanford to move to an 8 period day for the 2010/2011 school year and attach that to the Policy for a minimum of 4 years.

Carol Young asked if the school is meeting the benchmarks, and if not, what are we doing to meet them. The response was that we are not yet meeting 100% of those benchmarks in some subjects. Math and reading were missed by 5 -10%.

Cindy Feasel is in favor of an 8 period day. She feels that the skepticism is due to instability and switching back and forth. Holding off to do further research seems a waste of time, even if things need tweaking, at least you don't lose interest.

Elementary should not be affected. K-4 and maybe even K-6 should be minimally affected. Diane Gingerich stated that she feels the transitional grades of 5th and 6th could be affected as they shadow the High School schedule. Commitment is a concern, as well as effective implementation for the 2010/2011 school year.

Trustee Dockter stated that collaboration has improved within the district and that will be effective in implementation. She would like to not see things such as Study Halls, but would like to see study skills implemented. Homework is for home.

Tim Palmer asked when the class offerings can be expected, and when students will have access to preferences. The process has begun, but is not complete. The goal is to have something to work with by the middle of May.

Linda McLinden has a concern with shortened classes. Time on task may be too short to implement all the changes as they flow through the curriculum especially for reading and math. Study Halls don't seem to work, it is more of a play time. Study skills are not taught enough. She would also not like to see filling in periods with Study Halls/Skills. There are also concerns with online/visionette classes because they have specified class times and at 42 minutes per class period, there may be some scheduling issues.

Trustee Dunlap asked if those in attendance wanted to extend the school day, and the audience was unsure about that.

Julie Burklund also supported the homework at home, not in school. However, support at home is sometimes lacking and therefore students are not successful in the classroom. Lengthening of the school day such as the 2008/2009 school year does not seem like an option. Too long for the elementary kids, but could be adjusted to 3:30.

Charlee Thompson would like to see something like a study skills program taught as early as 8th grade and consistent throughout High School.

Motion Carries 4-0

Policy 2115 will be on the agenda for a 2nd reading next month. It has been proposed to add language that the Class schedule will consist of 8 education periods per day.

>>>Information/Discussion Items<<<

A. - Track Improvements

We do have a second bid from the original contractor, Darin Haskins. That bid came in \$1300 higher than the 1st bid. Cindy Feasel will contact Jim Jensen to proceed with track improvements.

B. - Hiring 10/11 Sports Coaching Positions

This topic will be on the agenda in May.

C. - 21st Century Summer Program

Julie Burklund went to the regional workshop. The application process for renewal does not open until May 1st and the deadline is June 15th. Summer camps can start as soon as July 1. The renewal process is non-competitive, and the amount is \$51200. Julie will start the planning for summer activities now. Due to non-competitive nature, we can move forward.

D. - Hiring – 21st Century Summer Staff & Programming

Nothing to add.

E. - Health insurance quotes

We received a response from MTSBA to Superintendent Low's question regarding the assessment fee for leaving MUST. The cost is \$480 per member and is payable upon exiting MUST.

Trustee Dockter suggested that we talk with Payne Financial as she believes they have a program to help Districts get out of the MUST assessment charge. Trustee Dockter added that NewWest rates have not increased as drastically as others.

Diane Gingerich commented that MUST was formed in a combination of sponsorship by MTSBA, SAM, MEA-MFT, and the District was aware of the assessment charge from the very beginning.

Mary Johnston stated that she has heard unfavorable things about Blue Cross insurance.

Staff needs to form a committee to review plans.

F. - Interest Based Bargaining / Budget – set start date

Dates of bargaining have yet to be set. Next week was the desired start time, but with Principal interviews and other hirings/interviews there are scheduling conflicts. Hopefully, this process can begin the 1st week in May. Facilitators have also not been available.

The bargaining teams attended a “refresher” training last Saturday in Superior.

G. - Building Maintenance Update

The topic of repairing the stucco fascia, soffit and columns needs to be added to New business next month. Superintendent Low has received one quote from Noonan Construction, other businesses that were contacted have not responded.

It was asked if a product other than stucco could be used. The reply from Superintendent Low was that if stucco repair is done correctly, and maintained, it is durable.

H. - Adult Education Update – Dustin

Phase 2 for yoga. 2nd session of online courses.

I. - Laptops for students

Superintendent is pulling data from staff together. 6-8 homework surveys from teachers have been received.

J. - Math Committee report

Reviewing curriculum material. Would like to have suggestions for May board meeting.

K. - Driver’s Education Program

Plains instructor – not available. Superior has 3 instructors, but they are all unavailable. Can’t find an instructor as of yet.

L. - Handicapped Parking

Two additional signs have been purchased, one has been installed. A suggestion by a community member was to have three signs total at the elementary entrance and stripe the parking spaces.

M. - Special Education and Title I Teacher job posting

Interviews will start tomorrow for Special Ed.

N. - Principal Search update

30 communications received. Board will review applications next week.

O. - Business Manager’s Leave of Absence

No applications received as of yet.

P. - Strategic Plan

Most updated copy distributed to Board.

This item will be listed under Old Business for the agenda on April 22nd.

Q. - Oregon Trip – Mr. Feasel

Overnight trips require approval. This item will be placed on the agenda for the May meeting under New Business.

R. - Kindergarten Roundup

The Roundup occurred today, and 8 children participated. It is anticipated that 14 children will enroll for Kindergarten.

S. - Summer Student Assessment Data

Counselor has offered to work over the summer with this data. This item will be placed on the agenda for the May meeting as an action item.

T. - Centennial Planning Committee

Sent approx. 500 registrations the week of 3/22/10, it was also placed in staff mailboxes.

>>>Administrative Report<<<

Superintendent Report Highlights

- **Review of current Tech plan meeting on May 6th.**
- **Open Campus. – need to review this**
- **Athletic program – VB camp Add to May meeting.**

Principal Report Highlights

- **Track and golf began**
- **Music assemblies**
- **Music festival**
- **Grand canyon trip returned**
- **JH trips coming up**
- **History days coming up**
- **Graduation / 8th grade**
- **Diane Gingerich selected for Abraham Lincoln Fellowship offered by Horace Mann to go to Springfield Ill.**

>>>Clerk's Report<<<

- **The Auditors will be on site on the 13th and 14th of May. We have completed all the pre-audit prep work.**
- **Preliminary General Fund budget for 2010/2011 – increase of \$45,286.73**

>>>Set Next Meeting/Adjourn<<<

The next regular meeting will be May 10th at 7 p.m. in Room 107. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dunlap at p.m.

District Clerk

Board Chairperson