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

The trustees met in regular session, Monday, January 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Those present throughout the meeting were Chair Rhonda Hogstad, Superintendent Brent Lipp, Trustee Billie Bergstrom, Business Manager Jeanne Carroll, and Trustee, Mark Berg.

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

Mark Berg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Billie Bergstrom seconded. Mark asked about the Ann Garfinkle bill. It is for autism training and meeting with parents. This is paid for out of the REAP, Title VI grant. All in favor.

Month in Review

Mr. Lipp reviewed his administrative report with the trustees:

ADMIN REPORT

- There was a PIR Day today with the focus on professional learning communities with multi-district groups. Teachers will be working toward goals that have been set to achieve this year. He felt the teachers worked really hard on their goals. He felt there was maybe a little too much time to work on them today. They will be sharing their science vocabulary to other teachers in other districts.
- Kudos to Mr. Rice for receiving a Fit Kids grant again this year. He’s also been a reference person for other people to apply.
- The PTO combined with Missoula Children’s Theatre is hosting a production of Peter and Wendy January 19th -23rd. This is always a great way for students to try out their expertise in acting.
- Facebook is up and running again, for some reason Dani was blocked from using the account. It was corrupted. Our trusted IT service resolved the issue for us.
- Our students are in the process of taking MAP tests this month. Our staff does a very good job in getting this done efficiently and without a great deal of interruption to class time. I always appreciate how well everyone works together to get this task accomplished. He’d like to thank the staff for being flexible and good about it.
- The 8th grade class is having the first of two fundraisers this past weekend, by hosting a basketball tournament. The parents ran it and did a wonderful job. This is always a great success, and a fantastic way for our students to acquire the funds necessary to make the trip. A very special thanks to all the parents and students that participated in helping us through the weekend.
- Brent would like to meet to move the board meeting in February to the 22nd instead of the 15th otherwise we will be back in here in about two weeks. The board agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Employees Handbook, Section II

The second section has been done and is ready for the board to review. This section is for the certified and it has been aligned with the master agreement. The next section will be here next month, which is a generalized portion. It will go to MTSBA and then local staff and the goal is to have it ready to hand out next year at the beginning of the year.

6. MQEC
Brent said this is on the agenda because Mark would like to have some discussion about it. Brent said he doesn’t really have feelings on it one way or the other. This is up to the board. He does feel they are looking out for public schools. Brent put in a little information off their website so the board would have a little information on it. The cost is $500 a year. Mark asked if we are getting the information anyway, or would we be paying for it. Brent said basically this is financial support for them, working on their agenda to do what is best for public schools. All the organizations have pooled their efforts into one under the MQEC to have one voice and make it more powerful. It is up for renewal in July. This will be brought up again at the May meeting.

7. Approve Special Services Coop Agreement

Mark Berg moved to continue participation with the Yellowstone West Southcentral Special Ed Coop for 2016-17. Billie Bergstrom seconded. Brent would like to recommend this only because he doesn’t have any other options. He is unhappy with them. There are some pretty major issues with the coop that are not being met. We pay them quite a large amount of money, however, they are not meeting our needs. He feels the professionalism in the coop is not doing due diligence. The psychologist is here sometimes for 45 min. He wants them one day a week in the school in an office we will provide so they can know the students. Consultative services in the coop have turned into the teachers doing it. The autistic program we are designing is that autism is a communicative disorder, and the coop needs to be working with it. Brent would like to put out a letter to the coop because he feels it needs to be addressed and it needs to get done. He is looking into some shared services. In the eastern part of the state, the school psych had an office in the school and it was easy to have collaborative services. The western does not do this. He has proposed this to other districts. His first step is to go to the coop and ask for changes. This is a pretty major thing. Since school started we have not had an educational review that has been in compliance because the school psych’s haven’t gotten it done. Our sp ed staff is waiting up to two months to get it done. So when we get audited in three years, that will come up. So we are documenting everything. And the regular ed staff is frustrated as well because it is not looked at. Unanimous.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING
1. Enrollment Count
2. Plans for next year/Levies
3. Resolution for Election With County to Run Mail Ballot Election
4. Strategic Plan

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Superintendent Evaluation
The Board adjourned into executive session at 7 p.m. They came back into regular session at 7:49 p.m.

Mark Berg moved to approve the Superintendent’s evaluation and renew Mr. Lipp’s contract. Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Mark Berg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Carroll, District Clerk
Rhonda Hogstad, Chair

Board Minutes January 18, 2016