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

The trustees met in regular session Monday, February 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Those present throughout the meeting were Chair Manny Zuniga, trustees Rhonda Hogstad, Crystal Gust, Superintendent Brent Lipp, and Business Manager Suzie Zentz. Mark Berg and Charlene Severson were absent. There were three visitors (list attached).

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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Rhonda Hogstad made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Crystal Gust seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Crystal Gust made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Paraprofessional Amy Worden; Rhonda Hogstad seconded the motion
Mr. Lipp thanked Mrs. Worden for her hard work and dedication. All voted in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATIONS

Mike Rice told the trustees that he received a “Fit Kids” grant of $500 from a program sponsored by Big Sky State games and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The program provides an incentive to develop an exercise program for kids. Mike has dubbed his program the “Cougar Club.” They meet for 45 minutes twice/week for three months. Approximately 45 kids are involved in a variety of activities. 29 schools received the grant. He will provide feedback back to the grantors after the program ends.

Josh Dyba applied for and received a grant for 16 Google Chrome book laptops from a donor. They are safe and secure lightweight portable laptops designed for education. Josh plans to use them to help facilitate the school day. He plans to utilize the Khan Academy and many other resources to enhance classroom learning.

The trustees and Brent thanked both teachers for their initiative.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Lipp reviewed his administrative report with the trustees:

- We surveyed the students using the My Voice Survey and had a great response. Their answers revealed no major problems and consisted of pretty normal comments. The next step is with the school staff regarding school climate. After that, the last survey would be to survey the public. We are not sure how to accomplish that.
- Mathcounts was a great success. We placed 1st in the Class C schools. One of our 8th graders was in the top 15 overall. Thanks to Miss McGillvray.
• A large group of our students participated with students from three other schools in our Music Festival. Mrs. Murphy did a wonderful job organizing and running the festival. Our students provided some wonderful performances.
• The boys’ basketball season is over. Our boys demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, hustle, and hard work. Many thanks to Mike Rice and Josh Dyba for their hard work.
• The SBAC tests will be done in April rather than March. We have concluded that we should have sufficient bandwidth for this pilot test.
• Brent has talked to Yellowstone Valley Electric Coop regarding the proposed flashing lights for our school zone. They concluded that we would likely need to have a meter for each pole if they are hard wired. It would cost approximately $1500 to get the power to each pole. He hopes to have a complete estimate by next month.
• Our Science Fair was excellent this year (3rd year). There has been lots of growth and improvement in the student’s work which included a research component this year. We had 12 volunteer judges—thanks to all of them. Several of our students are participating in the County science fair. Next year, Brent would like to again hold the Curriculum Fair and Book Fair at the same time to help encourage more attendance at the evening event. We have reserved a “science-based” book fair for next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rhonda Hogstad reported that the Personnel/Negotiations Committee met twice to review the current contract. It was a good learning experience. They reviewed language and anticipate that upcoming bargaining will go smoothly.

Manny Zuniga reported for the Building/Grounds Committee. They are currently exploring the possibilities for improving the front entrance esthetically. The intent at this point is to look at ideas and then determine what might be possible with community involvement, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Rhonda Hogstad made a motion to hire Jennette Rasch as a Paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year for approximately 6.5 hours/day at $9.00/hour; Crystal Gust seconded the motion. We have IEP’s which require a one-on-one aide. Fortunately we had applicants available due to our recent resignation. Both new paraprofessionals will be riding the bus with students. All voted in favor of the motion.
Crystal Gust made a motion to hire Kelsey Diaz as a Paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year for approximately 7 hours/day at $9.00/hour; Rhonda Hogstad seconded the motion. Brent noted that Kelsey is a certified teacher. All voted in favor of the motion.

Rhonda Hogstad made a motion to approve the pre-school contribution to the Yellowstone/West Carbon County Special Services Coop; Crystal Gust seconded the motion. Suzie Zentz explained that we could have our own special education preschool, but we have chosen to utilize the Coop’s preschool since it is the most economical option. The trustees have to authorize the pass through of the preschool funds to the coop. Brent noted that this is a very valuable program for our students. All voted in favor of the motion.

Suzie Zentz updated the trustees regarding our Spring enrollment and preliminary ANB for 2013-14. Our preliminary numbers indicate a drop in ANB from 246 to 232 for next year. This will result in a reduction in Direct State Aid alone of approximately $35,000 and will mean we will need a voted levy to simply maintain our current budget. Unfortunately, the legislature has not yet made a decision on education funding for the next two years, so there is still a lot of unknown. If they increase funding, the voted amount required will be less.

Rhonda Hogstad made a motion to purchase a new work room copier not to exceed $12,000; Crystal Gust seconded the motion. Brent emphasized that our current workroom copier is 10 years old to us and has served us very well. We require a copier with a large engine (a workhorse) for this context. We need to include a maintenance contract from J & H on this machine. We have had excellent service from J & H. All voted in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Janet Weston presentation--ANTS
Calendar
Business Manager/Clerk evaluation materials
Election Resolution
Light proposal

There being no further business, Manny Zuniga made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Zentz, Clerk

Manuel Zuniga, Chair