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

The trustees met in regular session Monday, March 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Those present throughout the meeting were Chair Manny Zuniga, trustees Mark Berg, Jeff Flaten, Rhonda Hogstad, Tom Bradford, Superintendent Brent Lipp, and Business Manager Suzie Zentz. There were twenty-nine visitors (list attached).

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

The only adjustment to the agenda was to move “Public Comment” up to follow “Correspondence.”

*Rhonda Hogstad made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Tom Bradford seconded the motion.* There were no questions. *All voted in favor of the motion.*

There was no correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manny Zuniga informed visitors that they were welcome to make public comment, but that they must follow the board’s protocol and be respectful of it. Business Manager/Clerk read Board Policy 1441—Audience Participation aloud.

The chair recognized the following individuals:

*Pam Jurovich*  Mrs. Jurovich provided written comments to each of the trustees prior to speaking. She noted that the issue she is concerned with is the time of the 8th grade Promotion ceremony. She made comments regarding the CCS Strategic Plan and the “students’ best interest.” She feels that it is important for all family members to attend this event and that the scheduled time makes it difficult.

*Mark Jurovich*  Mr. Jurovich stated that he feels that the parent community has made clear that they disapprove of the time of day for this event. He made reference to levies and community support.

*Mike Meier*  Mr. Meier spoke to the same issues. He emphasized that some family members must drive some distance to attend.

*Denise Johnson*  Mrs. Johnson said that she was part of the group last year that worked to keep Promotion an evening event. She said that the girls wore party dresses that could have been worn to school. She emphasized that “professionals and working class” folks are having a hard time with this scheduling and that this is a “once in a lifetime” occasion.
Kassi Johnson. Ms. Johnson said that she was speaking on behalf of last year’s 8th graders. She thanked Mr. Lipp for changing the time to evening last year and that the students appreciated the “chance to say good-bye.”

The chair thanked the visitors for their comments.

Superintendent Brent Lipp recapped his administrative report:

- We held our curriculum fair/science fair/book fair combo on February 23rd targeting parents and community members. It was a great success and we hope to improve it and do it again next year!
- Transition meetings were held for 8th grade special education students to prepare for high school.
- CTA finished the roof analysis. We are very impressed with the results. Our Building/Grounds Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 21 2012 and bring their recommendation to the full board—possibly at a special board meeting if necessary.
- The RtI team finished a day of great professional development—it was an excellent workshop.
- PTO is sponsoring the Missoula Children’s Theatre production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs March 26-31st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Building/Grounds Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 21st at 4:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Bradford made a motion to approve the 2012-13 calendar as presented; Jeff Flaten seconded the motion. Mr. Lipp stated that we looked at the District 2 calendar and tried to align major holidays. We did look at different options and the staff provided input. There was overwhelming support for starting August 27, 2012 and ending June 7, 2013. We seem to have hotter weather in August, as opposed to June, so it seemed as though this shift of dates would be beneficial. All voted in favor of the motion.

Rhonda Hogstad made a motion to approve the Eighth Grade Trip (Rockin’ the Rockies 2012) as presented; Mark Berg seconded the motion. Pat Cates and Erin Pimley presented an overview of the proposed 8th Grade Trip. He noted that the parents and students did a phenomenal job of fundraising this year—especially the two basketball tournaments they held. The trip
will take place May 21-26. Ending on a Saturday will give the students and staff Sunday and Monday (Memorial Day) to recover. Pat noted that the weather was a factor last year so they have made some lodging changes and hope to be able to do the Hiawatha Trail. They have other options lined up if the weather is uncooperative. They have a surprise for students on Friday. The budget for the trip is approximately $17,500 and the chaperones will be staff members Mrs. Styren, Mrs. Thelen, Mr. Rice, Ms. Pimley, and Mr. Cates. Friday is the deadline for eligibility determined by a minimum 2.0 GPA for the first three quarters of the year. The students are already doing coursework which contributes to the trip. Thanks to Pat and Erin for all their work in regard to the trip. Manny also mentioned the prohibition against staff use of alcohol and that the insurance company recommendations need to be followed. Erin noted that the whole itinerary was presented to the insurance company for approval. *All voted in favor of the motion.*

Mr. Lipp provided information on the district’s Volunteer Program in response to a query from Mark Berg. Brent said that we send out a Volunteer Application with our “Welcome” newsletter in the Fall. This year we had eleven volunteers sign up, but we have discovered that they are not being utilized very well. Brent will be talking with staff about how to increase utilization. We hope to get parents in for meaningful and purposeful work. Mark asked about business partners. Brent said that we haven’t done anything about that yet, but we will pursue some options.

An update on CTA’s progress was provided earlier in the meeting.

*Mark Berg made a motion to add an additional 1.0 FTE special education teaching position for the 2012-13 school year; Rhonda Hogstad seconded the motion.* Brent said that he had been considering this for some time and that the case load in special education is exceeding our staffing limits making it difficult to provide a “quality education” under IDEA. If we split the caseload, we could have one classroom designated for Autism spectrum students. We have experienced 15% growth in our overall student population, which translates to more special needs students as well. Mrs. Zentz added that we will have sufficient room in the budget for this addition. *All in favor of the motion.*

The new hire custodian item was deleted from the agenda.

Manny distributed forms for the Business Manager’s evaluation and asked that they be returned to him by April 2nd.
PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Business Manager Evaluation
Policy 1400
Policy 2510
Staff Appreciation

There being no further business, Tom Bradford made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Zentz, Clerk

Manuel Zuniga, Chair