

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

The trustees met in regular session, Monday, May 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Those present throughout the meeting were Chair Rhonda Hogstad, Trustee Mark Berg, Trustee Billie Bergstrom, Trustee Manny Zuniga, Superintendent Brent Lindgren, Business Manager Jeanne Carroll, and Trustee Joel Junso.

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

AGENDA ADJ

Manny commented on his money concerns not being in the minutes under 8th grade trip. Mrs. Carroll said she does not do verbatim minutes and will note that Manny objected to the 8th grade trip strictly based on the individual money amounts students could take.

Manny Zuniga made a motion to approve the consent agenda. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mark Berg seconded the motion. Manny Zuniga also asked a question about Tetra Tech bill.

All were in favor of the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

4. Thank You's

Thank you's from the staff for the staff appreciation gift cards for Rib and Chop.

5. Month in Review

Mr. Lipp reviewed his administrative report with the trustees:

- The Yellowstone County School Track Meet is on Friday, May 1st. Canyon Creek was well represented and our students performed exceptionally well. Mrs. Styren also organized the field day at Canyon Creek and our younger students had a great time. Big thanks to parent volunteers. Mrs. Murphy did a nice job with concerts last week and thank you to her.

- Brent sorted out applications for the teaching position advertised. Due to the change in levy status and looking at class sizes, interviews have been conducted with two applicants dually certified in elem ed and sp ed.

- 8th grade promotion is June 4th at 10 am. Board members will be on stage representing Canyon Creek School District.

- Standardized report card. We are at a crossroads at developing a new report card. Kids are being taught the standards but the report card is not telling what standards are being taught or if the students have learned them. There may be trimesters instead of quarters. Kim Dugan will be working on it and Brent will be reporting on it later on.

*Levy failed again for 3rd time in 4 years. He is disappointed, but optimistic that in the future we will get a levy to pass. Brent believes we need to continue to communicate with our annual newsletter and work on including our taxpayers into the daily process of school.

Next year we are implementing some programs to promote the neighborhood school in a way that we have not attempted in the past. Brent is excited to see if it will make a difference with our levy voting outcomes. He also believes that a parent advocacy group is necessary in the future.

- As we finish up the year, he would like to thank all the staff in working very hard this year and seeing to it that our students were successful. A well-deserved break is needed.

- PTO will pay the cost of resurfacing and striping the basketball court and buy a couple of tetherballs. This will be done by Harddrives.

- Brent said this year he thinks it time for a break from big projects. He'd like to concentrate on top down cleaning, touch-up painting, and gym floor refinishing. The only thing that might be big is the safety money.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORTS

6. Community Dinner

Billie Bergstrom said she heard great feedback from the dinner. Brent's presentation with the levy got a few people in here. They would like to continue it. They may look at doing it on a Friday night again. She said the basket raffles are awesome.

7. Negotiations Committee Update

Rhonda Hogstad and Billie Bergstrom were at the meetings. They said they are currently at a standstill with some issues that the CCEA were going to be working on. Rhonda said the committee is waiting for CCEA to notify Board of their next move. Manny commented that he had not been kept in the loop. Rhonda said after the first one she visited with him and it will noted.

NEW BUSINESS

RENEWAL ACE MEMBERSHIP

9. *Mark Berg made a motion to renew the ACE membership for 2015-16 for \$3000.00.* Brent talked about values of belonging and he does recommend doing it. Brent has also done it within his limits of spending in past years. *Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. All voted in favor.*

10. RIF Recommendations

2015-16 BUDGETARY CUTS

Manny Zuniga moved to approve budgetary cuts as presented. Mark Berg seconded. Brent said he presented a list and it has been updated since. The duties and schedule have been changed. Brent said he and Jeanne have really worked at this to make the money work. The cuts that are .5 FTE for Erin Buyske and Tierney Baffuto, and .86 FTE for Kalli Murphy have been requested for more family time, so that really helped. Brent explained that the recommendations for partial termination and then re-hire as part-time is a logistics thing as the teachers' property rights to 1.0 FTE are changing to .5 and .86. These are the Title I and music positions. In answer to Mark's question, Tierney Baffuto will be the afternoon Title teacher, Erin Buyske is the morning Title teacher and Kalli Murphy is the .86 music teacher. Brent said he is glad we are able to give them the flexibility they need. The rest of the board felt this is something they can do for these teachers. Manny asked if he could vote yes or no on the tenured teachers. Brent said it would not be wise to say no. as well as the kindergarten teacher resigning. Although managing 20 kids in kindergarten is hard. If we get over 20, he said we'd be forced to do something different such as cut out out-of-district students and then come back to the drawing board. Brent said in trying to keep cuts away from the kids, the business office assistant position, currently occupied by Terri Linger, will be absorbed by Dani, Jeanne and Brent. Brent said he hates to, but he feels at this time, one third grade is in the cards again. If at all possible in the future, he'd like to see if it can happen again due to increased students or levy. Due to the load in special ed in providing FAPE to all students, it's necessary to bring in a 1.0 Spec Teacher, by reducing paras from 4 to 6. All this depends on who walks in the door. Brent talked about the duties that will need to be absorbed by Dani, increasing perhaps by 20 hours per week in the summer to be year-round, and the rest by himself and Jeanne. He will also be reducing staff in the junior high by 1 FTE. Also, he'd like to contract with Kim to work on standardized report cards. He mentioned there are stressors in that there is a settlement floating around out there anywhere from \$30,000 to the sky is the limit, and could be on-going, there are issues with the sewer system again. The water system is on watch which could be in excess of \$12,000 to \$15,000 to fix, that will be wait and see. Mark asked about safety money to be used for this. Brent said no, this is a public water source and this is all necessary to keep in compliance. Manny said this is for the Board to consider and asked about the business office position and reducing the music position to .86 if this can still be changed. Brent said no, this can be acted on tonight, with the rest of the classified to be acted upon at the June board meeting. Manny also asked about para and teacher hours. He sees that with the levy not passing, he strongly feels it's hurting our students and our school. He said hopefully we can get this changed. He said he would like to keep the business office assistant position, but he understands why it needs to go and she has done an outstanding job. Brent said it's hard because we know these people. Rhonda said as a board this is how the board feels in general and they have to keep the kids at the forefront. This is not an easy decision, but it is something they feel they need to do. Brent said seeing all the progress the 3rd grade has made with small class sizes, really emphasizes the need for it. Mark asked about students being required to attend

band and music, if that had been changed. Brent said he is working schedules out for music and band and they do work well with these cuts in place. *All voted in favor.*

11. Canvass election

CANVASS ELECTION

Manny Zuniga moved to canvass election as presented. Billie Bergstrom seconded. Rhonda said the mill levy election results were 542 votes were cast or, 44% of the voting population and it was voted down. Brent said when you look at the voters there are still a large number of people who are not registered to vote. It's disheartening when the PTO goes out and hands out registration cards and we get 5 back. He said really there are a lot of senior fixed-income type people and somehow we have to access them. The younger population will vote for it because their kids are in school and the older population sometimes feel they've already paid because their kids are done with school. Brent said there is a lot of politics out there with a lot of negativity, so we are going to struggle for awhile. He said he also feels we need subdivisions, businesses; we need to grow. Billie said this is really important because we only have 830 homes in the area and that's just not enough to support a salary. Mark asked about Elysians' ability to pass levies. Brent said it's because the businesses pay for it all, not the taxpayers in their district and their mill values are higher than ours. *All voted in favor.*

12. Trustees were sworn in and completed paperwork. Mark Berg, Billie Bergstrom and Joel Junso have been elected for a three year term.

13. *Reorganization Meeting*

REORGANIZATION MEETING

Rhonda said we will do this at next month's meeting. Manny is not in favor of changing who the chairman and vice-chair are, all else is okay with him. He will not be at the June board meeting.

14. Appoint District Clerk

APPOINT DISTRICT CLERK

Manny Zuniga moved to appoint Jeanne Carroll as District Clerk. Mark Berg seconded. Manny said Mrs. Carroll is doing an awesome job. *All in favor.*

15.

APPROVE RENEWAL/NON-RENEWAL CERTIFIED STAFF

Mark Berg moved to non-renew non-tenured teacher, Ashley Vogl as presented. Manny Zuniga seconded. Manny asked how long she'd been here. Brent said this is her first year, teaches second grade. He said he wishes we could keep her on, this is hard. *All in favor.*

Mark Berg moved to hire the following tenured teachers at the following fte for the 2015-16 school year: Tierney Baffuto at .5 fte, Erin Buyske at .5 fte, Kalli Murphy at .86 fte. Billie Bergstrom seconded. All in favor.

Manny Zuniga moved to renew the following tenured teachers at 1.0 FTE each for the 2015-16 school year: Karen Meick, Jennifer Tolton, Janet Weston, Theresa Smelser, Jill Thelen, Mike Rice, Talia Super and Alesia Styren. Mark Berg seconded. All in favor.

Mark Berg moved to renew the following non-tenured teachers at 1.0 FTE each for the 2015-16 school year: Taisha Rocha (3rd Contract), Brittney Kolstad (3rd Contract), Mandi Muri (2nd Contract), and Lynette Brug, (2nd Contract). Manny asked when tenure hits. Brent said with 4th contract. Billie Bergstrom seconded. All in favor.

Mark Berg moved to renew Kim Dugan, non-tenured counselor, and give her tenure at 1.0 FTE for the 2015-16 school year. Joel Junso seconded. Brent said this is a point of celebrating things as well. He feels Kim has proven herself and he feels he can invest in her for a long period of time. Manny talked about being on the board with Tumbleweed with Miss Dugan, and he feels it's awesome to have her and CCS involved. *All in favor.*

Manny Zuniga moved to renew non-tenured teacher, Trina Halama, for tenure at 1.0 FTE for the 2015-16 school year. Billie Bergstrom seconded. Brent said this is another person of good quality. He said her teaching style is unique, but speaks to kids. *All in favor.*

16. Approve Special Ed Summer School

SPECIAL ED SUMMER SCHOOL

Mark Berg moved for summer school as presented. Manny Zuniga seconded. Brent talked about students retaining learning over the summer. The Sp Ed coop was used before and they charged us tuition. Brent said the program was not specifically to their IEP or what they needed. Last year we did our own, we know our own students and it's basically a wash in cost. These students struggle with remembering. He talked about items that will be worked on. A caseload of 25 or 26, and these 8 cannot retain information like the rest. There is a schedule attached. If this is approved, parents will be contacted, sign off on it and it will go forward from there. Brent said this has not been budgeted, but he feels it's very important. This is year-to-year and keep our current sped ed teacher at her daily rate of pay pro-rated at 4 hours/day and para at her hourly wage. Rhonda and board agree this is not an additional cost since we had been sending them to the co-op. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

In public comment,. Becca Sedlacek said her son has really benefited from Ms. Vogel and her heart is heavy about this.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING

- Negotiations Updates
- Rehire Classified
- Reorganization Meeting
- Property Insurance Contract
- Appointing Trustees to Committees

There being no further business, Manny Zuniga moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Carroll, District Clerk

Rhonda Hogstad, Chair