

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

The trustees met in regular session Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Those present throughout the meeting were Chair Rhonda Hogstad, trustees Billie Bergstrom, Mark Berg, Manny Zuniga, Superintendent Brent Lipp, and Business Manager Suzie Zentz. Charlene Severson was 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 two adjustments to the agenda. The first was to replace the memo for extra-curricular stipends with a revised version. The other was to add Kelsey Weatherford to the new hire recommendations and to delete the recommendation for secretarial candidate Nicole Hendricks. Brent also said he would add an enrollment update as information.

AGENDA ADJ

Manny Zuniga made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Mark Berg seconded the motion. Rhonda asked about check #35594 to Human Relations media. Suzie said it was for videos ordered by the nurse. *All voted in favor of the motion.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Mark Berg made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Kira Kulinsky; Manny Zuniga seconded the motion. Brent noted that Kira taught at CCS for 8 years and has done a wonderful job for us. This move to Wyoming will take her closer to family. He thanked Kira for a job well done. *All voted in favor of the motion.*

CORRESPONDENCE

Manny Zuniga made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Courtney Miles; Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. Brent thanked Courtney for a good job as a paraprofessional last year. She now has a teaching job for the new year. *All voted in favor of the motion.*

Mr. Lipp reviewed his administrative report with the trustees.

ADMN REPORT

- Brent provided an update on the Duck Creek flashing lights. He met recently with the County Commissioners and presented his case for the lights. They had an extensive conversation and Brent emphasized that they would be beneficial to all county schools. Commissioner Kennedy asked for a specific line item to set aside funds for this purpose and they allocated \$5000 for our request. Brent would like to meet with the Building/Grounds Committee later in September to determine our next move and develop some recommendations.
- Student numbers are similar to last year at this time. Our new hire will be in the 3rd grade based off our enrollment and the academic impact of our emphasis on reading and concepts in between the primary and intermediate grades. The staff concurred with this decision. Brent has capped all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade enrollments of out-of-district students to avoid bottlenecks in the future. He added that it would be nice to see some growth in the junior high!

- Most of our summer work is done, although we are still trying to get the small concrete job taken care of. One of the new sinks is not working correctly, but the plumber is correcting that. Yellowstone Electric has done a great job following through on any leftover issues from the lighting work. The building is ready and our staff is returning.
- Brent reminded the trustees about the MCEL conference October 15-17 in Billings and encouraged them to contact Suzie to get registered.
- The first school day for students is August 27th. Brent plans to introduce the new staff at the September meeting.
- We are still looking for more substitute teachers and perhaps two more paraprofessionals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rhonda Hogstad reported on the conclusion of bargaining with the CCEA. The teams reached consensus on salary and benefits for the 2014-15 contract year. Their agreement adds a 2% increase to the base and \$30/month to the health benefit. Rhonda emphasized that the dollar amounts in this agreement will work with our proposed budget. They had numerous sessions to consider these issues for the second year (2014-15) of the Master Agreement. The Personnel/Negotiations Committee recommends that the trustees approve the 2% increase to the base and \$30/month increase to the health benefit for the 2014-15 contract year.

PERSONNEL/ NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mark Berg reported that the Finance Committee met with Brent and Suzie to review the Trustees Financial Summary and the Final Budget. Mark thanked Suzie for her work on these documents. The committee recommends that the trustees approve the Final Budget as proposed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

OLD BUSINESS

Policy 2510—School Wellness Mark Berg made a motion to approve Policy 2510 as presented; Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. Manny asked about what program this is? Brent explained that these are Federal recommendations through the USDA for school nutrition programs. The standards are quite exacting and we are working to get a grant of \$2000-\$5000. The recommendations link physical health and activity and good nutrition. Our head cook and the health/PE staff are members of the same committee. Virginia Mermel is coming to do a presentation for the staff and could do one for the trustees as well. The program encourages kids to be active throughout their school day. We have already incorporated many of the recommendations such as no soft drinks in school and using things other than candy as a reward. Manny felt that these recommendations should not be in policy. Brent emphasized that these are recommendations, not mandates. *Billie Bergstrom, Rhonda Hogstad, and Mark Berg voted in favor of the motion. Manny Zuniga voted against. The motion carried.*

POLICY 2510

NEW BUSINESS

Manny Zuniga made a motion to continue our membership in the Yellowstone-West/Carbon County Special Services Cooperative for the triennial period; Mark Berg seconded the motion. Brent noted that we contract with the Coop for

COMMITMENT TO COOPERATIVE

speech therapists, physical therapists, psychologists, and many other services. *All voted in favor of the motion.*

Manny Zuniga made a motion to hire Ashley Vogl as a 1.0 FTE teacher for the 2014-15 school year at BA + 1; Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. Brent said that Ashley had worked for us for one year as a paraprofessional in 3rd and 4th grades. She will be teaching 2nd grade. All voted in favor of the motion.

NEW HIRES

Mark Berg made a motion to hire Kelsey Weatherford as a paraprofessional for the 2014-15 school year; Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. Brent noted that she is new to the profession, but enthusiastic about the job. All voted in favor of the motion.

Mark Berg made a motion to approve the FY 2013-14 Trustees Financial Summary as presented; Manny Zuniga seconded the motion. Suzie reviewed the TFS briefly with the trustees, noting that there were no surprises. The General Fund reserve is at the maximum. She mentioned that the increase to the Comp Absences Fund will be useful this year because of her impending retirement. She also noted the transfer to the Building Reserve Fund which provides funds to go toward increasing school security. The trustees thanked Suzie for her work. All voted in favor of the motion.

TRUSTEES FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Manny Zuniga made a motion to approve the Extra-Curricular contracts as presented; Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. Mark asked if these opportunities were open to all staff. Brent said that they were and that there is only one non-staff member on the list. Hopefully we will have staff members pick up the remaining Extra-Curricular contracts. All voted in favor of the motion.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRACTS

Manny Zuniga made a motion to approve the enrollment of 48 out-of-district students; Mark Berg seconded the motion. Brent stated that this is 12 fewer students than last year. All student records were checked and students were denied who did not meet the policy. He noted that too many or too few can impact the budget severely. There is much more "school shopping" these days which may account for the number of out-of-district students we are getting. We have to be very careful not to absorb students in grades where it would have an adverse financial impact on the district. The trustees asked questions about the clarity of the board policy pertaining to this issue. They asked that we make sure that the policy is included with the letter of admission as an out-of-district student. Brent said that we have made an effort to inform parents that their child might not be able to attend in a future year due to an adverse impact in a particular grade. He stated that out-of-district students are guests of the district and it is a privilege to attend. All voted in favor of the motion.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENTS

Mark Berg made a motion to approve the Master Agreement for the 2014-15 year as presented; Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. Rhonda Hogstad reiterated the changes to salary and benefits in the proposed agreement. She said that there would be a 2% increase to the base salary (from \$25,883 to \$26,401) and an increase of \$30/month (from \$470 to \$500) to the health

MASTER AGREEMENT

benefit. Manny asked about the bargaining sessions and what the District's original proposal was. Rhonda stated that the District started at .5% increase and the CCEA started at 4%. She noted that it is somewhat difficult to bargain when money is the only component. The group met three times...gathering additional information between sessions. It was somewhat adversarial at times due to opposing perspectives. Manny stated that he was not pleased with how bargaining went...that it was not proper. Discussion followed regarding the IBB process and the desire of the District to have more training prior to the next bargaining period. *Billie Bergstrom, Rhonda Hogstad, and Mark Berg voted in favor of the motion. Manny Zuniga voted against the motion. The motion carried.*

Manny Zuniga made a motion to approve the purchase of computers for students and staff from Rimrock Computers in the amount of \$14, 162.50; Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. Brent said that we have been trying as we can afford it to keep our computers updated for students and staff. This order includes 6 teacher computers, including one beefed up machine for the music program. The remainder are student computers. All voted in favor of the motion.

COMPUTER PURCHASE

FINAL BUDGET HEARING

Mark Berg made a motion to approve the FY 2014-15 Final Budget as presented; Billie Bergstrom seconded the motion. The Business Manager reviewed the FY 2014-15 Final Budget, comparing it to the previous year. She reported that the total mills are slightly less than the prior year and the taxable value has increased. This should mean no increase in District taxes. All voted in favor of the motion.

FY 2014-15 FINAL BUDGET

PUBLIC COMMENT

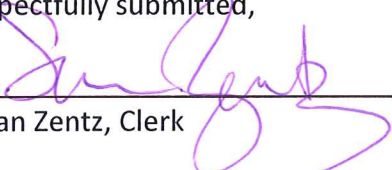
Rhonda Bales—Rhonda read a statement (attached) expressing her dissatisfaction with the manner in which the denial of the Out-of-District applications was handled and her follow up with Mr. Lipp. She discussed issues related to her children's absences, the paperwork involved, school policy, and the manner in which the denial was conveyed.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING


Change regular meeting to September 22nd
Building/Grounds committee meeting
Audit contract
Duck Creek lights
Trustee Goals

There being no further business, Billie Bergstrom made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Zentz, Clerk



Rhonda Hogstad, Chair