

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLACK RIVER FALLS ON APRIL 18, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE LUNDA THEATER.

The regular meeting was called to order by President Ramie Bakken at 6:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ramie Bakken asked the board for permission to amend the agenda so that the reports can be started immediately after the consent agenda.

Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present: Ramie Bakken, Don Mathews, Laurel Meek, Susan Olstad, Mary Jo Rozmenoski, Ron Wirtz, Lois Corey

Board Members Absent: None

Meeting commenced with the verification of Public Notice.

Public Comment – None

Don Mathews moved to approve the consent agenda. Ron Wirtz seconded the motion. Motion carried with 7-0 vote. The consent agenda included the March regular meeting minutes, the March 22 special meeting minutes, monthly expenditures, employment recommendations (Cathy Converse retirement, Deb Horan retirement, Mitch Wester retirement, Mary Preston retirement, Robert Jowett retirement), and gifts/grants.

There were a series of discussion items requested by the board:

1. Utilities Strategy Report – to show that it is prudent for the District to increase our utilities budget by \$70,000 for next year.
2. Speech Therapist Report – to document the reasons why the District does need to fill this position and why the school psychologist is not licensed to practice as a speech therapist.
3. School Psychologist Report – to support the need for adding a 0.5 FTE school psychologist.
4. Building Cleaning Report – to outline the concerns that the District has with this option.
5. School Nurse Position Report – to explain the adjustments that the District could make to reduce our nursing services to half time.
6. MAPE Report – to detail the District's music, art, and physical education recommendations.
7. High School Teacher Reduction Report – to propose reductions in Spanish, Technology Education, and Family and Consumer Science.
8. LMC Director Reduction Report – to illustrate how the District could restructure its library services.

9. Technology Integration Coach Report – to describe the advantages of adding this position.
10. Aide Reduction Report – to clarify that the District could decrease our building aides by three.
11. Comparison of Proposed Staffing Changes with Third Street Closure vs. Other Options – to delineate a variety of scenarios.
12. 4K Options with Proposed Third Street Closure – to present different outlooks on the 4K program.
13. Special Education Staffing with Proposed Third Street Closure – to summarize the dynamics of the special education department.
14. Food Service Staffing with Proposed Third Street Closure – to project an approximate food service savings of \$21,000.
15. District Office Staffing Report – to compare the district office personnel of peer schools.
16. Budget Discussion 2011-2012 – to share information regarding the health insurance bidding process, tax and equalization aid history, and other specific budget developments.

Denise Eddy expressed her concern about class sizes with the closure of Third Street and asked for clarification regarding those who would take furlough days.

Amy Yaeger questioned the details of furlough days and expressed her concern about increasing secretarial and teacher duties. She also asked about virtual school, insurance changes, priorities of possible restorations, and current negotiations.

Beth Handly questioned closing the district office, the necessity of the technology integration coach, district wide furlough days, and board presence in schools.

Tina Boisen questioned details of the utilities strategy report, speech pathologist to student ratios, the staff being equipped to pursue virtual school, special education staffing and the Nexus program, and RtI statistics.

Linda Janke questioned administrative pay raises and the reason for not extending the teacher's contract.

Melanie Simones expressed her concerns about closing Third Street.

Marc Rukavina expressed his concerns about replacing Spanish Education with virtual school. He stressed the importance of considering all options.

Sue Jenkins asked that restoring the LMC Director be considered in the future.

The Board discussed revisiting the capital maintenance budget that was approved prior to the reality of the district's current budgetary restraints.

Ron Wirtz asked for the actual number of layoffs that would occur with the budget development list. He also asked about administering a formal survey to staff regarding the level of support for the closure of Third Street.

Laurel Meek questioned the viability of closing Third Street. She also questioned Special Education caseloads and the future of the technology integration coach position.

Lois Corey commented on getting alternative suggestions from those not interested in closing Third Street via the formal survey.

The board discussed the special meetings that are scheduled for Thursday, April 21 (Budget Hearing) and Monday, April 25 (possible action on budget).

Mary Jo Rozmenoski, Clerk, read the policy "Board Member Code of Ethics" and administered the Oath of Office to Ramie Bakken and Laurel Meek.

Patty Harelson, Denise Eddy, Deb Olson, Michael Lichucki, Shelly Severson, Jon Warmke, Amy Kimmes, Kristin Breining, and Jennifer Bolger presented information regarding Literacy Collaborative. Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to adopt the Literacy Collaborative Model and proceed with applications. Susan Olstad seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Ron Wirtz moved to advise Tom Leadholm, Athletic Director, to support the board of control positions on the proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws of the WIAA Annual Meeting Resolutions. Don Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

Ron Wirtz moved to nominate Lois Corey as the delegate for the CESA 4 annual convention on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Mary Jo Rozmenoski seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. Ramie Bakken volunteered to be the alternate if needed.

The board completed the first reading of Policy 811.1: Indian Education Policies and Procedures.

The board completed the first reading of Policy 531.4: School Psychologist Job Description.

Don Mathews moved to approve the second reading of the proposed new Policy 443.8: Student Demonstrations/Walkouts. Susan Olstad seconded the motion. Motion carried with 7-0 vote.

Don Mathews moved to approve the second reading of the proposed new Policy 447.4: Expungement of Records of Expelled Students. Ron Wirtz seconded the motion. Motion carried with 5-2 (Ramie Bakken and Mary Jo Rozmenoski) vote.

Tom Chambers presented the Student Senate Report and gave an update on their status.

The District Administrator's Report consisted of the following district news:

- Special Board Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, April 21 (Budget Hearing) and Monday, April 25 (possible action on budget).
- The last book study as part of the strategic planning process will be held on Thursday, April 28 from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

- Creation of the teacher handbook is underway. The first meeting took place on April 14, 2011. The next meeting will be on April 27, 2011.
- Patty Harelson was awarded the WI Title 1 Outstanding Service Award for 2010-2011.
- BRAGS students participated in Earth Day River Clean-up with Friends of the Black River.
- May 5 will be Muffins with Mom and May 12 will be Fine Arts Night at Third Street.
- Third Street participated in the Penny Drive for Jackson County Red Cross and raised \$800 to help those in Japan.
- On April 21, Gebhardt will be working on clean-up by the trail for Earth Day.
- Elementary Transition Day will take place in the evening on May 25.
- The first graders participated in Pennies for People to help the Red Cross with local causes.
- There will be a community play group on May 4 at Sand Pillow.
- The middle school band concert is tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.
- The high school musical, *Into the Woods*, had successful performances last weekend.
- ASVAB tests will be administered at the high school on Wednesday.
- The student senate passed a resolution for open access to Wi-Fi for students at the high school starting next year. They are working on the Acceptable Use Policy.
- Middle school and high school students can take both virtual and face to face classes.
- There is a virtual school meeting coming up that the committee will attend to get more ideas.

Discussion items requested by administration included an Odyssey Alternative Education Program report (identifying its success), a Renaissance and Phoenix Alternative Education Program report (noting specific data), and a Middle/High School Open Enrollment Out - Calling report (highlighting direct contact with families).

Lois Corey moved that the remaining agenda items (10.15, 10.16, 10.17, 10.18, 11, 12, and 13) be postponed until Monday's special meeting. Don Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Lois Corey moved to adjourn at 10:06 pm. Ron Wirtz seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Maureen Ruka, Recording Secretary

Mary Jo Rozmenoski, Clerk