

Black River Falls
April 25, 2011
Meeting #20

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLACK RIVER FALLS ON APRIL 25, 2011 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE LUNDA THEATER.

The special meeting was called to order by President Ramie Bakken at 5:37 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken.

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

Board Members Absent: None

There were four discussion items requested by the board (continued from the 4-18-11 regular school board meeting agenda):

1. Board Self-Assessment – Ramie Bakken has not received the results of the survey that she asked each board member to complete and thus asked to table this item. Ron Wirtz motioned and Susan Olstad seconded. Motion carried 7-0.
2. Report Regarding Request to Partner with Neighboring Districts – Ron Saari presented the possibilities that may exist between BRFSD and Alma Center.
3. Graduation Date Discussion – Ron Saari recommended that either Sunday, May 27 or Sunday, June 3 as graduation dates to consider for the 11-12 school year.
4. BRAGS Building Report – Ron Saari shared some assessment results for BRAGS as well as other data in an effort to show rationale to keep the program. He also described options that are available for housing the Black River Area Green School.

Todd Fendt read a statement on behalf of the Black River Falls Education Association and asked the board for more time to contemplate other ideas.

Marc Rukavina reinforced that there is a culture of mistrust right now that needs to be healed.

Jim Hoffman shared budget experiences from his own company and encouraged the board to keep all stakeholders in mind and uniformly apply the “ouch factor”.

Beth Handly asked about an administrative pay freeze and commented that families may need to choose home school or open enrollment based on board decisions.

Jerry Sweeney noted that everybody has to give concessions and everybody will adapt and overcome them.

Sue Leadholm expressed her concern about the future of education in this district and its effect on the community.

Ramie Bakken opened up budget discussion amongst board members. Ron Wirtz motioned to have a special meeting for closed session to reconsider the board's position on entering into negotiations with the BRFEA. Ramie Bakken seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken (6/yes, 1/no – Don Mathews). Discussion continued regarding the items on the budget development list.

Tina Boisen commented on the importance of board member presence in schools.

Budget discussion ensued. Lois Corey moved that the budget be adopted as presented with the elimination of the furlough day (#37). Ron Wirtz seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken (6/yes, 1/no – Ramie Bakken).

Ron Wirtz moved to adjourn at 7:13 pm. Susan Olstad seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Maureen Ruka, Recording Secretary

Mary Jo Rozmenoski, Clerk