

Black River Falls
July 15, 2002

Meeting No. 1

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 1 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLACK RIVER FALLS ON JULY 15, 2002 AT 6:00 P.M. IN
THE HIGH SCHOOL LMC.

Board members present: Durwood Amundson, Laura Chrest, Mike Johnson, Barb Mackenzie, Gregg Mulry, Jeff Pugh,

Board members absent: Lois Corey

President, Gregg Mulry, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Notices of the meeting were delivered to the Banner Journal, WWIS Radio Station and Melrose Chronicle on Thursday, July 11, 2002.

Durwood Amundson moved to adjourn to closed session under 19.85(1)(c) & (f), Wisconsin Stats to review performance evaluation data and compensation and for the preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems. Jeff Pugh seconded the motion.

The meeting was reconvened in open session at 7:15 p.m.

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Richards commented that although the agenda was not printed in the Banner Journal this week due to an error at the Banner Journal Office, the meeting was properly noticed. Notices were posted publicly and copies of the agenda were sent to the various media that have requested the agenda.

Beverly Carney asked what was being done to curb expenses. Dr. Richards stated that an LMC Director position, 3.5 support staff positions, and a bus route have been eliminated. Barb Mackenzie noted that the District is saving money with the bond refunding.

Carol Anderson, high school English teacher, spoke in favor of keeping the LMC Director full-time at the high school rather than having her teach a Computer Literacy course at the middle school for approximately 45 minutes per day.

Dave Cooley, LMC Director at the Middle School, expressed concern about the Computer Literacy course being added to the LMC Department. He is also concerned about the 3rd Street LMC Director position not being replaced and the LMC Director from Forrest Street being moved to 50% time at Forrest Street and 50% time at 3rd Street.

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Sue Jenkins, LMC Director at Forrest Street Elementary School, expressed concern about being unable to do the skill teaching she has been doing with the move to 50% time at Forrest Street and 50% time at 3rd Street. She stated that achievement is higher in schools with more LMC time.

The consent agenda items were approved with the addition of the employment of Michelle (Shelly) Severson as principal at Gebhardt Elementary School.

Durwood Amundson moved to allow Robert Johnson to receive a High School Diploma under the Wis. Act 73. Barb Mackenzie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mike Hoheisel, Springsted, Inc., appeared to present the recommendation of the refunding bonds. The district will save approximately \$140,000 with the sale of the bonds.

Laura Chrest moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Not to Exceed \$2,040,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2002A.

Jeff Pugh seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Durwood Amundson, Laura Chrest, Mike Johnson, Barb Mackenzie, Gregg Mulry, Jeff Pugh.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The middle school principal coverage for 2002-03 discussion was postponed until the August meeting as there is a possibility that David Roou will be deactivated from the Army Reserves by the end of August and be able to return to his position as middle school principal.

Discussion was held on the 2002-03 preliminary budget and tax levy. Jill Collins, business administrator, provided an overview of the proposed budget. It is proposed that the budget for 2002-03 will increase 3.5% or \$528,720 over 2001-02 budget figures. The total tax levy is expected to increase approximately 2.8% over 2001-02.

Laura Chrest moved to approve the preliminary Fund 10 2002-03 budget of \$15,541,879 and a total tax levy of \$4,296,091. Mike Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the board goals that were presented and it was determined that additional discussion will be held at the August meeting.

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Dr. Richards reported Marcus Lewis was elected Governor of Badger Boys State. Summer projects are well underway. Nick Kitowski received the Remington Award for highest academic achievement for an athlete at UW-Madison.

Alice Larkin, school nurse, presented an overview of her activities during the past year.

Sherri Torkelson, director of curriculum and instruction, presented the results of the WKCE tests that were administered this past school year.

Oliver Bade III and Chris Taylor, high school students, presented the annual report of the Tiger Investment Club.

Rob Taylor, high school principal, presented his rationale to seek support for a proposal to change the way the high school will calculate the grade point averages from a straight A-F format to one that will incorporate the use of “pluses” and “minuses.”

Durwood Amundson moved to change the high school grade point averages from a straight A-F format to one that will incorporate the use of “pluses” and “minuses.”
Laura Chrest seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wendy Libert presented an overview of the Jackson County Teen Court.

Jeff Pugh presented the WASB report. He stated that there will be a Contract Administration Seminar coming up in several places this fall and the Regional Meeting will be held on October 10, 2002.

The Board Policy and Handbook Committee report included a revised rule to support policy #443.4, Student Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, a slight modification to policy 443.4, minor revision to policy #751, Student Transportation, and a set of new guidelines to support policy #751. The committee also reviewed and revised policy #233, Elementary School Principal Job Description.

The new rules for policy # 443.4 and policy # 751 will be in effect immediately as rules do not need formal board approval.

Mike Johnson moved to approve policy #443.4 as presented. Jef Pugh seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-1 vote. Durwood Amundson cast the dissenting vote.

Policy #233 and #751 will be presented for approval at the August board meeting.

The Board Assessment Committee met for the first time last Tuesday and made good progress on at least two of the committee's responsibilities. They discussed a survey document that is intended to solicit input from citizens and staff who attend board meetings and for the school board members to assess themselves. Also discussed was a twice a year board evaluation document. Members of the committee will work on these documents and they will be presented to the full committee at their next meeting.

Future Agenda Item Identification:

- Board Handbook
- Parent Involvement
- Board Operating Guidelines
- Core Agenda Plan
- Establishment of two (2) meetings per month
- LMC Director issue
- Board Committees
- Programming trends for high achievers/Gifted & Talented students

Mike Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Jeff Pugh seconded the motion.

Ayes: Durwood Amundson, Laura Chrest, Mike Johnson, Barb Mackenzie,
Gregg Mulry, Jeff Pugh

Nays: None

Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Barb Mackenzie, Clerk

Barb Prochaska, Recording Secretary