

OFFICIAL MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD, I.S.D. #227
MARCH 17, 2008 ~ REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 227, Olmsted, Fillmore and Winona Counties was held on Monday, March 17, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Roll call was taken with these members present: Hare, Schellhammer, Chase, LaPlante, Duxbury and McMahon. Administrators present, Superintendent-Don Hainlen, Elementary Principal-Craig Ihrke, High School Principal, Randy Paulson. Also present Business Manager-Karyl Lyon, Administrative Assistant-LuAnn Hare and Lisa Brainerd with the Chatfield News.

Chairman Hare called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Media Center. The board and members present said the Pledge of Allegiance. Changes to the agenda were: add-9.1.b - Special meeting minutes, March 4, 2008, remove-9.2-d-Approve hire of Junior Class Concession Advisor, add-9.2 j.-Approve resignation of Kelly Puent, One Act Play Advisor, 9.2 k.-Approve posting One Act Play Advisor, 11.2-Ground Breaking Ceremony, 12.8-Presentation by Mr. Ihrke, Elementary Summer School, 12.9-Approve revised budget SY 2007-2008, Remove 12.4-Approve Media Technician Contract. Duxbury/McMahon to approve agenda as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

LaPlante/Schellhammer to approve the claims and accounts as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Bob Thesenvitz asked if there are any outstanding dollars that the district would be aware of for the building project. He felt the abatement was a huge surprise to the public. He would like the board to consider changing the policy about responding to district patrons. He asked if the district was planning to use reserve moneys to pay for things for the new building project. He also expressed his concern over Potter Auditorium. He felt it should be given to a non-profit organization and not become a burden to the taxpayers. Dr. Hainlen stated that he would be responding to some of his questions in his building project update later on the agenda. Mr. Thesenvitz stated that the community is upset about the abatement not being in the referendum and could not believe that something this important was not covered by CCTV last week during the public hearing meeting.

Dr. Hainlen did respond that as far as we know there are no undisclosed costs or any other unknown costs. He stated that we are encouraging good dialogue with the city, with time tables, in order to keep all entities informed. Dr. Hainlen then told Mr. Thesenvitz that he would respond to him by letter on the questions he had if they were not covered in his update.

Barb Upton spoke on this being a far different area when she moved here to teach, than it is now. The school was then working together for the education of our children. She taught to prepare her students to go out into the world. She is concerned about the students today. She feels that our community cannot afford what the school is doing. Her first concern was the playground. She feels the parents need to know what preservatives are in the wood and we need to get written permission from parents for the children to play on the equipment. She stated the city had to pay a \$10,000 penalty recently and wondered how much else the city and school are covering up. She noted in the Rochester paper that in Olmsted County over 800 people were delinquent with their taxes and she did not know the numbers for Fillmore County.

Mike Stephas asked about the financial condition of the school district. He stated that it seems as soon as districts build a school they need more money to operate. He recently read where 170 superintendents in rural schools are stating they are drastically under funded. He asked if two or three years down the road would the district be coming back for more money to operate. Board Member Chase responded to Mr. Stephas by stating that the board has been publicly discussing the operating levy even before the referendum passed. The state continues to give schools less money to operate and we will need to go the voters to just stay at the level we are. The operating levy that is currently in place will expire in 2010. McMahon stated that it is different funds that can be used for furnishings than the operations of schools. He also stated that we are moving as many furnishings as we can to the new elementary from the current elementary. Chase and Dr. Hainlen stated that when the bids come back we will have a better picture of what money we will have to work with. Mr. Stephas stated that he felt that the district did not use foresight when dealing with the developer and the water issue.

Katie Hain, the Student Senate representative spoke on the recent Pennies for Patients, where they raised over \$700. She is involved personally in basketball and track and is a senior at CVHS.

Tom Hughes, the Industrial Tech instructor, presented a classroom project on building bridges. He walked the board through the various steps the students use to complete their bridges. He emphasized the activity required planning, research and a little luck to have the bridge hold a lot of weight before it breaks.

McMahon reported that he and Schellhammer have started negotiations with the principals.

Chase reported that the High School League Activities Committee has met. He hopes that they will have a report for the board before school starts next fall.

Schellhammer/Hare reported that they also had started negotiations with Dr. Hainlen. The board then set a date for a special meeting to conduct Dr. Hainlen's evaluation and goal setting for March 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Hainlen contacted the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted school district in regards to purchasing some new lockers from them. He will report back to the board on costs. He informed the board of a fitness contest between our staff with Lewiston, Chatfield, Dover-Eyota and St. Charles School Districts. Our district has 38 participants and weighed in at the All American Coop at a weight of 6,888 lbs. He also noted that the enrollment count was 891 up one student from last month. He noted that the bid specs for bid package #2 were present at the meeting if anyone cared to look at them. It looks favorable for the bids coming in lower than initial estimates. Erin Paulson, our representative from McNeil Environmental, had conducted a safety check on the district and complimented the district on the fine condition we were in. The Fire Marshall will be paying a visit to the district to review the proposed storage area being planned for garbage refuse. He is waiting for the track specs, so that the bids can go out on that project.

Chase/Schellhammer to approve the minutes of the regular school board meeting of February 19, 2008 and the special meeting minutes of March 4, 2008. Motion carried 6-0.

Chase/Schellhammer to approve the following personnel consent items:

- Approve resignation spring play advisor-Sharon Hrstka
- Approve posting Spring Play Advisor
- Approve resignation of Cheryl Meyer, Junior Class Concessions Advisor

- Approve Fund Raiser-Speech Meet
- Approve hire of 7th Gr. Softball Coach-Jamie Knutson
- Approve resignation of Shirley Lien, 5th Grade Teacher
- Approve posting 5th grade position
- Approve posting and hiring Web Master Position SY 07-08
- Approve resignation of Kelly Puent, One Act Play Advisor
- Approve posting One Act Play Advisor

Motion carried 6-0.

Chase/Schellhammer to approve the Integration Revenue Application. Motion carried 6-0.

Duxbury/McMahon to approve the following District Policies:

- Policy #412-Expense Reimbursement
- Policy #413-Harassment and Violence
- Policy #414-Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse
- Policy #415-Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults

Motion carried 6-0.

The board received the first reading of the following policies:

- 1st reading policy #417-Chemical Use and Abuse
- 1st reading policy #419-Tobacco-Free Environment
- 1st reading policy #420-Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions
- 1st reading policy #421-Gifts to Employees
- 1st reading policy #422-Policies Incorporated By Reference

Dr. Hainlen updated the board on the building project. He stated that he visits almost daily with Jeri Fink, who is our lead person through SGN, and that the bid documents are out. Mr. Fink has also been working closely with staff that works in certain areas, for their input. The bid opening will be April 1st at 1:00 p.m. in the large group room at the high school. Chase asked that the Facilities Committee members, Greg LaPlante and Matt McMahon, review the motion brought to the table at the public meeting. Greg stated that the motion was to approve the abatement for road and sanitary sewer upsizing. The motion was to not include the booster station, and that the portion that the district is paying for the SAC/WAC fees should be used for the booster station. The total abatement to the district would be \$454,000 plus interest. This is based on the city and county agreeing to the changes. Chase asked that the district be represented at the public hearing at the county on March 25th. From the audience, Mrs. Upton then asked the board if any members had seen the Environmental Assessment Worksheet. She expressed her concern and wanted to know if they were as concerned with the findings as she was. Chairman Hare asked Mrs. Upton to please be seated as the district patron time had passed. However, he did state that Dr. Hainlen had been working with the city on the Environmental Impact Study.

The board discussed the ground breaking ceremony. Suggestions were made to include local newspapers, CCTV, KTTC, elementary students, student senate and building committee members. If anyone had other suggestions they should contact Dr. Hainlen.

The board discussed the recent \$50,000 donation from the Chosen Valley Foundation to the district for air conditioning in Potter Auditorium. Dr. Hainlen stated that they had received two price quotes and that they were below the \$50,000 donation. There are new guidelines with the State of Minnesota when you are dealing with air quality, which will result in an engineer's study which could cost \$5,000. LaPlante asked if the donations are going to cover the costs or will we be looking for other donations. Dr. Hainlen stated that at this point they do not expect to need any district dollars. He stated that the committee's intentions were to seek out options and ultimately the board will make the final decisions on Potter Auditorium. The committee had met with the Chosen Valley Foundation board and during that meeting the foundation agreed that they felt it was very important to have air conditioning in Potter. Mike Tuohy will represent the committee and architects their initial findings and suggestions to the board in April. The options were gathered through Kane and Johnson Architects and the committee's investigation. McMahon expressed his concern about keeping ownership of Potter and putting any further money into the building. Dr. Hainlen agreed that this is ultimately the board's decision on whether to keep ownership of Potter. He felt the Foundation was aware of this but that they still wanted to give the \$50,000 for the air conditioning. Duxbury/McMahon to accept the donation of \$50,000 from the Chosen Valley Community Foundation for air conditioning in Potter, contingent upon final approval of the board's use of the building. If the board decides to not keep the property, the donation would be returned. Motion carried 6-0.

LaPlante/McMahon to approve the Business Managers two year contract, 07-08 and 08-09. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion on Administrative Assistant Contract 2008-09. Chase asked if the contract was based on the comparable worth study being conducted by the district. He stated that he would like to wait until the comparable worth information is back to the district. Dr. Hainlen stated that it is common to have the Administrative Assistant with a separate contract. Motion by Schellhammer to approve the 08-09 contract for the Administrative Assistant, LuAnn Hare, Duxbury seconded. Discussion followed. Chase would have liked to see the contract and make sure it falls in line with the comparable worth. Motion carried 4-1.

Chase/McMahon to approve the Activities Directors contract for SY 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. Motion carried 6-0.

Duxbury/Schellhammer to approve the AIA contract with the R.A. Morton Construction Management firm. Motion carried 6-0

Mr. Paulson gave a presentation to the board on the Student Exceed Program (SEP). It is a new program to help students who are thinking of going to the Alternative School, as a means of keeping them in the district. The concept is to help them if they are struggling with issues and give them the tools to be successful academically and stay in Chatfield. These are mainly non special ed students. Resources to help achieve this would be a lead teacher, peer tutors and volunteer staff to work with students. Enhancing the communication links between home and school is also one component. If students are not organized enough to bring homework home they would work on tools to help them become organized and if they do not know how to study they would train them to study. The average IQ of students who leave to go to the Alternative School is typically higher than regular students. The district has made a request to the Dept. of Education for reimbursement of the staff person of 60-80%. If we can keep 3-4 students from going to the Alternative School, it could pay for itself. Mr. Paulson will bring this back to the

board for staffing needs next fall. There could be 25-30 students that this person would be responsible for. The teacher would need a Special Ed license.

Mr. Ihrke discussed Targeted Services and the relationship to the summer school needs at the elementary. The Hiawatha Valley Ed District already has this in place. This could involve having a continual learning plan for the entire year for our students. He asked the board to review the document he had given them and if they had questions, they should let him know. He will continue to look into this option and report back to the board in April. Chase stated that he agrees with this, as it will give us the data that we have been looking for as a district.

Karyl Lyon reviewed the revised budget for 2007-2008. Chase/McMahon to approve the revisions. Motion carried 6-0.

Chase asked if the meeting with the County on abatement could be covered by CCTV or taped.

The board discussed lap top computers for board members. Dr. Hainlen felt this would be a good organizational tool for the board as policies, contracts, past minutes and agendas would all be right in front of them. He will look into the costs for the computers and software involved.

Duxbury/LaPante to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMahon, Clerk