

Gainesville R-5 School District

Kind of Meeting: Regular Open
Date: October 19, 2015

Place: HS Library
Time: 6:00 PM

Present:

Corey Hillhouse, President
Jerry Kiger
Bruce DeWeese
Marti Warden
Billy Pippin
Wes Uchtman
Heather Bushner
Joe Donley, Superintendent
Aaron Dalton, Principal
Tamitha Ritter, Principal
Jason Morris, Principal
Holly Hannaford, Secretary

Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL TO APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Billy Pippin, seconded by Marti Warden, to amend the order of the agenda and approve as presented. Vote taken, motion carried 7-0

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Jerry Kiger, seconded by Heather Bushner, to approve the open minutes from September 21, 2015. Vote taken, motion carried 7-0

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

A motion was made by Jerry Kiger, seconded by Marti Warden, to approve the expenditures as presented. Vote taken, motion carried 7-0

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Monthly Financial Report-Superintendent
- Legislative Report-Superintendent
- Monthly Building Reports-Principals

CO-OP FOOTBALL WITH AVA

Mr. Dalton stated the proposal to Ava is submitted. Ava School District is reviewing. If Ava approves they will submit an application to Missouri State High School Athletic Association for consideration and approval. Costs are still yet to be determined by both of the schools. If the junior high is included this would be a separate application. There are other factors to be considered such as the liability of athlete traveling to practices and games, coaching costs, equipment costs, scheduling conflicts and calendar conflicts between schools.

COMMON CORE INFORMATION

Mr. Donley gave a brief history of Common Core Standards and the house bill (HB-1490) that repealed it for the 2016-17 school year. The Common Core State Standards were developed in 2009 and were adopted by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in 2010, with 42 states in all adopting the standards. Missouri fully implemented Common Core in the 2014-15 school year. However, the Missouri legislation passed House Bill 1490 and it was signed into law on July 15, 2014, by Governor Jay Nixon. House Bill 1490 said the Common Core State Standards would be replaced by Missouri's own set of educational criteria, which are being called the Missouri Learning Standards.

House Bill 1490 also set up eight work groups to review, revise, and develop recommendations for academic standards for Missouri students. Work group members were parents and educators from across the state. Groups were broke into four content areas: English/Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. They were also split into groups K-5 and 6-12. These groups were to report to the State Board of Education on October 1, 2015, and they have done so. Now the process is in a review stage where people can comment on the newly revised Missouri Learning Standards. The General Assembly's joint committee on education, academic researchers, and citizens will have a chance to see and comment on the standards. Missouri citizens wishing to make comments on the new standards can do so by attending the public hearing on October 26, 2015, in Jefferson City or by submitting a comment to the Missouri State Board of Education in writing or by email. The public comment period will probably last until around March 2016, at that time the State Board of Education will adopt the new Missouri Learning Standards.

This process of Missouri adopting Common Core and then replacing them at around the same time as they were to be fully implemented has put all schools in a quandary, because we are being held to a set of standards last year and this year that have already been repealed. In addition, the fact that the Missouri Learning Standards will not be finalized until spring makes it extremely difficult for us to revise our curriculum and prepare teachers to meet the new expectation from which we are held accountable.

Mr. Donley made available to the audience the Notice of Public Hearing by the Missouri State Board of Education and encouraged anyone with concerns or suggestions to submit their comment to the State Board.

Mr. Dalton reviewed his building's focus on the continually changing standards and the shifting new guides to be held accountable to by the state. In 2012-2013 school year, the district reviewed with teachers the Common Core standards and researched comparability of tools to be utilized. Training was provided to our teachers by the Southwest Regional Professional Development group throughout the year in various content and grade level workshops. Training was provided for new areas not covered by previous curriculum, textbooks were reviewed and supplements or other resources were sought out to better help teachers make the transition to Common Core standards. Teachers are doing more frequent self-assessments of the methods used to teach the kids to make sure they are all learning the information and to be held accountable when tested. The curriculum changes were not as great in 7-12 grades as compared to K-6. Teachers are advised they must continually adjust as the target moves.

Mr. Dalton stated that the district is focused on the formative assessment for teachers on concepts used to check if students are getting the lesson, assess as we go, and continue to find and use different techniques.

Mr. Morris added that the elementary is continually striving to streamline methods and resources used, especially in the area of Math, as each teacher teaches differently. Resources to help our kids learn what

is required by the standards. Many hours have been dedicated to researching curriculum at other schools. We currently use the component in the elementary called Eureka; however, with the standards changing yet again we will be looking at other options in collaboration with teachers to get us going in the same direction. We have started to look at individual students and how they learn. Eureka is our base which we build on by continuing the search for supplemental resources. We want to put our students on the best path to be successful.

The elementary still continues to use tried and true methods of delivery such as drilling facts, multiplication tables and other memorization methods, in addition to the new learning standards. The teachers are seeing the benefit and reward of where we use to take them in learning. Other changes were in our reading, more critical thinking skills are being developed as we educate them and the testing results have reflected this.

Mr. Pippin stated that our kids seem to be doing well and our test scores are higher than neighboring schools, however, he has concern with the middle school and the switching of standards all the time and what the district can do to alleviate the constant states of transition. Mr. Uchtman asked if the state reimbursed the district for the learning software. Mr. Donley replied no.

Mr. Dalton stated that 95% of the Common Core standards are the same as previous standards. He advises his teachers if there is a fundamental skill you feel they need to learn, teach it, we aren't going to abandon the things we know students need.

Mr. Pippin stated we have teachers with master's degrees who become more of a facilitator instead of a teacher. Some parents are struggling with helping their kids. Mr. Pippin asked if the district could pay for a new Math program, instead of Eureka, or start paying teachers to stay after school to man a homework line for students and parents.

Mrs. Warden asked if there was as much uprising of previous standards and if it is a matter of the students adapting better than the parents to this new methods. Mr. Morris stated that this conversation was a good thing and is helping lead us down a path of open communication with parents. Mr. Morris stated that from this conversation he felt maybe parent workshops on the new learning standards at the elementary level might be very beneficial.

Mrs. Ritter stated if students are frustrated hopefully the teachers are using daily assessments. We do not want either, parent or student, to have a negative learning experience.

Mr. Pippin asked if the junior high was using the same program (Eureka) as the elementary. Mr. Dalton responded yes, as well as, other resources to supplement and find common terminology to carry throughout.

Mrs. Bushner stated that she thought concerned parents or teachers should submit a comment to the State Board flooding them with your personal experience with Common Core to them. She also suggested administration post this information on the district website and Facebook page or send home with students in backpacks.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

As per Missouri Sunshine law: only items listed and noticed up on the agenda can be discussed by the public. Several community members and staff were in attendance.

Basil Parris was in attendance and requested to address the board regarding the new learning standards Missouri is writing. He expressed his concern that these standards would be the exact same as Common Core but just renamed. He stated he was concerned for our country and that Common Core is pure communism. Mr. Parrish stated we need elected officials that would stop the testing that is data tracking and not educational testing. He stated that the whole Common Core movement was an effort to dumb down our children and that the elite children of the world do not learn Common Core.

Mr. Hillhouse asked Kasey McKee, another parent in attendance, if she had questions or concerns and she had no comment. Mr. Morris stated he would do his best to have some resources online for parents by tomorrow.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM REVIEW

Mrs. Mustion, District Special Education Director, reviewed the overall program with the board and asked for their approval. *A motion was made by Jerry Kiger, seconded by Billy Pippin, to approve the special education program annual evaluation as presented. Vote taken, motion carried 7-0*

MONTHLY SUBSTITUTE LIST

A motion was made by Jerry Kiger, seconded by Billy Pippin, to approve the additions to substitute employee list. Vote taken, motion carried 7-0

ANNUAL WOODCHIPS BID

A motion was made by Jerry Kiger, seconded by Marti Warden, to approve the bid received from Smith Flooring for \$30.00/per ton for the 2015-2016 school year. Vote taken, motion carried 7-0

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015

Mr. Dalton reviewed the report with the board. The APR looks at five areas for a total of 140 points possible. The district scored 131.5 points for the 2014-2015 school year. The areas focused on are: attendance, academic achievement, college and career readiness, graduation rate, and subgroup achievement.

GIFTED OR CHALLENGE PROGRAM

The principals explained the program and its benefits to our students to challenge, enrich, and go beyond the status quo of the regular classroom instruction. Currently the program is offered to grades 4-6 in the elementary to students who meet the qualifications through a pull out method. Students also participate in enrichment field trips. At the upper level grades 7-12 it is offered in the form of dual enrollment college courses, Bulldog Time, junior high literature honor course, junior and high school academic teams, Chess Club, and advanced placement in core areas such as algebra, English, and junior high Spanish.

BLEACHERS ON FOOTBALL FIELD

Mr. Donley updated the board that inspectors had rescheduled and would be down 10/22/2015.

CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PURPOSES LISTED IN SECTION 610.021

A motion was made by Billy Pippin, seconded by Wes Uchtman, to convene executive session for purposes listed in section RSMo 610.021, (3), (12) & (13) Personnel Issues. Roll Call Vote: Hillhouse, yes; DeWeese, yes; Kiger, yes; Warden, yes; Uchtman, yes; Pippin, yes; and Bushner, yes. 8:05 p.m.

Exit Executive Session 9:15 p.m.

BOARD ACTIONS

A ***motion*** was made by Marti Warden, seconded by Billy Pippin, to hire Vicki Smith as a regular route bus driver. Roll Call Vote: Hillhouse, yes; DeWeese, yes; Kiger, yes; Warden, yes; Uchtman, yes; Pippin, yes; and Bushner, yes.

A ***motion*** was made by Billy Pippin, seconded by Wes Uchtman, to hire Candice Collins as the P. A. T. Coordinator. Roll Call Vote: Hillhouse, yes; DeWeese, yes; Kiger, yes; Warden, yes; Uchtman, yes; Pippin, yes; and Bushner, yes.

ADJOURNMENT

A ***motion*** was made by Billy Pippin, seconded by Jerry Kiger, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote: - Warden-yes, Pippin-yes, Bushner-yes; Hillhouse, yes; Uchtman, yes; DeWeese, yes; Kiger, yes. 9:15 p.m.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education