

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, EAST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9

Call to Order: Trustees of School District No. 9 met in regular session on April 10, 2012 at East Valley Middle School Library. Chairman Ann Marie Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance and Introduction of Board Members

Trustees Present: Chairman Ann Marie Thompson, Scott Walter, Kit Johnson, Breck Scheet, Marcia Ellermeyer and Mark Diehl. Superintendent Ron Whitmoyer and Clerk Kim Aarstad.

Principals present: Dan Rispens, Joe McMahon, Jill Miller and Mike Agostinelli, Technology Coordinator, Jeanette Winslow.

Visitors: Faye Ann Cummings, Judy Salisbury, K.D. Jones, Ty Ridgeway, Karol Gustin, James Schell, Jennifer Hager, Kerry Logan, Kevin Bokovoy, Tricia Haines, Larry Irwin & Aubrey Irwin.

Agenda

Chairman Thompson asked the board members if they would like to move the public comment up further into the agenda, the current location for public comment is at the bottom of the agenda.

Motion by Trustee Walter seconded by Trustee Thompson to accept the agenda as presented, and to allow the public comment right after the approval of the agenda. . Unanimous vote for the motion.

Chairman Thompson opened up the floor for public comment. No one addressed the board.

Report

Student Report

Aubrey Irwin, 6th grade student council representative, reported that the student store will be closing soon. Student talent contest was a great success, Lindsey Snell won 1st place, Lindsey Sewell won 2nd place and Grace Freeman and Emily Franke won 3rd place. 2012-2013 student council elections will be held soon. Student council is still considering doing May Day baskets for God's Love and selling ice cream for student council year end and staff appreciation lunch.

Principals and Technology Report

Reports were included with the agenda packet. The principals also reported on the following issues:

EVMS Principal, Dan Rispens – Introduced student teachers, Nick Petrusha and Mindy Wilke. Mr. Rispens also reported that March was a busy month at EVMS, students were taking the CRT testing and there were several field trips.

EVMS Vice Principal, Mike Agostinelli – went over the student discipline report.

Eastgate Principal, Jill Miller – thanked the board for their continued support of the Instructional coaches.

Radley Principal, Joe McMahon – reported that Rachel Bright has been accepted for the 2012 Mickelson ExxonMobil teacher academy. Mr. McMahon also reported that the teaching staff will be observing fellow teachers in their classrooms, it is hoped that they will come back with new ideas for teaching in their own class room.

Technology Coordinator, Jeanette Winslow – reported the NCCE conference was a great success.

Committee Reports of the Board

No report.

Consent Action Items

- A. Minutes of the Regular meeting, March 12, 2012.
- B. Approval of March 2012 former and new warrants (Warrant # 35334 - 35413
And Payroll # 42873 - 42980)
- C. Recommended Employment of Personnel
 - i. Miho Lloyd – Adult Ed Teacher
 - ii. John Anthony – Adult Ed Teacher
 - iii. Amy Thorngren – Paraprofessional
 - iv. Lois LeBahn – Substitute
 - v. Judi Grimes – Summer School Program Leader

Unfinished Business

East Helena School District #9 Budget Projections Continued

Superintendent Whitmoyer explained that schools in the State of Montana have won a judgment to secure funding that was lost when the Governor vetoed Bill 316. What this means to the district is that there will be an increase in general fund budget. Superintendent Whitmoyer went over the 2012-2013 budget.

Election Update

Superintendent Whitmoyer reported that Kevin Bokovoy, Joe Nye and Bill Hurford have filed for open trustee positions.

MTSBA Call for Resolutions

Superintendent Whitmoyer asked if there were any state or federal issues that need to be brought to the Montana School Board Association for Resolution consideration.

New Business

Technology Update and Growth Proposals

Superintendent Whitmoyer went over the districts Strategic Plan Goal for Technology, the strategic plan states that “The District will promote visionary learning and have incorporated technology into every aspect of the district program”. The district has reviewed and replaced the resources that are available to student for learning on an ongoing basis. As a result, all education tools available to students are the latest and best that the district can obtain.

Karol Gustin, Faye Ann Cummings, KD Jones, Jeanette Winslow, Ty Ridgeway, Tricia Haines, Kerry Logan and Mike Agostinelli presented information on the current technology being used in the district.

Superintendent Whitmoyer submitted a proposal for the district to purchase additional Apple technology for students to use in the class room.

Motion by Trustee Walter, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to have the district teachers and administration work to develop scenarios of implementation of new technology within the district. The information will be presented at the May or June board meeting.

School District Bond Refinance Resolution

Superintendent Whitmoyer and Business Manager, Kim Aarstad presented a proposal to refund/refinance the building construction bonds that will become callable on July 1, 2012. The district has a potential to save the taxpayers \$190,000.00 over the course of the 6 remaining years on the bonds.

Motion by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to adopt Resolution #168 to refinance the district bonds. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Property Needs for Future Growth

Superintendent Whitmoyer discussed the future growth issues that may impact the district. Property in the vicinity of Radley Elementary may need to be considered for purchase by the Infrastructure committee at a special committee meeting in the coming months. This property was formally owned by ASARCO and is now being operated by a trust.

The board expressed concern that the property in question was owned by ASARCO and that the soil could be contaminated.

Superintendent Whitmoyer explained that there is a grant available to help with the cost of testing the soil for contamination, but that the district would need to enter into an agreement with the Trust before he could put in the grant.

Motions by Trustee Diehl, seconded by Trustee Scheet to have Superintendent Whitmoyer proceed forward with the evaluation of the land and the possibility of purchasing this land in the future. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Health Insurance Committee Work

Superintendent Whitmoyer reported that the District Insurance Committee will be reviewing the rate increase from Allegiance and the projections associated with pooling with a larger group. The health experience of our existing group varies between a 69% and 95% loss ratio. With a good health history and the trending market increase hovering around 10% this year, the committee will consider if these rates will fall within an acceptable range and weather to pursue additional bids.

Schools Can't do it Alone – Jamie Vollmer

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented a short video of Jamie Vollmer whose presentation in Bozeman went very well. Superintendent Whitmoyer announced that Mr. Vollmer will be available next year for a similar faculty and community presentation for his book "Schools Can't Do it Alone". A courtesy copy of the book was given to the trustees.

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Hunter Education Program Renewal

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented a letter from Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) requesting ongoing permission to access the school buildings for the purpose of doing Hunters Safety Instruction. Superintendent Whitmoyer also explained that the board would need to affirm that FWP Hunter Safety Instructors have permission to bring unloaded weapons onto the school property for demonstration and instruction purpose.

Motion by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Ellermeyer to allow Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks access to the school buildings and to allow instructors to bring unloaded weapons onto the school property for demonstration and instruction purpose. Unanimous vote for the motion.

School Accreditation Status Report

Superintendent Whitmoyer reported that the East Helena School district is fully accredited again this year.

Montana Association of School Superintendents AASA Governing Board

Superintendent Whitmoyer announced that he has been elected by MASS to serve a 4 year term on the AASA Governing Board.

Hear the Public

No one addressed the board.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on May 14, 2012 at 7:00 in the East Valley Middle School Library.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
District Clerk, Kim Aarstad

Approved by: _____ Date _____
Chairman, Board of Trustees

