

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 June 14, 2010 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, Trustees Breck Scheet, Scott Walter, Kit Johnson and Debbie Hunsaker.

Principals: Joe McMahon, Keith Obert & Dan Rispens and Vice Principal, Mike Agostinelli, Technology Coordinator, Jeanette Winslow, Superintendent, Ron Whitmoyer and Administrative Assistant Edie Witham.

Visitors: Jill Miller, Lynn Deming, Lizabeth Townsend, & Judy Hart.

Agenda

Motion by Trustee Scheet, seconded by Chairperson Thompson to accept the agenda as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Reports

Student Report

No Student Report was given

High School Trustee Report

Joe Cohenour, High School Board representative, reported on the Department of Commerce grant that the Helena District received to upgrade the septic system at Rossiter Elementary School. The grant was in the amount of \$291,831 and will fund a septic system that will allow for growth at Rossiter School.

Cohenour also reported that there was one bid to provide meals in the Helena District and that came from Sodexo in the amount of \$2.26 per meal.

The Health Enhancement curriculum draft is out and the first reading was Tuesday, June 8th with the second and third readings commencing in July and August.

Principals', Vice Principal, & Technology Reports Question

Reports were submitted with the agenda package.

Committee Reports of the Board

No committee reports were given

Consent Action Items

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 10, 2010
- B. Approval of May 2010 Former and New Warrants (Warrant #33035 – 33179 and payroll #40013 – 40428)
- C. Personnel Actions
 - Personnel Resignations Accepted
 - i. Stephanie Carey – Teacher
 - ii. Erin Ford – Teacher
 - Recommended Employment of Personnel
 - i. Tricia Haines – Teacher
 - ii. Kathryn Chadwick - Teacher
 - iii. Julie Penner - Teacher
 - iv. Kate Selvig – Teacher
 - v. Tim Pipinich – Teacher
 - vi. Don Rust – Summer School Bus Driver
 - vii. Jill Hoogerheide – Instructional Tutor
 - viii. Faith Germaine – Kitchen Aid II

Motion by Trustee Walter, seconded by Trustee Johnson to accept the consent items as presented. Unanimous vote for the motion.

Unfinished Business

EHPS Retirement Fund Budget Amendment

The projected shortfall of the East Helena School District Retirement Fund Budget was addressed and approved by the Board at the May 2010 meeting. However, the original resolution #151 was not placed in the newspaper on time. Therefore, resolution #152 must be approved by the Board to nullify resolution #151 and allow for the needed support from the Retirement Fund to meet its obligations to the large number of retirees.

Board Committee Assignments from Reorganization

Chairperson Thompson advised the Board as to the new Committees of the Board:

Infrastructure & Transportation committee members are Debbie Hunsaker, Breck Scheet, and Kit Johnson.

Bargaining (Certified) committee members are Mark Diehl, Marcia Ellermeyer, and Ann Marie Thompson.

Bargaining (Classified) committee members are Mark Diehl, Scott Walter, and Breck Scheet.

Budget & Policy committee members are Ann Marie Thompson, Marcia Ellermeyer, and Kit Johnson

New Business

Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Finalist

Superintendent Whitmoyer was proud to announce that Miss Liz Townsend, a fifth grade teacher at Radley Elementary school, is a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science for the State of Montana. As one of four finalists she will be considered for the award and recognition at the federal level.

Lewis & Clark Library to address the Board

Judy Hart, representing the Lewis & Clark Library, gave a short presentation to the Board in which she thanked East Helena Public Schools for the last nine years of partnership between the schools and the Lewis & Clark Library. She stated that the Library is committed to serving the schools as well as the community when their new branch library opens. The anticipated opening is planned for June 22, 2010.

The Lewis and Clark Library showed their appreciation to East Helena Schools by presenting the schools with a framed print of artist Bob Morgan's print entitled "The Day the Stacks Came Down."

Indian Ed Grant Public Hearing

Dan Rispens presented the planning details of the Indian Ed program for the coming school year. East Helena Schools received more grant money, for the next school year, than in the past due to the efforts of Indian Impact teacher, Barb Anez. Mr. Rispens presented graphs showing the correlation between student absences and grade point averages, again showing the importance of Mrs. Anez's work with families to promote their child's regular attendance.

Title I Program

Superintendent Whitmoyer updated the board on the Title I program which targets students in intervention programs such as Summer School and before and After School Tutoring.

Safe Routes To School Construction

Superintendent Whitmoyer presented information on the nearly \$250,000 Safe Routes To School project. The project has evolved over a three year period and is entering its final stage with a groundbreaking ceremony that took place on June 14th. Whitmoyer stated that community involvement has been phenomenal, with donations of not only money, but the time and effort of community members to launch fundraising activities to raise the needed matching dollars required by the grant.

Instructional Data Review

The Board had the opportunity to review the East Helena School student learning scores from the Montana Comprehensive Assessment of student skills (MontCas) test given each March. Principals McMahon, Obert and Rispen, as well as Vice-Principal Agostinelli presented data on the influence that the Instructional Coach at East Valley Middle School and the new Indian Impact teacher had on the performance of our students on these tests. A graph showing the comparison between East Helena Schools and the State averages showed that East Helena students were ahead of the state averages in every grade level in both reading and math.

Optimizing Resources Meeting June 24th in Manhattan

Superintendent Whitmoyer stated that he was not available to attend the Optimizing Resources meeting on June 24th and Trustee Walter expressed an interest in attending the meeting. Trustee Walter will represent East Helena Schools by attending this meeting, where he will make connections with other Boards and research money saving ideas for our district.

Montana DOC Quality Schools Grant Award

Superintendent Whitmoyer updated the Board on the recent award that East Helena Schools received, in the amount of \$397,892, to retrofit all three school buildings with more allergen reducing air filters and the installation of an air handling system at Radley School. The process of hiring contractors for duct cleaning work and installation of the new system are under way. WTR Consulting has been instrumental in the development of a very competitive grant proposal and will be handling the project.

Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) Update

Superintendent Whitmoyer suggested that the Board review the direction that Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) is taking and decide whether or not East Helena Schools should continue to be affiliated with the organization. The mission of MQEC is changing direction and may not fit the needs of the district. Whitmoyer suggests that the Board compare the MQEC mission with the ideology of the East Helena School District and discuss it further once the dues become payable.

MTSBA Caucus Suggestions

Each year, the Board and the public have an opportunity to discuss legislative issues that they wish to support in the upcoming Legislative Session. This is an opportunity to share any ideas that would be of interest to the Board that could be written as a resolution for the MTSBA Caucus to consider.

Hear the Public

No one addressed the board.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on July 12, 2010 at the East Valley Middle School Library.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Administrative Assistant, Edie Witham

Approved by: _____ Date _____
Chairman, Board of Trustee