

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

Board of Trustees
 Regular Meeting
 February 12, 2009
 Board Room
 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Hot Springs County School District No. 1 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room by Chairman, Liz Mahoney.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Liz Mahoney, Belenda Willson, Hub Whitt, Karen Leyba, Clay VanAntwerp, Dr. Travis Bomengen, Student Trustee Katie Olsen and (ex-officio) Superintendent Marty Kobza

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators Dustin Hunt, Jodie Cameron, Matt Spring, Janet Philp, Lisa Pearce; Kelly Andreen, and approximately 25 visitors.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Willson to approve the February 12, 2009 board agenda with the following additions:

- Additional recommendations under Agenda Item III. Consent Agenda: Under Staffing Recommendations
 - ✓ Accept the resignation of Jodie Cameron as Middle School Principal/Special Services Coordinator effective the end of her current contract
 - ✓ Accept the resignation of Bob Uffelman as middle school teacher and middle school athletic director effective the end of his current contract
 - ✓ Pay Tracy Matthews a stipend in the amount of \$5000 for the coordination and operation of the HSCHS concessions for the 08-09 school year.
 - ✓ Transfer Aimee Kay from instructional facilitator to drop-out prevention specialist effective February 13, 2009.

Ayes 6

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Leyba to approve the consent agenda which includes:

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 15, 2009; and Minutes of the Executive Sessions of January 15, 2008; Minutes from the Special Meeting of January 15, 2009 and Minutes of the Executive Session of the Special Meeting of January 15, 2009
- Bills and Financials
- Authorize advertising for gas and diesel products, dairy products, and custodial.
- Consider for Approval Staffing Recommendations
 - ✓ Accept the resignation of Kay Reese at the end of her 08-09 teaching contract
 - ✓ Accept the resignation of Kathy Taylor as Activities Director at the end of her 08-09 AD contract
 - ✓ Terminate Andrea Linn as para-professional effective February 12, 2009
 - ✓ Employ Craig Redland as a bus driver effective February 12, 2009, placed on Range I, Step 1.
 - ✓ Employ Ernie Mecca as assistant middle school track coach.
 - ✓ Accept the resignation of Jodie Cameron as Middle School Principal/Special Services Coordinator effective the end of her current contract
 - ✓ Accept the resignation of Bob Uffelman as middle school teacher and middle school athletic director effective the end of his current contract
 - ✓ Pay Tracy Matthews a stipend in the amount of \$5000 for the coordination and operation of the HSCHS concessions for the 08-09 school year
 - ✓ Transfer Aimee Kay from instructional facilitator to drop-out prevention specialist effective February 13, 2009.

Ayes 6 (Leyba abstains from invoice #127947 to Super 8 Motel in the amount of \$179.97, #127948 to Super 8 Motel in the amount of \$179.97 and #128782 to Super 8 Motel in the amount of \$119.98, but votes in the affirmative on remainder of bills)

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

DELEGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS**Visitors/Public Comment**

Four juniors requested that the board consider holding graduation for 2010 during Memorial Day weekend to give additional traveling time for families. The class held a vote today. The juniors voted 20-15 to hold graduation on Memorial Day weekend.

Staff Recognition

Lynda Wyss was recognized for her dedication to the school district and her work currently as an instructional facilitator to help bring continuity between the buildings. She has been instrumental at all buildings. Thank you Lynda!

OLD BUSINESS**Superintendent Contract Consideration**

Moved by Willson, seconded by Bomengen to extend the contract for the superintendent to June 30, 2011.

Ayes 6

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

February 12, 2009

RWE Space Issues/Options

Currently, space at RWE is being used for teaching that was not intended for that purpose. With possible programming changes such as offering pre-school, space is becoming a big concern. The building committee had requested a larger addition, however, were restricted by SFC rules. Tonight is a discussion of options and no decisions will be made. There are options available to resolve the space issue such as modulars, an addition to the RWE building or moving the 5th grade to the middle school. Modulars would be a temporary solution. An addition to the building would require that we follow the SFC process and if they would approve an addition, it would not be ready by next year. The middle school does have adequate space for another grade level and this could be accomplished by the start of next year. Concerns that administration has heard include 5th grade students moving from class to class (feel they are not ready) and not wanting 5th grade students in direct contact with 8th graders. There are ways to address these concerns including: self-contained classrooms for 5th/6th grades; separate entrances for 5th/6th graders and 7th/8th graders; building layout options; different lunch times; separate breakfast arrangements; passing periods not overlapping; and different start/release times. There would be academic advantages to this setup. Having 5th and 6th grades as self-contained would allow concentration on reading and math and help students make the transition to the middle school. There would be less shared staff between the middle school and high school. It would make collaboration easier and we would be able to offer additional elective opportunities.

Supt. Kobza will continue talks with SFC, will visit with staff on what options are being explored, and will schedule a public meeting to get public input. Supt. Kobza would like to bring a recommendation to the board at the March meeting. The recommendation will be based on the best academic situation for students. It was noted by Chairman Mahoney that in the past, modulars were used as a temporary solution, but became permanent.

TMS/HS Proposed Class Schedules

Supt. Kobza presented a proposal for the 09-10 class schedule. The proposal included an additional position at RWE for a writing specialist. This class would be set up as a special. This position would be half-time writing and half-time gifted facilitator. If the board chooses to move the 6th grade to self-contained an additional teacher would be needed. Contingent upon the direction taken with Fremont County BOCES, a CTE teacher would be needed at the middle school. This position would also serve as the CRT advisor for the high school. There are no additional positions needed at the high school. In discussions with the English teachers, it was requested that a reading specialist be hired for grades 5-9.

In regards to the budget, for the CTE teacher we would be looking at Fremont County BOCES to help partially fund this position. For the other positions, we would need to look at drawing down the reserves from 15%, adjustments in other parts of the budget, and an increase in funding due to increased student enrollment. Ms. Pearce felt comfortable that the positions can be funded within the budget.

The proposal will be considered once other decisions have been made such as Fremont County BOCES and RWE space issues.

Retirement Benefit

Moved by Leyba, seconded by Whitt to offer a retirement benefit package consisting of a one-time payout based on their daily rate times sick leave balance put into an HRA to certified staff members who have 20 years of in-district service and are 55 years of age if they notify the district of their intent to retire this year by March 15, 2009.

Ayes 6

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

Moved by Leyba, seconded by Bomengen to extend the notification date for the early notice of resignation/retirement to March 15, 2009.

Ayes 6

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS**Board Member Appointment**

Moved by Willson, seconded by Leyba to appoint Joe Martinez to replace Breez Daniels. Mr. Martinez will serve until November 2010.

Ayes 6

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

14th Street Property

Frank Manning and John Lumley, representing the Hot Springs County Commissioners, made a request that the school district sell the county a piece of property near the new fire hall on Amoretti Street. The commissioners would like to construct a building to house the Search & Rescue Department. The Search & Rescue Department is currently housed in the old fire hall. However, the Town of Thermopolis would like to start using this space. Chairman Mahoney thanked Mr. Manning and Mr. Lumley for their presentation.

1st Reading – Policy IHBG Home Schooling

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Leyba to approve the 1st reading of the revisions to Policy IHBG *Home Schooling* with the addition of addressing “if space is available” within the policy.

Ayes 6

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

1st Reading – Policy IKF – HSCHS Graduation Requirements

Moved by Leyba, seconded by Bomengen to approve the 1st reading of Policy IKF, *HSCHS Graduation Requirements*. Discussion: Ms. Willson noted that she would like to see the math units increased to 4 if allowing students to receive high school credit in middle school. She does not feel that 1 unit of math in high school is enough. It was noted that this revision is aligning the policy with a decision that was already made by the board earlier in the year.

Ayes 6

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

Student Contract

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Willson to approve the following student contract with Normative Services, Inc.: Contract for February 25, 2009 through June 30, 2009 in the amount of \$30,366.00 to include the following services: Tuition; Room and Board; Special Transportation; Related Services: Testing, Psychiatric Services, Psychological Services; Extended School Year

Ayes 6

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

School Calendar

Supt. Kobza summarized the proposed 09-10 calendar. Early release dates have been built into the calendar to allow for vertical collaboration. We would like to operate on a 2 year calendar, allowing the committee to research other options and their affect on student academic performance. Supt. Kobza discussed ending the 1st semester before Christmas. This option has not been taken to the staff for their input yet. There is a concern about the imbalance of days between semesters. However, by ending the 1st semester prior to Christmas you will eliminate the days spent reviewing for finals when students come back from the Christmas break.

The discussion then focused on the graduation date for 2010. Holding graduation during Memorial Day weekend allows travel time for families and allows more parents the opportunity to participate with the graduation party. Supt. Kobza noted that the district wants to create the safest situation for students.

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Willson to approve Calendar Option A for the 2009-10 school year and to hold graduation on May 23, 2010 with permission to develop a similar calendar for the 2010-2011 school year to be brought for approval this spring.

Ayes 3

Nays 3 (Leyba, Bomengen, VanAntwerp)

Student Trustee - Nay

Motion Failed

It was discussed asking for more involvement from the high school staff in deciding the graduation date. It was noted that the students were thinking of the best interest of their families and not themselves with their request. Having graduation a week later would have advantages for athletes in state track as they wouldn't be missing rehearsal. Supt. Kobza suggested that the board look at holding graduation on Memorial Day weekend every year, if this is pulled from the calendar motion.

Moved by Bomengen, seconded by Leyba to approve Calendar Option A for the 2009-10 school year with permission to develop a similar calendar for the 2010-2011 school year to be brought for approval this spring and to send the graduation date request back to the calendar committee for more review and additional input.

Ayes 6
Nays None
Student Trustee - Aye
Motion Carried

Bus Purchases

Mr. Miller reported that these bus purchases would be based on current state specifications. The state has a schedule for bus replacements based on mileage and age. The activity package includes storage racks, under bus storage, an engine heater, is more comfortable for longer trips, and the suspension is a little better.

Moved by Whitt, seconded by VanAntwerp to approve the purchase of a 2010 Blue Bird 78 passenger bus with the activity package from Elder Equipment for \$125,830 and to approve the purchase of a 2010 Blue Bird 60 passenger bus from Elder Equipment for \$113,190.

Ayes 6
Nays None
Student Trustee - Aye
Motion Carried

Parent Notification System

Automated parent notification systems are being used extensively across the nation. They can be used in evacuation or lock down situations along with a multitude of other situations. A message is recorded and sent to parents, giving a consistent message in a short period of time. It can also help with rumor control. The system will allow for text messages. This is invaluable in emergency situations.

Moved by Bomengen, seconded by Leyba to approve the service agreement between AlertNow (Saf-T-Net) and Hot Springs County School District #1, dated March 1, 2009, at \$3.00 per student.

Ayes 6
Nays None
Student Trustee - Aye
Motion Carried

Executive Session 8:59 p.m.

Moved by Leyba, seconded by Willson, to go into executive session to discuss a student matter and personnel.

Ayes 6
Nays None
Student Trustee - Aye
Motion Carried

Adjourn out of Executive Session 9:47 p.m.

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Leyba, to adjourn out of executive session.

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Student Expulsion

February 12, 2009

Moved by Bomengen, seconded by Leyba that the student referenced in Docket No. 2009-2 be given a long term suspension from the schools of Hot Springs County School District No. 1 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year for possession of marijuana at school.

Ayes 6

Nays None

Student Trustee - Aye

Motion Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

Board Reports

Rec. Board: Mr. VanAntwerp reported that girls' basketball is underway, and co-ed volleyball is wrapping up. The Rec. District is pursuing taking over the Armory. There will be public meetings regarding the possibility of a new rec. center/senior center/convention center. Everyone was encouraged to attend the meetings and give their input.

BOCES: Ms. Leyba reported that enrollment has increased by 2 students since the holidays. The BOCES board is watching the legislative bill for quarterly reimbursement.

Other:

NSBA conference: Chairman Mahoney reported that after reviewing the budget, the district would not be sending any members to the conference this year. Instead, she would like to propose holding board retreat this spring. Supt. Kobza has been in touch with a consultant who has presented an outline and proposal. The retreat would focus on identifying goals and expectations, how to measure if we are successful, and operating principals of the board. The dates the consultant has available are May 8-9, May 22-23, the first week in June, or June 19-20. A final decision will be made at the March meeting.

Chairman Mahoney stated that the NSBA conference is invaluable to members and will try to have this in the budget to send all board members and Supt. Kobza next year.

Legislative Forum: Supt. Kobza, Mr. Whitt and Chairman Mahoney attended the legislative forum in Cheyenne.

Building Committee: Mr. Whitt reported that the tree in front of the administration building has been removed. The building committee has been exploring the space issues at RWE. The asbestos bid is out for the Lucerne demolition project and are still looking at completing the demolition this spring.

Superintendent's Report

1) Supt. Kobza reported that the staff has begun their work with CLI. The Curriculum Coordinating Council met for two days this week. The subjects that will be concentrated on this spring are math and tech literacy. The involvement of staff has been great.

2) Supt. Kobza reported that the district will begin looking at evaluations and the evaluation process this spring. The state is currently re-writing statute requirements. The district will involve staff members and look at how to improve the process by making it more effective and less cumbersome.

3) Supt. Kobza has been in contact with Anne LaPlante to facilitate the IBN process for salaries. The dates we have scheduled are April 20 and 21. Board representatives will be appointed at the March meeting.

4) Supt. Kobza gave an update on Academic Opportunity. The middle school has seen a reduction in students on the ineligible list. The principals are working with staff on interpretation of the program. The high school has seen about a 10 student decrease on the warning list. They are using a wiki for accountability. At RWE, teachers are able to find students who are having problems or issues and being able to meet their needs. This has also given principals an opportunity to meet with parents.

Public Comment

Danny Pebbles addressed the board. He stated he was here as a parent and voter, not representing Bruce Thurgood or at his behest. In the history of the board, a vacancy was filled with the next highest vote getter. Mr. Pebbles doesn't understand how a majority of 6 can supersede community input. He asked if he could get a public explanation. Chairman Mahoney stated that in the last 6 years, two members have left the board. The process to replace those board members consisted of receiving letters of interest and an appointment being made by the Board of Trustees from those letters. The Board of Trustees had four really good choices and the choice was not easy to make. The board is charged with appointing an individual to the board that would best meet the needs of the district. Mr. Pebbles stated that it seemed common sense that the choice would have been based on the election. Dr. Bomengen noted that the board will be looking at the policy on fulfilling board vacancies.

Adjournment 10:12 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Mahoney adjourned this meeting.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk