

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
 Board of Trustees
 Regular Meeting
 March 18, 2008
 Auditorium
 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 Auditorium by Chairman, Liz Mahoney.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Liz Mahoney, Breez Daniels, Hub Whitt, Bobbi Miller, Barb Vietti, and (ex-officio) Superintendent John Balow

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Belenda Willson, Karen Leyba, and Student Trustee Erika Odde

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators Dustin Hunt, Jodie Cameron, Lisa Pearce and Jay Stewart; Kelly Andreen, and approximately 120 visitors.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Daniels, seconded by Miller, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, special meeting and executive session of February 20, 2008; and minutes of the special meeting and executive session minutes of February 27, 2008

Ayes 5
 Nays None
 Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Vietti, to approve the March 18, 2008 board agenda with the following amendments:

- Under V. Bills and Financial Reports Add:
 Item C. Approve Transfer of Assets for computers and utility trailer
- Under IV. Delegations & Individuals Remove:
 Billie Joe Norsworthy from the Visitors Section

Ayes 5
 Nays None
 Motion Carried

DELEGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

2nd Place State Championship High School Wrestling Team

Head Coach James Newby and his 2nd place state championship high school wrestling team were honored for an outstanding season. This is the highest place at state the wrestling team has achieved. Coach Newby introduced his wrestlers and managers in attendance: Managers Emma Stevens and Baely Lofink; Will Larson, State Champion; Derek Moore, 6th place; Josh Pounds, State Champion; KC Lahoe, 3rd Place; Dylan Balstad; Ty Mead; Kyle Larson, 4th place; Josh Materi; Daniel Norskog, 6th place; and Assistant Coach Charlie Smith. Chairman Mahoney, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, presented the team with pins in honor of their outstanding season.

Visitors

RWE PTCP representative Sarah Cox read a letter compiled by the PTCP group. The group would like to see improvements in the school district. They feel there is a lack of stability and they feel the board does not have the students' best interest at heart. There are many positive things that have been accomplished that include the integration of Lucerne into the elementary school, implementation of the Reading First program, and the smooth transition during the remodel of RWE. The group wants to trust the board's decisions and ask that they reconsider offering Mr. Stewart a contract.

Maecile Brown of Horseworks Wyoming wanted to express her appreciation for the time dedicated to the school district by the professionals. She is part of a group that has been meeting to discuss education and the concerns of the community and requests time on next month's agenda to discuss their concerns.

John Linnehan wanted to thank Hub Whitt and Bobbi Miller for supporting Mr. Stewart.

Roxie Linnehan is very disappointed. When she was in school there was only one principal. She is disappointed that the board took a recommendation from someone who is not returning. She feels the board should recognize this is about the students and not personal differences. She is confused as to why there are not answers for the board's decision. Mr. Stewart has done wonderful with the children. She is asking the board for reconsideration.

Donna Pennoyer has already sent a letter to the board regarding the 4.5 day week calendar, but is now concerned with a bigger issue. Her concerns lie with the many changes that students will have to deal with next year: new superintendent, new principal and the possibility of 4.5 day week calendar. She described an incident at a school district in Georgia that is dealing with accreditation problems due to school board issues. The board needs to be accountable for their actions, listen to students and staff, not micromanage and not keep the public in the dark as to why things are happening.

Bruce Thurgood stated he has respect for the school board. He is concerned that if someone wants to apply for the principal job they may not, given the turmoil the school district is in. He feels the district doesn't seem to be reaching their goal and he doesn't remember a time when there was such community disappointment in a board decision. He requests the board reconsider their decision.

Kim Schierkolk also has respect for the school board members. Reading from the monthly notification included with the board agenda she states the sentence "Your Board serves as the general agent for carrying out the will of the people in the district," is what the community is asking for. She is disappointed in the decision made. Mr. Stewart is a good principal and she requests the board reconsider their position.

Fred Crosby stated he moved here in 2001 with his 5 children because of the stability in the schools. He is very upset with the decision and feels it would be very big of everyone to give Mr. Stewart a second chance.

Clay VanAntwerp requests the board reconsider their decision. He states the board belongs to the community and does have the ability to reconsider their decision.

Sylvia Gambone sent a letter to the board explaining how she felt about Mr. Stewart. She is a foster grandparent at RWE. She wanted the board to understand how much everyone loves and respects Mr. Stewart for everything he has done for RWE. The foster grandparents love their jobs and feel that they are contributing to the school. She asks the board to reconsider.

Jan Olheiser feels that when everyone is working together, teachers, board, principals, students, and parents, things run smoothly. She is disappointed the board took the professional opinions lightly. She feels Mr. Stewart gives the students the respect they need and deserve based on interactions she has seen.

Bria Pebbles, a high school student serving community service at RWE saw evidence where students respect Mr. Stewart.

Mike Connor has spoke with all board members regarding his opinion. He has seen how the students look up to Mr. Stewart during trips taken. He feels it takes 3-5 years for a person to be able to prove themselves. He believes the decision should be reversed.

Sister Jean Murray has been praying for the children to get a good education. After hearing good things happening, she felt her prayers were answered. Now she is very disappointed and feels that Mr. Stewart is interested in what's best for the children.

Danny Pebbles requested the audience be allowed to continue to voice their concerns. His daughter respects Mr. Stewart and he asks that the board reconsider their decision.

Chairman Mahoney stated that while board meetings are held in public, they are not public meetings. She did appreciate those who went out of their way to be put on the agenda and intended to enforce the 20 minute comment period and move on with the agenda.

Chairman Mahoney stated the board of trustees does appreciate the community for their comments. It took courage and guts to stand up in front of everyone to voice their opinions. Their comments and concerns have been heard and are valued by board. The members of the audience are obviously passionate about the education their children are receiving and the board is here for that same reason. She is certain that everyone in this room would agree that anything less than excellence for our children is not okay. It is time to demand excellence and it is not solely on the shoulders of the board. It will take the entire community to reach this excellence. The community has to trust in the board that they are basing their decisions on this goal.

BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS OFFICE DATA

Bills & Financial Reports

Moved by Vietti, seconded by Whitt, to approve the bills and financial reports as follows:

General Fund	\$826,570.86
Special Revenue	\$65,132.29
Capital Projects	\$0.00
Major Maintenance	\$0.00
Debt Service	\$0.00
Food Service	\$36,248.97
Insurance Trust	\$1,970.84
Activities	\$10,558.54
Scholarship	\$500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$940,981.50

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Dual Enrollment Costs

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Daniels, to approve payment to Fremont County BOCHES to cover the amount over the 1/8 mill levy out of the general fund for dual enrollment classes at the high school. Discussion: The textbooks purchased this year can be used until CWC changes their requirements. Any new courses will require the initial purchase of textbooks.

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Transfer of Assets

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Vietti, to approve the following asset transfers:

10 – CPU/Work Stations to Central Wyoming College
1- Self Contained Construction Site Utility Trailer to Basin Mechanical in exchange for \$2800 in mechanical/professional services.

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

IBN Committee Members

The following board members were appointed by the chairman to serve on the IBN Salary Committee: Hub Whitt and Liz Mahoney. Belenda Willson and Karen Leyba will be approached to see if either will sit on the committee.

08-09 Calendar

Moved by Miller, seconded by Daniels, to approve Calendar Option A for the 2008-09 school year. (The calendar has 187 teacher days and 175 student days. The starting and ending dates are:

- 8-18-08 First Day for Teachers
- 8-21-08 First Day for Students
- 5-29-09 Last Day for Students
- 5-29-09 Last Day for Teachers)

Ayes 5

Nays None

Motion Carried

Principal Selection Committee Appointments

The following board members were appointed by the chairman to serve on the Principal Selection Committee: Hub Whitt, Liz Mahoney, and Barb Vietti

Policy IHBG – Home Based Educational Program

Moved by Daniels, seconded by Whitt, to adopt on third and final reading replacement of *Policy IHBG – Home Based Educational Program* with the policy recommended by legal counsel.

Ayes 5

Nays None

Motion Carried

Principals' Monthly Report

Principal Stewart reported that at RWE they have finished their 3rd quarter district writing assessment. The staff is integrating writing throughout the curriculum. The Reading First state personnel will be here on April 7 to monitor progress at RWE. The grant will continue for the 08-09 school year. After that, depending on any legislature decisions, budgetary considerations may need to be made.

Principal Cameron reported the TMS staff is continuing to use team time for collaboration for more consistent teaching across the curriculum. PAWS testing started last week. There have been problems with the state site freezing up. The tests are also taking a lot longer than predicted by the state. At TMS, they have reduced the number of students per testing groups to help with these issues. She also reported that in February 73 students took advantage of tutor.com. The numbers are very positive as well as the feedback received from the users.

Principal Hunt reported that the high school had a very successful winter sports season. The spring season is just getting started. He and several staff attended the school improvement conference where Eric Kay was honored as our district teacher of the year. An idea from the conference the high school staff is instituting is a writing manual that all staff can use in their classrooms no matter the subject being taught. The student council at the high school has instituted a student and staff member of the month project. The staff member receives a flower and the student receives a special parking place for the month. In addition, they are looking at putting up pictures of the honorees for additional recognition. (Sonja Stump was available in the audience to note that the local Rotary club still does a student of the month within their club.) High School students are 1/3 complete with PAWS. They have also had problems with the state site freezing up and the tests taking longer. The math tests that were estimated to take 65-70 minutes are taking 50 minutes for the directions and then 3-4 hours for the students to complete the test. The high school will be hosting parent teacher conferences on 3/26 and 3/27. The staff will be serving hamburgers and the board members are invited to attend.

Student Success Committee Report

Principal Hunt presented a summary of the pilot graduation program. The program allows the student to take only the required credits they need to graduate, but they have to work a great number of hours to complete. The assignment load is similar to the regular classroom, however, there is less lecture. Another intervention they are researching is career clusters. He has asked Sandy Barton to address the board to explain the program. Cody McLean thanked the board for the opportunity to look at these issues. He has noticed more community involvement in addressing the at-risk issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Contracts

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Vietti, to approve the following student contracts:

Normative Services, Inc.: Contract for February 25, 2008 through February 24, 2008 in the amount of \$87,965.00 to include the following services: Tuition; Room and Board; Special Transportation; Related Services consisting of Testing, Psychiatric Services, Psychological Services; Extended School year.

NW BOCES: Contract for February 26, 2008 through June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$39,224.00 to include the following services: Tuition; Special Transportation; Related Services consisting of Counseling, Behavior Consultation, APE; Extended School Year; Other Services consisting of School Nurse, School Social Work, Parent Counseling, Recreational Therapy

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Executive Session 8:18 p.m.

Moved by Vietti, seconded by Daniels, to go into executive session to discuss personnel.

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

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Bruce Thurgood requested a clarification on Chairman Mahoney's comment of moving forward, whether this referred to the meeting or the fact that Mr. Stewart's contract will not be addressed again. Chairman Mahoney stated she would not address the question at this time as the board was adjourning to executive session.

Adjourn out of Executive Session 8:52 p.m.

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

Ayes 5
Nays None
Student Trustee: Aye
Motion Carried

Staffing Recommendations

Moved by Daniels, seconded by Vietti, to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mr. George Fishbaugh effective the end of his 07-08 contract.

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Miller, to accept the resignation of Darla Muckley effective the end of her 07-08 contract.

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Miller, to authorize the advertising for a language arts 6-12 position; distance learning/ELL position; and an instructional facilitator position.

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Moved by Daniels, seconded by Vietti, to approve the addition of a K-8 guidance counselor salary schedule to be added to the non-teaching salary schedule.

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Vietti, to offer a non-teaching contract to Amy Mason for the 08-09 school year, placed on the K-8 guidance counselor salary schedule, step 7 or \$46,950.00.

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Moved by Daniels, seconded by Vietti, to offer contracts for 08-09 to the following teachers:

1st Year Initial Contract to 2nd Year Initial Contract

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Ashle Anderson	Deborah Brown	Josh Garcia
Dustin Olsen	Heidi Hunt	
<u>2nd Year Initial Contract to 3rd Year Initial Contract</u>		
Bryan Bailey	Toby Emery	Margaret Haderlie
Kara Hulse	Lisa G. Pierce	Brenda Trippel

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Daniels, to offer contracts for 08-09 to the following teachers:

3rd Year Initial to Continuing Contract:
Lisa Herold **Kathie Richardson** **Kevin Simpson**

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

Moved by Miller, seconded by Whitt, to offer contracts for 08-09 to the following teachers:

Non-Teaching Contracts:
Janet Chimenti **Carolyn LynchJantina (Jenny) Manning**
David S. Duncan **Cody McLean**

Ayes 4
Abstain 1 (Vietti)
Nays None
Motion Carried

Moved by Daniels, seconded by Vietti, to offer contracts for 08-09 to the following teachers:

Tenured Teachers

Jonathan Bushey	Kimberly Carswell	Sharon Cordingly
James Cramer	Donna Daniels	Barb Engelbrecht
Bev Fast	Ronda Freel	Pamela Greek
Kathy Hammond	LeRoy Hayes	Greg Herold
Kent Hessenthaler	Sonja Holm	Carol Johnson
Jocelyn Jurovich	Aimee Kay	Eric Kay
Pamela Kerr	Jody Kummerfeld	Jeanette Lance
Catherine Lash	James C. Lash	Debra Law
Matt Mason	Madonna McIntosh	James Newby
Thomas A. Olsen	Brenda Peterman	Parke Price
M. Kay Reese	John E.B. Schenck	Lea Schoenewald
Rhonda J. Skar	Joan Stetler	JoAnne Stickney
Katherine Taylor	Cindy Toth	Kay Uffelman
Robert Uffelman	Britton Van Heule	Kathleen Vicklund
Jennifer Weber	Terri Williams	Lynda Wyss

Ayes 5
Nays None
Motion Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

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Board Reports

Rec. Board: Bobbi Miller reported youth soccer registration will conclude on March 20. The Recreation District website is up and running. Donnie will be adding pictures. The Summer/Fall program guide is nearly completed. Funding requests for next year are coming in. They will work on the budget at the April board meeting

BOCES: Barb Vietti reported BOCES is up to 17 or 18 students. The need is so great in the state that they are getting requests almost weekly.

BOCHES: Breez Daniels reported that she has asked Jackie Meeker to attend the April board meeting to give an overview of the dual enrollment courses for this year.

Other: Chairman Mahoney answered the question asked of the board regarding the reconsideration of Mr. Stewart's contract. The answer is no, the board will now move forward. When asked if the issue could be put on the next month's agenda, Chairman Mahoney respectfully declined. She thanked everyone for their input.

Superintendent's Report

- 1) Legislative review: Supt. Balow reported the legislature approved a 4.3% external cost adjustment, approved a small amount to help subsidize lunch program, and approved an increase in the funding for facilitators. The 3 year rolling ADM average will be recalculated this year. The district's average will drop approximately 20 ADM. He is not anticipating any new funding for next year.
- 2) Supt. Balow reported the building committee met two weeks ago to approve adding a boulder to the front of the bobcat sculpture at the high school.
- 3) Supt. Balow the admin index committee has met to review the salary schedule calculations for administrators. The committee will be meeting again next week to finalize a recommendation to present to the board at the April meeting.
- 4) Supt. Balow reported there will be no school this Friday or Monday.
- 5) Supt. Balow noted there was a plumbing issue in the admin building. At this time, he was not aware of the extent of the problem, but it does not have anything to do with the construction project.
- 6) Supt. Balow updated the board on the demolition of the Lucerne school building. The legislature did not approve funding for demolition projects for the upcoming year. The intent is to use funds from the RWE and admin building projects to fund the demolition.

Adjournment 9:10 p.m.

Moved by Whitt, seconded by Miller, that there being no further business to come before the Board, to adjourn this meeting.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk

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