

Minutes of the February 16, 2015 Board of Education Meeting

Call to Order: President Rice – 6:30 p.m. – MES Board Room – 800 Beech St.

Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call – Present: Pohl, Rice, Hebert, Strebe, R. Johnson, Hollman, J. Johnson.

Dr. Oppor verified the publication of the meeting agenda.

**Move by** Pohl/Strebe to amend the agenda slightly for Board Recognition at this time. Motion carried.

Graduation of Rachael Koepler: the Board congratulated Rachael on completion of her high school credits earning her a diploma. Rachael received her diploma wearing a cap and gown.

Recognition of Bus Driver Appreciation Week. President Rice read a Proclamation from Governor Walker in honor of Bus Driver Appreciation Week and named the district's bus drivers: Ruth Boerst, Judy Douglas, David Marcy, Barb Quinn, Jim Quinn, Vernon Shover, Valerie Johnson, Randy Steingraber, Sue Suehs, David Gunderson, Pat O'Brien, Mitch Patri.

Contributions to the District include Echo Ridge Ag Services, LLC \$2,000 to LWHS Agriculture Program and Subway of Manawa, Donation of Party Platters to MES Teachers Feb. 12, 2015.

**Move by** general consent the board approved the Minutes of the January 19, January 29, and February 11, 2015 Board Meetings, accepted Donations from Echo Ridge Ag Services, LLC \$2,000 to LWHS Agriculture Program and Subway of Manawa, Donation of Party Platters to MES Teachers Feb. 12, 2015; accepted a resignation from Jana Schabow, Special Education Aide.

Public Comments: Esther Rosenau spoke regarding concerns of too many children in classroom when they are downsizing the number of classrooms; concerned for the students.

Correspondence: The Board received a thank you for donation to the family of Dorothy Rasmussen from Jim and Chris Roenz; and a thank you card received from Jim and Barb Quinn for the Bus Driver Appreciation snacks and gifts.

Special Presentation: Booster Club, Michelle Kaczorowski listing the fund raising and activities that the Booster Club has organized for the District. President Rice stated on behalf of the board and administration, thank you and your organization.

District Administrator's Report: Legislative Update – attended with J. Johnson. Well attended by other district administrators. There was a large group of legislatures there. Gave our name and the dollar amount of money that would be lost from next year's budget if the current proposed cuts are realized which is \$113,000. Encouraged schools to contact legislatures. Clerk Johnson: many schools also stated that the Affordable Care Act forty-hour work week changes the definition of **and will affect our support staff aides**.

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday - January Enrollment Report – membership is down by 5 students but the number of students in the seats stayed the same

Spring Board Retreat – working on guiding principles for the board. An initial draft was generated from the (last finance meeting). The whole board hasn't had opportunity to discuss. Continuation on Boardmanship and Roberts Rules of Order.

Long Range Planning Action Teams Update – Creating a culture for academic success, Leadership and Communication. Will have more information at next month's meeting.

School Operations Reports for Elementary and High School Principal were included in the board packet.

Business Related Reports:

**Move by J. Johnson / Pohl to Approve Expenditures Checks #72766-72926 totaling \$474,417.04 and Receipts totaling \$1,217,034.28 as presented. Motion carried.**

E Rate Funding – updating the board. Uncovered funding we missed in 2012 and 2013 that we will receive which will go into Technology. Anticipate \$20,000 in 2015-16 school year, based on enrollment. Pohl: thanked Mrs. Hanson for going after those funds – they were not taken care of by previous administrations. President Rice – will help our technology dept in the future.

Health Insurance Bid Process – plan to reduce costs by \$300,000. Not looking to eliminate the structure just looking at decreasing the cost. Bid process was shared. We are at the high end of what other districts are paying. See a lot of opportunity to shrink the cost not the structure. First step – the health insurance consultant is responsible to negotiate with providers. Also responsible to keep us current with HIPPA, work force labor laws. Not happy with the service we are getting. First process is to put out a proposal for health insurance consultant. They would negotiate / search for plans that are affordable. Request for proposal will go out this week. Step 2 – bring in Finance Committee to review the bids for consultant. Now we use Tricor out of Madison. (Mid March) Because time is of the essence to get best price. Consultant will negotiate plans, find buyers then come back and present to the board finance comm. Determine best plans to offer to staff. Communication to staff; Communication throughout summer. Open Enrollment period in August for new plan to be in effect on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Will look to future that plan to renew July 1<sup>st</sup> in the future. Anticipate paying \$1.1million in health insurance this year. Our insurance is at the top of the plans for cost. If we do not find more affordable we could face penalties up to \$400,000 under ACA. Scott Rice “really appreciate this process – well done”

Curriculum Report: Curriculum Director Highlights and Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Grant (WEEB) – Informational. The grant has been written for Curriculum Writing \$5000; the district must supply \$1250 which buys us 250 hours of curriculum for the summer. Recommends writing science curriculum. Will hear mid-May if we’ve received the grant.

Board Comments:

Board Committee Chairpersons, Policy 185 – will eliminate / reorganize down to 5 committees as needed.

Try not to hold a committee meeting the Wed prior to the board meeting to allow Administration time to prepare for the agenda.

Helene: great honor to represent Manawa at the WASB Delegate Assembly Report. 425 districts represented by over 300 delegates. The resolutions that may affect our district: reasonable efforts to address shortage of licensed technology teachers; supported dollars to support course options – now we are faced with unfunded. Students can take an unlimited # of courses under course options we – support limited. Shortening the Open Enrollment window from February thru end of March instead of the last week in April. WASB is asking repeal of Alternative OE. Repealing tenure (Milwaukee Public Schools). WASB supports state initiatives to retain high quality staff forgiving loans for educators. Switch the emphasis SAGE from Class Size Reduction to Achievement Gap Reduction. Allow board members as volunteer coaches, no payment of wage and abstain from any direct voting on this)

Committee Reports: Policy & Personnel Committee (see minutes) Promotion and Retention Policies / Rules, 345.4 Procedures of Students in K-8 Grade, 345.4 Rule – Procedures for Students Considered for Retention, 345.41 Promotion of 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders, Graduation Requirements 345.3 and NEOLA Presentation considering adopt a contract for policy services 1<sup>st</sup> year \$13,450, 2<sup>nd</sup> year \$11,290 , 3<sup>rd</sup> year \$2,740.

Curriculum Committee (see minutes) Elected a Chairperson (Hebert), Next Generation Science Standards (Action) UbD Format for Curriculum Writing (informational), Inservice Update - Feb. 13, 2015, National Social Studies Standards tabled to review. Soc Studies financial literature – discussion on the credit for this class.

Finance Committee (see minutes) Strebe updated those in attendance on the Staff & Program Changes for 2015-2016 – fairly unclear on how much we can reduce the cost of (health ins) \$113,000 reduction in state aid in Governor’s budget proposal, spent 3 meetings to look at the budget areas to reduce: unanimous vote of last finance meeting we need to approve a balanced preliminary budget for 2015-16 school year. #2 on list structural deficit of \$169,000 came out of fund 10 to balance the budget. Know there is difficult stuff on here – look at what’s proposed

it's not just cutting positions – addition of a counselor, add reading specialist, high school – reassign a teacher / shifting stuff around. Don't have all the answers. Recommendation from Finance Committee to move forward with the intention of adopting a balanced budget. Open it up for discussion later in agenda. Board of Education Guiding Principles --- Affinity Process, 2015-2016 Budget.

Unfinished Business:

**Move by** Pohl / R. Johnson to Approve Policy 171.2 Exhibit: Regular Board Meeting Agenda Format as Updated. (Move the closed session as first item on the agenda and reconvene in open session at 7 pm to conduct the remainder of the open session business) Give people the opportunity to attend both the city council meeting. Discussion: whatever wouldn't be finished in first closed session would be moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> closed session if not completed. Motion carried.

New Business:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Policy 345.4 Promotion of Students in Grades K-8 (Informational)

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Policy 345.4 Rule – Procedures for Students Considered for Retention (Informational)

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Policy 345.3 Graduation Requirements (Informational)

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Setting Student Fees for 2015-2016 (Informational). All for review and possible approval at the March board meeting. Would like to have one master list of fees approved annually: parents could look at the list and know that this is what a parent has to pay in the upcoming school year for their children.

**Move by** R. Johnson / Hollman to consider changing the March Board Meeting date to March 23, 2015 to avoid spring break conflict (Action). Pohl – will be available on March 16<sup>th</sup> as she cannot attend on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. In consideration of the public, it will allow for more public participation. Motion carried.

Technology Scholarship: NEOLA presenter brought it up to at last Policy & Personnel meeting: at the end of Feb the district takes the first step to recommend a student. Similar to the Academic Excellence Scholarship based on GPA, this scholarship has been created for students in the Tech field; \$2,250 / year while attending technical college. Wonderful opportunity; wouldn't want to hold back the opportunity for a student to receive such a scholarship. Vice President Pohl – would recommend that we approve a policy in order for a student to receive this scholarship.

**Move by** Hebert / J. Johnson to Approve Policy 461 Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarships as presented. Motion carried.

**Move by** Hebert / J. Johnson to approve the proposed preliminary staff and program changes for 2015-2016 with the addition of 1 FTE section of grade 1 as presented. Motion carried as amended.

**Move by** Pohl / Hollman to Approve Contracting for Board Policy Services with NEOLA as Presented. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Dates:

February 19, 2015 – Special Meeting – Teacher Salary Model – 4:30 p.m. – Board Room

February 24, 2015 – Long Range Planning Team Meeting – 6:00 p.m. – **MES Library**

March 3, 2015 – Curriculum Committee Meeting – 4:00 p.m. – Board Room

March 5, 2015 – Buildings & Grounds Meeting at 4:00 p.m. - Board Room

March 9, 2015 – Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting – 4:00 p.m. – Board Room

March 10, 2015 – Long Range Planning Team Meeting – 6:00 p.m. – **MES Library**

March 23, 2015 – Regular BOE Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Board Room

March 24, 2015 – Long Range Planning Team Meeting – 6:00 p.m. – **MES Library**

The Board discussed a date for a Retreat. Mrs. Frazier will poll the board on meeting dates.

**Move by** Strebe / Hebert to Adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Jeanne Frazier, Recording Secretary