

Proposed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2010

Page 1 of 6

President Freeman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the elementary/middle school gym.

Members present: Butler, Freeman, Keyes, Palmer, Peglow, Ryckman, Van Sickler

Members absent: None

Administrators present: Myers, Beal, Hubbard

Administrators absent: Kelly

Visitors present: Tracey Reed, James Hodges, Larry Koutz, Carol Jane Koutz, Michael Breidinger, Nancy Valenta, Brent McQueen, Mary Lu Throop, Betsy Snyder, Bonnie Walker, Bill Walker, Doris Johnson, Rhonda McNerney, Sharon Gerlach, Ashton Cornell, Lindsey Sheldon, Bambi Grossett, Laura Little, Chris Grossett, Danielle Wright, Kerry Krzymicki, Bridget LaMarre, Sara Millerov, Lori Avery, Taylor Hansen, Mike Delacourt, Lisa Delacourt, Jody Zinn, Erin King, Dianne Wilson, Karen Gostomski, Janell Kilmer, Traci McCormick, Connie Marshall, Scott Marshall, Jody Johnston, Ryan Elsea, Carol Herman, Karen Nickerson, Coty Prestage, Breann Hernandez, Genevieve Prestage, Crystal Prestage, Sharon Davis, Tara Johnson, Heather Dawe, Darlene DeHate, Marcie Peglow, Steve Keeler, Wendy Keeler, Rich Wrisley, Rebekah Wrisley, Mike Jones, Jacob Day, Jacob Olson, Teresa Hammond, Mitch McCormick, Laura Neelis, Phyllis Marshall, Dave Cramer, Bill Holley, John Mills, Kathy Gates, Ashlee Elliott, Lisa Rogers, Kate Rogers, Melissa Martin, David Martin, Amy Johnston, Richelle Davis, Barbra Alexander, Heather Rons, William Bartlett, Roy Denman, Bob Calverley, MaryBeth Calverley, Cassie Calverley, Mayna Spohn

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Peglow, support by Van Sickler to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Recognition of Guests

Mr. Larry Koutz – teacher, spoke to the board about their decisions to make cuts tonight. One of those positions would be the high school media center paraprofessional. Currently her job description is 4 pages long and who will pick up those responsibilities once her position is eliminated. Mr. Koutz suggested that Mrs. Koutz take a leave of absence and save the district money. Would this save her position to come back to after the construction is finished?

Mr. Koutz and Mrs. Koutz love serving this community and hope to continue to do so.

Proposed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2010

Page 2 of 6

Mitch McCormick – student, handed out a paper to the board and spoke to them on the budget crisis. He understands that budget cuts are necessary. But this affects the student's lives dramatically. This affects their future.

Brent McQueen – parent/business owner, suggested to the board that instead of putting the bid out for the mowing contract as normal with all of the construction, he suggested that the district bid it out per hour to save the district money.

Mrs. Grossett – parent, came to the board about the special education program. She brings her kids to Vestaburg from the Montabella school district. She believes that Vestaburg has a wonderful special education program. Mrs. Grossett stated to the board how much Kim Hansen is an asset to this program. Kim has been there for 20 years and keeps the program stable. They need that stability. She questioned where the touch screens and special computer programs are that were bought with special education funds. There are not in her sons' classroom.

Mike Delacourt – parent, thanked the school board and Mr. Myers for their hard work in trying to balance the budget. Mr. Delacourt went back through the past board minutes since he does not come to all of the meetings to make himself aware. Mr. Delacourt suggested pay to play for sports. This would save money for other areas. Mr. Delacourt was concerned about the steering committee having permission to make 50,000.00 in changes. Mr. Delacourt commended the administration for taking a pay freeze. He talked about busing and not buying a bus this year and lay off one bus driver. He wished the board good luck with their decisions.

Questions on Building Reports - None

Communications

Mr. Myers presented a certificate to the principals to show his appreciation for all of the work that they do. He also reiterated that they did take a pay freeze to try to help save money.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Butler, support by Palmer to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held January 11, 2010.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Motion by Ryckman, support by Van Sickler to approve the Executive Minutes of the Regular meeting held January 11, 2010.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Proposed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2010

Page 3 of 6

Motion by Butler, support by Peglow to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held January 20, 2010.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Motion by Peglow, support by Palmer to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held January 27, 2010.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Treasurer's Report- February

Motion by Peglow, support by Palmer to approve the bills as monies become available.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Consent Agenda

Motion by Butler, support by Van Sickler to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

New Business

Right of Way Easement for Verizon and Tri County

Superintendent Myers stated to the board that we have to give them the right of way. This way they can keep their lines clear.

Motion by Butler, support by Peglow to approve the right of way for Verizon and Tri County

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Summer Tax Collection Discussion

Myers talked to the board about summer tax collection. This would change the tax collection from winter to September 14. This would help with the two months that we go without state aid. After checking into this possibility Myers found out that there would be a charge of around \$5000.00. Myers recommends that we stay with the winter taxes and save the district money for the charges. Summer collection would have only been for non-homestead.

Other Business - None

Proposed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2010

Page 4 of 6

Old Business

Discussion of Performance Contract with TEPG

Myers suggested that we do not go with the performance contract with TEPG at this time because of budget constraints. TEPG could bid for a regular contract for the 2009 Bond

Motion by Ryckman, support by Palmer to reject the performance contract with TEPG.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Budget

Bonnie Walker presented to the board financial statements. Bonnie thanked Tracey Reed for volunteering her time to come in and help her. She explained the difference between the bond fund and general fund money.

Bonnie talked about the loss of students to the districts. Peglow questioned the number of students that we lost.

Bonnie showed the board the cash flow of revenues and expenditures from July 1st through January 31st 2010. Ryckman questioned the athletic expenses. Bonnie stated this is FICA and Medicare for the athletic director and PESG coaches.

Bonnie also went gave the board a projected cash flow through October 31, 2010. Bonnie went through the decrease of Revenue including state aid that the state withheld because of money that we were suppose to get from Federal. Loss of pupils, State reduction, salary increase for teachers and support staff, increase in MESSA insurance and increase in retirement.

Freeman questioned the projected deficit as of October. Freeman asked what would the fund balance be. Bonnie stated it would be 0 % fund balance.

Bonnie stated that if we don't make changes we would be borrowing and living state aid to state aid.

Peglow thanked Bonnie for all of the extra time she put in to get these figures.

Ryckman and Freeman also thanked Bonnie and Tracey for the hard work with the financial statements.

Reductions

Myers suggested that the board look over the information that was given to them tonight on the budget before the special meeting on the Monday, February 15th.

Staff Reductions due to construction

- a. 1 Custodial
- b. High School Media Center Paraprofessional

Peglow questioned the voluntary layoff. Why can't we bring her back after a voluntary layoff? Myers stated that he could check with the lawyers to see how that would work.

Proposed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2010

Page 5 of 6

Ryckman asked if this was the same custodial position that went from night to day. Myers stated yes that is the same position; it was just temporary having him come in during the day to help out with moving stuff for construction.

Myers stated that there is a possibility that this custodian could be contracted with Triangle. Myers stated that this is just until the beginning of next school year. Freeman questioned if the custodian does not get picked up by Triangle the district will have to pick up the unemployment.

Motion by Ryckman, support by Van Sickler to remove 1 custodian due to construction.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Motion by Peglow, support by Butler to table b. high school media center paraprofessional until next week.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Bond Technology Proposal

Lindsey Shelden presented to the board a technology proposal for the 2009 Bond. Lindsey met with staff and discussed their needs for technology. Some of the items on the proposal included Netbooks, 2 carts with 30 each to be checked out to any classroom. Other areas of technology were Mini Slate, document camera, classroom sound enhancer. Update phone system. Video surveillance for entrances. Two new servers, a file server and an email server.

Ryckman stated that if there is extra money in the bond to add that to technology.

Freeman questioned if we have received anything on the kitchen bid. Myers stated that we did not receive anything yet.

Motion by Ryckman, support by Peglow to accept the 198,410.48 technology proposal. Ryckman would like Lindsey to bring updated figures on the office software.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Works in Progress

Bus Replacement Schedule

Recognition of Guests

Larry Koutz – teacher, thanked the board for their willingness to look into their suggestion.

Teresa Hammond – parent, has called the congressman and legislatures. One congressman told her that there were not cuts to school funding. She was told that maybe we could raise our taxes to raise money for the school.

Proposed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2010

Page 6 of 6

Mike Delacourt – parent, concerned about the buyout. How many can take the buyout? Is that going to put another strain on the budget next year when you have to start paying that 10,000.00 for three years.

Unemployment costs could hurt the budget. Why not lower their hours and keep them instead of paying them unemployment. He would like community members and board members to sit down and brain storm ideas on how to save money for the districts. He has gone back through the board minutes to try to catch himself up. It would be nice if the budget could be listed on the web page to keep them informed.

Freeman stated that if you have concerns, please call. They are always willing to listen and work on ideas.

Karen Gostomski – teacher/parent, wanted to let the board know how much they will miss Mike Jones. He does a wonderful job and will be missed. Karen also wanted to thank Sara Millerov for organizing the ACT Workshop. It was a great program for the kids.

Lisa Rogers wanted to talk to the board about Lindsey's technology proposal. Video Surveillance is needed. She works for the Montcalm County Prosecutor office and she stated that the crime rate in Montcalm County is going through the roof. She said that if we are going to have the state of the art technology in the building then security surveillance is needed.

Bob Peglow would like from the Athletic Director how much it would save to have pay to play.

Items for next Board Meeting March 8, 2010

Freeman stated he would like a financial statement from February to March.

Ryckman would like Bonnie's financial statement that she presented tonight to be on the web page for people to digest it.

Motion by Van Sickler, support by Peglow to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Karen Grover
Recording Secretary