

Proposed Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 8, 2011

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President Van Sickler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school classroom #2113.

Members Present: Drumm, Freeman, Keyes, Palmer, Ryckman, Van Sickler, McNerney arrived at 7:01 p.m.

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Beal, Hubbard, Weaver

Administrators Absent: None

Visitors Present: Lori Wolfe, Bonnie Walker, Brian Zinn, Jim Hodges, Tracey Reed, Ben Steele, Nancy Valenta, Dianne Mitchell, Carol Herman, Ryan Elsea, Connie Marshall, Jody Johnston, Sharon Davis, Karen Gostomski, Amanda Hallock

Approval of Agenda

Van Sickler amended the agenda by adding to VIII Consent Agenda,

A. Employ – Amanda Hallock – 7th Grade Volleyball Coach

Motion by Freeman, support by Keyes to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion CARRIED 6-0

Recognition of Guests

Ryan Elsea, 3042 N. Reid Rd., Alma, stated that he was notified on Friday that his position could possibly be cut. Staff was told that all personnel cut were made in May to give them time to find work. Now there are only a few weeks before school begins and he was notified that he might be losing a job that he loves. In the teaching profession the only time to find another teaching job is during the summer and he needs to be able to provide for his wife and son.

Brian Zinn, 4324 N. Pine Grove Rd., Edmore, stated he has been to several board meetings and knows that hard decision have had to be made. Two cuts were made last year that greatly affect the students. One was the elementary title position; the other was the middle school technology class. Teachers were told that the district has all of this technology available to them and they need to use it with their core subjects. Technology is where our society is driven from. We need to prepare our students for college. He would like the board to think more about this before they cut high school technology.

Bonnie Walker, 181 Michigan Ave., Vestaburg, stated to the board concerning the supervisor/central office contracts that the board split Karen and Bill's out and table her contract since her position is possibly going to be cut. Walker asked the board when it was time for discussion on her position if she could have permission to speak as she had figures for the board that she would like to share with them.

Communications: None

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Approval of Minutes

Motion by McNERney, support by Freeman to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held on July 11, 2011.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Treasurer's Report- August

Motion by Freeman, support by Keyes to approve the bills as monies become available.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Consent Agenda

Motion by McNERney, support by Keyes to approve Amanda Hallock as the 7th grade volleyball coach.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

New Business

School Bond Loan Fund Resolution

Motion by Freeman, support by Palmer to approve the school bond loan fund

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Operating Millage Renewal Resolution

Beal stated this allows the district to levy the full 18 mills for non homestead. This will need to go on the ballot in November. This generates 380,000.00 for operating costs for the district. This is not an increase to the tax payers.

Motion by McNERney, support by Freeman to approve the operating millage renewal.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Supervisor/Central Office Staff Contracts

Beal stated that this is a one year contract until June 30, 2011

Motion by Freeman, support by Palmer to table until the end of the new business due to possible cuts.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Breakfast/Lunch Prices for 2011-2012

Beal stated that the board was given a packet explaining breakfast and lunch increases for the next two years. Palmer questioned why we have to raise the prices if the lunch program is already self-funding. Beal stated it is not a way to raise money, but following the new federal law.

Motion by Freeman, support by Keyes to approve the breakfast/lunch price increase for 2011-2012.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Proposed Budget Cuts Phase 2

Beal stated that the district has been through Phase 1 and the administration had hoped to not cut any more personnel. Beal gave the board a proposed list of budget cuts. Beal recommends that we table transportation cuts until October to see the true student count. Beal stated that with technology he has heard several cries not to cut technology. Beal stated we need to teach our children not to be afraid of technology and that it can be taught in tandem with core subjects. Beal recommends that we table the technology cuts until we see the pupil count. Beal stated with the new tenure law, it is so new that Beal is working with Thrun to see how this affect the professional staff. McNerney stated that Beal mentioned that what you learned in your first year of college would be obsolete by the time you graduate from college. McNerney stated he believes that the district needs to prepare our students for college to the best of our ability. Beal stated that students that are more interested in technology could attend the career center. Hubbard stated there are a thousand different components in technology. Hubbard stated we can change the structure of how it is taught. McNerney stated he is glad that we are tabling this because he would like to talk to technology staff and regular teaching staff to see how easy that would be for them to teach technology along with their core subject. Beal stated that in the next month and a half the board will need to decide how far the board is going to dip into the fund equity. Beal stated that right now we are at 15% fund equity. Beal stated he welcomes the board to come in and meet with teachers. Beal stated this is not a Vestaburg problem, this is a state problem. Hubbard stated that there is not a state objective for technology but there is national objective and guidelines. Palmer asked where the administration is with negotiating with the VEA and VESPA. Beal stated that there are two meetings set up next week.

Beal stated the next item on the budget cuts would be an additional 11,000.00 cut to athletics on top of the 15,000.00 that has already been cut from the athletic budget. The first cut to athletics would be sideline cheer. The district currently has one more girls' sports then boys' sports. Ryckman stated that he does not like the term pay to play. That does not look good to the community. Ryckman believes that the program (each sport) should raise the money for their program instead of charging each student/athlete a certain fee to be on the team. Beal stated that it should not be called pay to play, it should be an activity fee. Walderzak researched this with other districts, currently youth leagues already pay to participate. Beal stated this is not going to raise a lot of money for athletics; it is only going to help with the cuts. Beal stated that Walderzak is proposing 50.00 per student/athlete, 25.00 academic team, 15.00 for a middle school student. Palmer questioned how big a factor is fundraising. Palmer stated who they hit when they come home with a fundraiser.

Motion by Freeman, support Rickman to cut 11,000.00 from the athletic budget by cutting side line cheer, raise family passes to \$150.00, charge 3.00 for the middle school admission fee. Reduce team budgets by a combined total of \$5000.00.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Beal stated the other cut would be shared services with the business office. Beal has spoken with the ISD Superintendent and currently Carson City uses the ISD for payroll. Greenville and Tri County are also looking into using the ISD. Beal stated that this does not go to say that the work that Bonnie has done has not been appreciated. The ISD would charge us \$35,000. This would give Bonnie until November 1st to find other work. Freeman stated that as far as he is concerned this is the last thing you do before you shut off the lights and become a Vestabella. It might sound good for now but he does not believe that this will save the school district any money. Van Sickler stated that if the board could look at the board minutes from July. The board was told that they would need to vote on Phase 2 cuts at the

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August meeting. The minutes also stated that McNerney asked for numbers on Shared Superintendent and Shared Business Services. Beal stated that he did send a letter a Carson City when their superintendent retired and they have already hired an interim superintendent. Freeman believes our school district is one of the more financially sound districts in our area. Freeman believes that is because of the person in that position. Bonne Walker spoke to the board and gave the board the exact figures of her salary. When figuring everything including unemployment it would be a loss to the district.

McNerney stated I know that we are suppose to only look at the position. But this person does more than the position.

Hubbard spoke to the board stating that he understands that it is hard not to look at the person and just the position.

Motion by Freeman, support by Palmer to not share business services with the ISD at this time.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Beal stated that the administration's contract is for two years and he would like to do the same for the central office staff/supervisor's contracts.

Motion by Freeman, support by Keyes to approve the Central Office Staff/Mechanic contracts through June 2013.

Ryckman questioned that the mechanic is considered administration. Beal stated that the 3 positions are not part of the union.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Other Business: None

Old Business

First Reading of MSAC Constitution

Van Sickler stated that this is the first reading. Please look this over to vote on at the next board meeting.

Approve/Accept Bread Bids for the 2011-2012 school year

Motion by Freeman, support by Palmer to approve the bread bids for 2011-2012.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Sub Bus Driver Pay

Beal stated currently we pay 7.50 an hour for sub bus drivers. Area schools pay 12.50 an hour. To be more competitive the district needs to raise our sub bus driver pay. Freeman stated why we are raising it so drastically. Beal stated to be competitive.

Recommendation dies from lack of support.

Discussion Item

Underground Fuel Storage System

Beal stated that we have received red flags on our fuel system. This will be shut down at the end of next month. Beal asked the board if they wish for him to pursue an above ground fuel storage tank. This could possibly cost 10,000.00 to bring the current tank up to code. Putting in new could possibly cost up to 15,000.00.

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McNerney stated that at the current time the district should go with the least expensive route. Bill Walker stated that we would get red tagged at the end of the month. The district will have to fix it within a year. Plus we will not be able to use the gasoline storage tank.

Beal will bring numbers to the board retreat on August 19th.

Works in Progress: None

Recognition of Guests: None

Items for next Board Meeting September 12, 2011
Approve MSAC Constitution

Ivan Palmer questioned the board that we had a person retire and we brought him back for 2 hours a day. Palmer questioned if he is training other staff. Beal stated that he is directed to train current staff.

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.
Motion CARRIED 7-0

Karen S. Grover
Recording Secretary