

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
September 13, 2010

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President Van Sickler called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the elementary media center.

Members present: McNerney, Palmer, Peglow, Van Sickler, Freeman (arr. at 8:46 p.m.), Keyes (arr. at 7:50 p.m.)

Members absent: Ryckman

Administrators present: Beal, Hubbard, Weaver

Administrators absent: none

Visitors present: Tracey Reed, Lindsey Shelden, Lori Wolfe, Sharon Davis, Sharon Gerlach, Dianne Wilson, Bonnie Walker, Bill Walker, Jody Zinn, Brian Zinn, Larry Koutz, Jim Hodges, Connie Marshall, Scott Koenigsknecht

Approval of Agenda

President Van Sickler amended the agenda by moving Roman numeral X, items A, B and C to Roman numeral XII.

Motion by McNerney, support by Palmer to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion CARRIED 4-0

Recognition of Guests

Larry Koutz stated to the board that a memorial fund was started in the name of Ron Cain (former teacher, athletic director, track coach) years back when he passed away suddenly to build a track. At the time there were not enough funds to make that possible. Mr. Koutz asked the board to possibly name the new track the Ron Cain Memorial Track.

Questions on Building Reports: none

Communications

Mr. Beal stated that the ISD applied for a grant and Vestaburg School District will receive 7 narrow band radios for the bus fleet through this grant. The district will only need to pay for the installation.

Approval of Minutes

McNerney would like a couple of changes made in the minutes on page 2 change moral to morale in two paragraphs.

Motion by McNerney, support by Peglow to approve the minutes of the Special meeting held August 6, 2010 as amended.

Motion CARRIED 4-0

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Motion by McNerney, support by Palmer to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held August 9, 2010 as presented.

Motion CARRIED 4-0

Motion by Palmer, support by Peglow to approve the minutes of the Executive Session I of the Regular meeting held August 9, 2010 as presented.

Motion CARRIED 4-0

Treasurer's Report- September

Motion by Peglow, support by McNerney to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

Motion CARRIED 4-0

Consent Agenda

Motion by McNerney, support by Palmer to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion CARRIED 4-0

New Business

Motion by Palmer, support by Peglow to enter Executive Session (P.A. 1976 Amended by Act. No 256 of 1978, per 15.268, Section 8, paragraph c.) VEA Negotiations at 7:27 p.m.

Roll call: McNerney – yes, Palmer – yes, Peglow – yes, Van Sickler – yes

Motion CARRIED 4-0

Motion by Peglow, support by Keyes to re-enter regular session at 8:43 p.m.

Roll call: Keyes – yes, McNerney – yes, Palmer – yes, Peglow – yes, Van Sickler - yes

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Motion by Peglow, support by Palmer to accept the tentative VEA Agreement.

Roll Call: Keyes – yes, McNerney – yes, Palmer – yes, Peglow – yes, Van Sickler - yes

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Presentation: Dr. Koenigsknecht – MAISD Shared Services

Beal introduced Dr. Koenigsknecht, Superintendent from the MAISD

Dr. K gave the board a proposal and dollar amount for contracting the ISD for technology services. The ISD is offering this service for a 1-year agreement.

Board and Dr. K discussed compensation and number of days for technology services.

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Resolution to Eliminate Technology Director Position

Mr. Beal stated that currently the technology director does not have a contract. Motion by Freeman, support by Peglow to approve the recommendation to eliminate the technology director position. McNerney stated that this is a hard decision and the board needs to make some tough decisions to balance the budget. Roll Call: Freeman – yes, Keyes – yes, McNerney – yes, Palmer – yes, Peglow – yes, Van Sickler - yes
Motion CARRIED 6-0

Resolution to Contract Technology Services through MAISD

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to approve the resolution to hire a technology director for 2 ½ days a week. Palmer questioned the mileage. Dr. K stated it is .50 a mile. Peglow asked if that is the state rate.
Motion CARRIED 6-0

Old Business

Odd Year Elections

Beal stated he would like to hold a public hearing at the October 11th board meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. This would allow the public to voice their concerns with the changes to Odd Year November Elections.

Motion by Peglow, support by Keyes to hold a public hearing at 6:30 on the regular board meeting of October 11, 2010.

Motion CARRIED 5-0

Items for Discussion:

Technology Consultant (Bond)

Superintendent Beal and the board discussed the technology consultant position. Mr. Beal invited Mr. Shelden to speak to the board. Mr. Shelden stated that the board has never agreed on the pay amount for that position.

Peglow would like to research the August and September 2009 board minutes to find the proposal that Mr. Shelden presented. Mr. Peglow asked to have those minutes emailed to the board.

Mr. Shelden is here tonight to find out what his compensation will be.

Beal stated that what he thinks the board is looking for is the presentation on what the updates would be and what was done on top of Mr. Shelden's daily activities.

Peglow stated he would like to know what was different from Mr. Shelden's normal duties.

Freeman stated that the amount should have been agreed upon before the work began.

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Shelden stated that he should have had a contract signed beforehand but did not feel he needed to worry about that with this board.

Beal asked Mr. Shelden if there was a compensation figure that he was thinking. Mr. Shelden stated that at the board meeting when the architects did their presentation that the board stated why hire someone else if Mr. Shelden was capable of taking care of the needs of the district. Shelden stated that the board said something about the same pay as the lowest bidder, around 15,000.

Sub-Contracting Custodial

Beal stated that this is something to look into to save money for the school district. This is just an option if the board would like Mr. Beal to pursue this issue. Freeman asked if the company would hire any of our current employees. The company that Mr. Beal talked to would hire our employees if that was the boards' wishes.

Beal stated the district would need to put out an RFP and take bids. Beal stated he could put this on as a discussion item for October and he could get bids for the board to look at.

McNerney would like to know the whole scope of work that the current custodians do. Hubbard stated that the custodians have a daily and weekly checklist.

Maintenance needs of new facilities

Beal stated the board needs to look at the maintenance needs of the new facilities and form a sub-committee of the board to look at these areas.

Peglow, Keyes and Ryckman will be on the committee.

Works in Progress

- Bus Replacement Schedule

- Election of Officers Mid-Year

 - Beal stated this will be dealt with after the October Public Hearing

- Bid Process for Auditor

 - Bonnie is working on taking bids.

- Security Cameras

 - On hold until bond project is complete to see how much money is left.

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Recognition of Guests

Connie Marshall stated that she knows that decisions are really tough. She believes that Mr. Sheldon should receive a lot of thanks for all of the work he has done for the district and the money that he has saved the district. Marshall stated that she recalls the meeting when the board listened to the presentations from the technology architects. She stated that the board decided they would rather pay someone that is already in house then hire some other company when the district already has someone here on staff.

Brian Zinn stated that Dave Freeman stated it best, but he believes that the board should do more research before making this decision. Now you are going to lose an everyday person that can fix it and make the repairs quickly. You might be saving money for the district but making more headaches for the staff when computers are down.

Lori Wolfe would like to go back to the beginning of the meeting where Mr. McNerney wanted the minutes changed where it talked about the morale of the staff. She stated that her position was changed 3 weeks ago. Mrs. Wolfe stated she is happy to be in the high school but worries about the middle school with 35 kids in a class. She stated that the morale is not good with the staff. Lori stated she has 19 years with the district and she loves her job but the morale is not good.

Larry Koutz was not going to say anything but feels he needs to. In February the board laid off two employees because of lack of work.

Now the board has hired back one of those employees because of work and nothing has been done about the other position. Mr. Koutz has come to the board twice and nothing has been discussed on the media center position. Mr. Koutz would like to know what is going to be done about no books on the shelves in the media center and kids not able to check anything out. Mr. Koutz is also very worried about not having a tech person in district. Lori Wolfe hit it on the head when she stated that morale is very low.

Items for next Board Meeting October 11, 2010

Freeman stated that the board needs to look into the high school media center position.

Public meeting starting at 6:30 October 11, 2010

Motion by Freeman, support by Keyes to adjourn at 9:52 p.m.

Motion CARRIED 6-0

Karen S. Grover
Recording Secretary