

Meeting Minutes October 19, 2009

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President, Terry Hutchinson. Present: Terry Hutchinson, Rod Cole, Kari Rojas, Denise McBride Absent: Ed VanAvery, Bob Pasch and Frank Fox.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Rod Cole to approve the agenda with no additions or deletions. Motion carried 4/0.

Veena Cole and Meagan Straus introduced themselves to the Board. Both ladies were attending the board meeting as an academic requirement.

Ali Goodhall from Yeo & Yeo presented the 2008/2009 financial audit.

William Chilman reported that the board received a copy of an e-mail from State Superintendent Mike Flanagan concerning consolidation of services versus consolidation of schools. The board also received a copy of an article from the Mt. Pleasant Morning Sun titled "State has too many school districts" which gives the details of the Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency's six page list of recommendations on steps the state can take to align its spending and resources. The board also received the Gratiot-Isabella RESD newsletter titled Winds of Change.

Rod Cole reported for the District School Improvement team. They met prior to this evening's board meeting. They discussed the state budget and received information of our fall student count. Our student numbers are up around 30-40 students which will help the school's budget. The District School Improvement Team also discussed the preschool program. Funding for the preschool program was sited as a potential state budget cut and our preschool funding was in jeopardy at the beginning of the school year. We decided to offer the program to our community whether the funding came through or not for the 2009/2010 school year, however; we need to look at this program very closely this coming spring to determine if it will be feasible to continue the program. If preschool is discontinued, we need to give parents and students ample notice so they can make other arrangements for the following school year. We also need to develop a plan of how we are going to service those students who are preschool age as it is a vital program that makes a definite difference for our student population. Bill briefly discussed the possibility of renting a room in our building to a third party who could offer a cooperative preschool program.

Jerry Ward reported that they counted 30 students in the alternative education program for the fall and they are nearing completion of the paperwork required for fall count. He has enrolled five students since the count date. They have three weeks left in the first nine weeks. Students in the alternative education program must earn two credits per nine weeks to continue in the program. So far the alternative education program has been very successful this school year.

Marci Faber reported that she has mailed free and reduced application verifications to three families. She has received one back so far and will send a reminder to the other two by the next deadline. The kitchen staff enjoyed participating in spirit week and the Around the World week went very well. Marci will be surveying the students to see which new entrée item they enjoyed the most as

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she needs to replace one of her regular entrees that is no longer available. Marci will be working on an online wellness assessment during the next few weeks.

Aarron Butkovich reported that the athletic department is gearing up for the busy fall playoff season and the start of winter sports. Cross country regionals are in two weeks and our girls cross country team is ranked in the top ten. We will be hosting the varsity volleyball conference tournament on Halloween. We are also hosting the regional tournament on Nov. 10th and 12th. November 12th is also parent teacher conferences and we may be hosting a H1N1 vaccination clinic that same evening. Cheerleading is going well this year and the cheerleaders are showing respect for their coach. Last Friday was senior night for the varsity football players and the band members. This Friday the varsity football team plays Evert for the conference title. There was an issue after last Friday's game against Pine River and a touchdown late in the game. Aarron and Jeff Jackson handled the situation of Friday and the athletic director from Pine River asked Aarron to assure the board that Pine River has accepted the apologies of the coaches and administration and supports Beal City remaining a member of the highland conference. Aarron and Jeff Jackson attending an MHSAA update meeting today as well as a league meeting. At the MHSAA meeting they discussed eight man football, a pilot to web stream games, possibly changing the frequency of academic eligibility checks and the fact that since the switch in fall and winter athletic seasons participation is down 2.8%. At the league meeting they discussed scheduling issues.

Diane Saltarelli reported that we are currently in the middle of MEAP testing and so far illness has not caused us any great problems. Next Monday Author Eric Stock will be offering a free assembly to the elementary. On October 27th the assistant women's varsity basketball coach will be offering a mini assembly to announce a poster contest opportunity for our students. On October 27 and 28 the elementary will be participating in a fund raising walk-a-thon. October 28th is the monthly staff meeting and the elementary will be receiving training from the school psychologist on completing special education paperwork. On November 2nd the Protecting You Protecting Me program will begin in the elementary. November 9-12th is the book fair and parent/teacher conferences are on November 12th. We have a Veteran's Day assembly planned for November 11th and on November 25th the K-6 grades will be attending a "recess in Rose" field trip at CMU.

Julie Freeze reported that fall count numbers are up which will help the budget. The State Aid bill is currently sitting on the Governor's desk along with a report from the revenue consensus committee that the estimated revenues to support that State aid bill are not coming in as expected. Bill added that if the governor does not sign the state aid bill this evening, the October 20th state aid payment will not be sent to schools tomorrow as scheduled.

Jeff Jackson reported that they have been taking the MEAP starting October 13th and must have the process complete and the tests sent back to the state by October 29th. We have had a few students miss testing due to illness and will need to make up those test dates. Kaleb House is currently providing homebound education services to an 8th grade student. We have one confirmed case of H1N1 at the secondary level and a couple speculative cases. German links arrived on October 15th and will be here through the 27th of October. The German students went to Chicago over the weekend and are headed to Lansing tomorrow. Julie Christensen is teaching a Spanish I class at Sacred Heart Academy and all of her students have been entered into our student data system so that we may claim a partial FTE for that class. We have sent invitations to local politicians to attend the Veteran's Day assembly on November 11th, but have yet to receive a reply. The Beal City band performed at University of Michigan's first hockey game of the season and the trip went very well. There are new components to the CIMS II Special Education monitoring systems that we must comply with by November 2nd. FFA leaves for

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National Convention this Wednesday . Parent/Teacher conferences are November 12th the end of the marking period is November 6th. Chad Arndt was the Rotary student of the month for October.

Joe Judge reported that we are renegotiating our contract with study island and looking at adding eighth grade and maybe some high school courses as well. The second round of USF paperwork has been completed.

John Graham reported that things are going exceptionally well in the maintenance department. John is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on December 15th and hopes to be back to light duty work after the first of the year. Don Schafer will be helping to check roads in the morning and he will be plowing snow and have the school truck available in case of emergencies. John attended a region 6 transportation meeting last week and the biggest concern from the meeting was the state police bus inspections. The state is still requiring that buses be inspected every year, but they are no longer paying for it. It is unlawful to use a bus that has not been inspected within the last year. John warned the board that he plans to have a bus on the capital projects budget next year. John also reported that he is on jury duty the month of November.

Bill Chilman reported that the state budget picture is not good and the idea of consolidation whether it be services or districts is not going away. Johnathon Straus and Rod Cole will be heading up an archery program for the upper elementary, middle school and high school students. All materials and supplies for the program were donated by the Safari club and Johnathon and Rod will be donating their time and expertise to work with the physical education teachers to get this program off the ground. The long range plan is to eventually have an archery club and possibly collaborate with other area schools that have an archery program. Bill meet with Brian O'Neil, a Beal City alumni, this morning to discuss his third party negotiating company and what they may be able to do for Beal City Schools. With our size it is doubtful that he will be able to generate any savings. Bill reported on the athletic situation from last Friday's game against Pine River and the rumors that other schools in our league would like to have Beal City removed from the highland conference. Jeff, Aarron, and Lou Rau handled the situation from Friday night's game well and Pine River has accepted our apologies. At the league meeting today, Jeff and Aarron were expecting the worst but discovered that Beal City has full support of the majority of schools in the Highland conference to remain a member of the highland conference. Bill talked about the importance of conference affiliations and noted that we do not want to deal with the schedule headaches that would accompany not being a member of the conference. Joe Pius from Mt. Pleasant Public Schools has contacted Bill about the potential of sharing administrative positions/services between both schools. He would like to meet with Bill and the presidents of both boards to explore the possibilities.

Terry Hutchinson read the Financial Report.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Kari Rojas to approve the General Fund payments of \$287,857.53, Hot Lunch payments of \$12,687.32, Capital Projects/General Fund payments of \$1,202.33, Athletic Fund payments of 5,708.20. Motion carried 4/0.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Rod Cole to approve the Neola New Revised & Replacement Policies-2nd Reading. Motion carried 4/0.

Bill announced that last Friday night's recognition of the Beal City Education Foundation contributors and board members went very well. The foundation now has approximately \$15,000. The 4th quarter push during Friday night's football game raised \$366.59. Bill is looking at adding the Beal City

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Education Foundation to our internal accounts to take care of incidental costs to the foundation such as the donor board currently being made. The foundation plans to have a dinner theatre fundraiser this year and hopes to award a student scholarship and possibly a grant to a staff member this year.

Bill discussed the upcoming MASB workshops and will be e-mailing all board members with potential dates so that he may contact MASB and get the trainings scheduled.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Denise McBride to approve the audit as presented. Motion carried 4/0.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Denise McBride to approve the coaching recommendations of Chadd Fletcher- Freshman basketball and Kory Stevens – 8th grade boys basketball. Motion carried 4/0.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Rod Cole to accept the coaching resignations of Chadd Fletcher – 7th grade boys basketball and Dave King Jr. high girls track. Motion carried 4/0.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Denise McBride to accept the agreement with the Genesee ISD through the Gratiot-Isabella RESD for seat time waiver. Motion carried 4/0.

Motion by Kari Rojas, seconded by Rod Cole to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

Recording Secretary
Julie Freeze

Terry Hutchinson, President

Kari Rojas, Secretary