

Regular Meeting of the
BOARD of EDUCATION of the SCHOOL DISTRICT of REEDSBURG

Official Minutes

October 20, 2008

Central Office Building

7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 — Call to Order: Mr. Balda, board president, called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded for clarity.

Agenda Item 2 — Roll Call: The following Board members were present: Steve Balda, Heather Scully, John Pearson, Gary Woolever, LuAnn Brey, Mike Hartje, and Jim Wieczorek Absent: None. Also present: Tom Benson, District Administrator; Patrick Ruddy, Assistant District Administrator; David Perrodin, Director of Pupil Services; Sharon Suchla, Director of Instruction; Rob Taylor, High School Principal; Michele Butler, High School Associate Principal; Matt Terry, High School Associate Principal; Bryan Yager, High School Activities Director; Casey Campbell, Middle School Principal; Clint Beyer, Middle School Associate Principal; Paul Bierman, Elementary Principal; Tammy Hayes, Elementary Principal (arrived at 8:10 p.m.); Jenny Gehri, Teaching Principal; Linda Messer, Interim Elementary Administrator; Ann Schmitt, Teaching Principal; Colton Schara, Student Council Representative; Jeff Seering, Reedsburg Independent; Tom Demmin, WRDB and Barbara Sand, secretary (see sign in sheet for other attendees)

Agenda Item 3 — Report on Public Notice: Notice of the meeting was given to the Reedsburg Independent, the Reedsburg Times Press, WRDB radio and was posted at the Central Office Building, Reedsburg City Hall and the Reedsburg Public Library.

Agenda Item 4 — Pledge of Allegiance:

Agenda Item 5 — Public Comment: None

Agenda Item 6 — Correspondence:

- A letter (via e-mail) was received from a district teacher/parent expressing disappointment with the new food service program.
- A copy of the letter sent to Brenda Erdman from the WEA Trust regarding her receipt of the Movin' and Munchin' Schools wellness initiative and their matching award was reviewed.

Upcoming conferences include:

- WASB Legislative Issues Conference, Saturday, November 8, Wausau
- Lathrop & Clark Law Seminar, Thursday, November 20, Madison

Agenda Item 7 — Presentation, Girls' Golf: Joe Rathcamp, RCC General Manager and Mark Johnson, RAHS Girls' Golf Coach presented information regarding the Girls' Golf teams first season. They were both thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the Girls' Golf team and very complementary of the program itself. They are both hopeful that the partnership will continue for many years.

Mr. Balda thanked them for coming and conveyed the Board's appreciation for their continuing support of both our Boys' and Girls' golf teams.

Agenda Item 8 — Presentation, Exemplary Middle School:

Webb Middle School has received recognition from the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA) as an "Exemplary Middle School". Webb was recognized for high growth in both reading and math test scores.

Mr. Benson presented Mr. Campbell, Webb Middle School Principal, with an AWSA certificate of recognition.

Agenda Item 9 — Committee Reports:

- John Pearson, Finance chair reported a meeting on October 15. The committee heard a proposal from the Reedsburg Youth Hockey Association requesting that the district contribute up to \$4,000 for the salaries of both the Boy's and Girls' Hockey Assistant Coaches. The committee also discussed a request for the purchase of backboards from Reedsburg Area Youth Basketball (RAYB), the 2008-2009 budget was again reviewed along with short-term cash flow borrowing and the possibility of whether or not we wish to pursue a revenue limit referendum.
- Colton Schara, RAHS student council representative, reported on the following:
 - Homecoming week was a great success.
 - Student council will be offering free babysitting again this year on Saturday, November 22. They are expecting 130-150 children.
 - Some concerns have surfaced regarding A'viands, the district's new food service management company.

Agenda Item 10 — Administrative Report(s):

- **Ms. Suchla**
 - Our Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing is still in progress but going well so far. Additional information will be available following the conclusion of our testing window. Testing is taking place in the areas of Language Arts, Reading and Math, grades 2-10.
- **Mr. Perrodin**
 - Assisted in the development of a questionnaire to solicit feedback from parents of students with special needs.
 - The Sauk County Lending Network will share all OT/PT equipment within the six participating districts. This should save some substantial dollars for all districts involved.
 - The school-based suicide prevention document was recently e-mailed to all staff members and most recently has been posted to our web site.
 - The “audit” phase of our DPI Special Education Self-Assessment has been completed. Overall, the errors that were discovered can be corrected. Monday, December 15, 2008, is the deadline to submit all corrections to the DPI. When the self-assessment is completed additional information will be available. Mr. Perrodin gave special thanks to all members of the audit team.
- **Mr. Ruddy**
 - There was an accident on October 3 when Riberich’s Inc. were installing the new boiler at South School. Staff and students were evacuated in a calm and timely manner, with quick response from both the fire and police departments. Repairs have been made to the boiler, with inspections completed and passed as necessary and as of October 16 it was fully functional.
 - Discussed Resource Allocation and gave some specific examples of how the process works.
- **Mr. Yager**
 - Introduced Scott Imhoff as the proposed new Girls’ Head Hockey Coach. The Board will take action on his proposed contract tonight under Agenda Item 11a.
 - We are in the process of wrapping up a very successful fall activities season and are gearing up for the winter season.
- **Tom Benson** reported on the following:
 - The Partnership In Education (PIE) committee met recently with four (4) more meetings scheduled throughout the year.
 - The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) held their regional fall meeting last week with full participation from Board members.
 - Winskill Elementary School in the Lancaster School District sponsors a yearly program called “Project Backpack”. The backpacks, donated by Lands’ End are filled with school supplies and distributed to needy families in the area. This year there were several “extra” backpacks and they opted to donate them to a district that was impacted by the June floods. As a result, 20 backpacks were recently delivered to our district and many have already found a home. Our thanks to Lancaster for thinking of us.
 - Introduced Linda Messer as the proposed Interim Administrator at Ironton-LaValle for the balance of the 2008-2009 school year. The Board will take action on her proposed contract tonight under Agenda Item 11a.

Agenda Item 11 — Action Items:

a. Consent Agenda

- Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
 - Regular Board of Education meeting September 15, 2008
- Staff Considerations
 - Contract (s)
 - Linda Messer (Interim Administrator at Ironton-LaValle Elementary for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year)
 - Scott Imhoff (Head Girls’ Hockey Coach)
 - John Brandt (Head Girls’ Softball Coach)
- Approval, Youth Options
 - This program allows all public high school juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements to take postsecondary courses at a UW institution, a Wisconsin technical college or one of the state’s participating private, not for profit institutions of higher education.
 - Six (6) students applied for a total of nine (9) courses, through UW Baraboo or MATC Reedsburg for the 2nd semester of the 2008-2009 school year, all of which were approved.

- Approval, Early Graduation Requests
One (1) additional student requested early graduation consideration (January 2008), which was approved.
- Presentation of Vouchers
 - 10 Fund vouchers 116295 through 116778 in the amount of \$3,761,835.03.

Motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Mr. Wiczorek to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

b. Treasurer's Report

Motion by Ms. Brey, second by Mr. Woolever to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

c. Consideration, RYHA Funding Request

The Reedsburg Youth Hockey Association is requesting financial assistance of approximately \$4,000/year from the district for both the Girls' and Boys' hockey programs. This issue was discussed at length at the most recent Finance Committee, however, they were unable to come to a consensus and therefore it has been brought before the full board for discussion and action. Currently the hockey program is self-funding.

Following a lengthy discussion, motion by Ms. Brey, second by Mr. Pearson to approve the RYHA funding proposal for a total of \$4,000 from the RAHS Activities Budget for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year, provided that a policy or guideline be developed, which will dictate how future requests of this nature are handled. Following a roll call vote motion carried 4-3 with Mr. Balda, Mr. Woolever and Mr. Hartje voting "Nay".

d. Approval, 2008-2009 Final Budget Revisions

Mr. Ruddy presented information on the final 2008-2009 budget revisions. To date we have significantly reduced our operational expenses (approximately \$415,000) and tonight we are proposing an additional \$75,000 reduction in the Facility Maintenance (Object 327) budget. That budget was \$240,000 last year and we have reduced it to \$65,000 for the current year. Our third Friday in September enrollment count decreased by nineteen (19) students and the three (3) year rolling average (2006, 2007, 2008) increased slightly. The decrease in enrollment lowered our projected revenue by \$(102,719). In addition, the district will receive \$32,833 less in general school aid this year as compared to last year. The revenue limit increases by 3.41% over 2007-2008; however, that is not enough to keep up with the increases in our expenditures.

Based on the Baird Forecasting Model, future projected deficits are: \$(341,792) in 09-10; \$(776,184) in 10-11; \$(1,394,478) in 11-12 and \$(1,763,664) in 12-13.

Tonight the finance committee is presenting the 2008-2009 budget with a projected deficit of \$(65,027). This will reduce our Fund Balance, which was at 7.60% of last year's 10 & 27 Fund expenditures.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Wiczorek, second by Mr. Hartje to approve the 2008-2009 General 10 Fund budget of \$26,193,810; Special Education Fund 27 budget of \$4,359,180; Fund 39 (referendum approved) Debt Service budget of \$1,565,925; Fund 38 (non-referendum) Debt Service budget of \$289,937; Fund 50 Food Service budget of \$1,275,643; and the Community Service Fund 80 budget of \$93,710 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

e. Approval, 2008-2009 Tax Levy

Mr. Ruddy also provided an update on the school tax levy using the state required Revenue Limit, Equalized Aid, and the district's property values. The budget carries a property tax levy of \$11.39 million, up 6.78% from last year. The local tax increase is due in part to the decrease in general state aid. The mill rate for the 2008-2009 school tax levy will be \$8.04 per thousand dollars of equalized property value, which is an increase of \$0.15 from last year.

Following additional discussion, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Mr. Woolever to certify a 2008-2009 tax levy in the amount of \$11,391,214, which will cause a mill rate of \$8.04 per \$1,000 of equalized property value as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 12 — Discussion Items:

a. Paperless Board Meetings

Additional information was presented regarding the possible purchase of laptop computers if the decision is made to go "paperless". If the district were to purchase MAC Computers, they are approximately \$1,900 each. If PC's were purchased the cost is approximately \$1,000 each. Those prices include a 15" or 17" monitor and the appropriate software (Microsoft Office). The First Class client (e-mail) and web browsers are both free downloads and would add no additional cost. If PC's are purchased instead of MAC's, we would need to go to an outside source for support as our IT Department does not support PC's. This topic will be on the November agenda as an action item.

Agenda Item 13 — Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Ms. Scully to adjourn the open session at 8:57 p.m. and move into executive session under sections 19.85(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes,

- (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Motion carried by a roll call vote 7-0.

Agenda Item 14 — Reconvene in Open Session: Motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Ms. Brey to adjourn the executive session at 10:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 15 — Adjourn: There being no further business, motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Mr. Wieczorek to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Balda declared the meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Gary Woolever, Clerk
Barbara Sand, Recorder