

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

October 19, 2009

Central Office Building

7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 — Call to Order: Mr. Balda, board president, called the meeting to order at 7:36 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, John Pearson, Gary Woolever, LuAnn Brey, Mike Hartje, and Jim Wieczorek. Absent: Heather Scully. Also present: Tom Benson, District Administrator; Patrick Ruddy, Assistant District Administrator; Jeff Bindl, Director of Pupil Services; Linda Bruun, Director of Instruction; Rob Taylor, High School 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; Jenny Gehri, Teaching Principal; Tanner Hahn, Student Council Representative; Jeff Seering, Reedsburg Independent; Ken Leiviska, Reedsburg Times Press; Tommy Lee Bychinski, Reedsburg Utility; 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: Ellen Brogren and Rachel Niemann addressed the Board regarding the Reedsburg Educational Paraprofessional Association (REPA) contract. This group has worked without a contract for the past year and asked the Board to reach a fair, voluntary settlement with REPA members. A petition was presented to the Board, which was signed by 270 individuals supporting REPA members.

A majority of REPA members left the meeting prior to Mr. Balda's response, given under Committee Reports.

Agenda Item 6 — Correspondence:

Upcoming conferences include:

- WASB Legislative Advocacy Conference - Saturday, November 7 - Stevens Point
- Lathrop & Clark School Law Seminar - Thursday, November 19 - Madison

Webb Middle School was recognized by AWSA as an exemplary school for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.

In conjunction with Wal Mart the district has identified "2 deserving teachers" who will both receive a \$100 Wal Mart gift cards. Those teachers are Corinne Fish, high school science teacher and Barb Trodahl, elementary special education teacher. Congratulations to both!

Agenda Item 7 — Presentation, SciFusion Pilot Project: Kaycee Kline and Aimee Ogden presented information on a pilot program that will be available in the spring called SciFusion. This program is an online web portal that will allow students the opportunity to interact with real life scientists studying bio and nanotechnology. The main purpose of this pilot is to get students excited about science. Reedsburg was one of only 4 school districts in the state invited to participate in this pilot.

Agenda Item 8 — Committee Reports:

- John Pearson, Finance chair reported a meeting on October 15. The committee discussed the 2009-2010 budget, enrollment figures and projections, SAGE, potential staff reductions and the possibility of pursuing a referendum in the spring of 2010.

Mr. Balda expanded on the Finance Committee report. The School Board appreciates all of the work that is done in each and every building in the district. Unfortunately we have a budgetary problem. In the past year we have had a referendum defeated, we had a Board meeting where we discussed the closing of an elementary school or schools, we had an Annual meeting in August in which the voters reduced the salary of School Board members and very nearly voted down the proposed tax levy. When the public votes things down we need to make difficult decisions. The following groups/individuals have taken a pay freeze for the current year: administrators, supervisors, secretaries, bookkeepers, bus drivers, bus mechanic and cooks. In addition we cut a high school assistant principal position plus the teaching principals at both Ironton-LaValle and Rock Springs elementary schools. In many instances cooks and teaching assistants have had their hours reduced. We have cut 4 custodial and 7 teaching positions. Mr. Balda stated that the Board has an offer on the table for REPA members that consists of an increase of 4.38% for wages with a 7.04% increase in fringe benefits retroactive to last school year. This year's offer includes a 3.71% wage increase with a 4.36% fringe benefit increase. There is just not enough money in the budget to accommodate more than what is already being offered. Mr. Balda commended the entire staff for the work that they do each and every day. This Board will be facing very difficult decisions in the coming months.

- Tanner Hahn, RAHS student council representative, reported on the following:
  - Student Council executive board members participated in the fall leadership conference at the Kalahari yesterday and today. It was a great learning experience for all that attended.
  - "Crush" sale was held recently for Sweetest Day.
  - Fall Conference will be held on November 17. We are co-hosting this event with Adams this year.
  - A blood drive was held on October 7, with 144 students donating.
  - Fall sports season is winding down.
  - Webb & high school choir concert will be held tomorrow night @ 7:30 p.m.
  - Orchestra concert will be held on October 25 @ 7:00 p.m.
  - The high school fall musical will be held November 13 – 15.

Agenda Item 9 — Administrative Report(s):

- **Mr. Yager**
  - Provided the fall activities participation numbers.
- **Mr. Bindl**
  - We have been awarded a pre-school planning grant in the amount of \$4,500 for the 2009-2010 school year.
  - A special thanks was given to the Voyager and Reedsburg Swim for providing swimming opportunities for students with disabilities.
  - Distributed information for current special education enrollment by grade level. Our special education enrollment is currently at 18% and the state average is 13%.
- **Ms. Bruun**
  - Provided an update on the data analysis and goal setting sessions for each building. Each building principal will share their building goals and action plans with the Board at the November meeting.
  - Has submitted the ESEA Consolidated Plan and is awaiting approval.
  - Provided an update on the Gifted and Talented program in the district.
  - MAP testing has been completed in grades 3-5. Testing at the middle and high school is partially completed as there were unexpected technical problems to deal with. Testing at those levels will be completed in December. WKCE tests have arrived and have been distributed to each building.
  - Has implemented "Technology Tuesdays" and "Professional Development Thursdays" as a way to build in ongoing professional and technology development for staff. These events will be scheduled monthly with various topics depending on needs and interests.
  - Provided information on the support seminar changes recently implemented for second and third year professional educators who are not part of the PI34 licensure system.
- **Mr. Ruddy**
  - The official 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September count is up 10 from last year. While this is great news, from a budget standpoint it will not help us until next year due to the three year rolling average.
  - Our H1N1 plan is in place. Vaccinations will take place the first week of November, providing adequate amounts of the vaccine are received. The H1N1 vaccine is voluntary and there is no cost. Permission forms have been sent home and are due back Friday.
  - A Special Board of Education meeting has been scheduled for this Thursday, October 22 to adopt the budget and set the tax levy.
- **Mr. Benson**
  - We plan to send out a District Newsletter by the end of the calendar year.
  - District wide Parent-Teacher conferences were held last week.
  - This week is bus safety week.
  - Matching funds from the WEA Trust have been received at Loganville, Rock Springs and Westside acknowledging their participation in the DPI "Movin and Munchin" initiative. Each school received a total of \$500 (\$250 from DPI and \$250 from WEA Trust).
  - Ironton-LaValle Elementary School will be hosting a spaghetti supper and silent auction on Thursday, November 5. Hope to see you there.

Agenda Item 10 — Action Items:

*a. Consent Agenda*

- Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
  - Regular Board of Education meeting September 21, 2009
  - Special meeting September 29, 2009

- Approval, Early Graduation Request
- Approval, Youth Option Requests
- Approval, Board Policies
- Presentation of Vouchers
  - 10 Fund vouchers 119850 through 120111 in the amount of \$2,224,458.81.

Motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Ms. Scully to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

*b. Treasurer's Report*

Motion by Ms. Brey, second by Mr. Woolever to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

*c. Approval, Tennis Court Agreement*

At the August Board meeting, the Board approved an agreement with the City of Reedsburg in regards to the potential construction of 8 new tennis courts, which would be located in the green space between the Central Office Building and the high school. That agreement included the following provisions –

- The City will be responsible for the full cost of construction,
- Ongoing maintenance costs would be split between the City and School District 50-50

The City of Reedsburg has revisited this issue and recently revised the agreement as follows –

- The City will be responsible for the full cost of construction,
- Ongoing maintenance costs would be shared 75-25 (District responsible for 75% and the City responsible for 25%)

The administrative recommendation is to approve the revised agreement as presented. Placing these courts on our high school campus will make an incredible difference, both for our tennis programs and physical education classes. It will be safer, less expensive and far more efficient for us to run these programs with these new courts. The difference it will make for our physical education classes is beyond measure. In addition, community access to tennis courts will be increased substantially. Some, and possibly all, of the maintenance costs can be assigned to the 80 Fund.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Wiczorek, second by Mr. Woolever to approve the revised tennis court agreement with the City of Reedsburg as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Agenda Item 11 — Discussion Items:

*a. National Association of School Boards (NASB) Enrollment*

We have begun receiving solicitation letters from the National Association of School Boards (NASB) asking us to consider joining. The cost to join this national association is approximately \$2,000. Several years ago we joined for a 1-year period but we have not been a member since that time.

Following discussion the consensus of the Board was not to join at this time due to our financial situation.

*b. Review of District Mission Statement and Goals*

The board reviewed the district's current goals and mission statement. Following discussion it was decided that it is time to look at revising both. LuAnn Brey and Jim Wiczorek volunteered to team up and work on new language to bring back to the Board for consideration at a future date.

Agenda Item 12 — Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Woolever, second by Mr. Wiczorek to adjourn the open session at 8:52 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 6-0.

Agenda Item 13 — Reconvene in Open Session: Motion by Ms. Brey, second by Mr. Hartje to adjourn the executive session at 10:07 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Agenda Item 14 — Adjourn: There being no further business, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Mr. Pearson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Balda declared the meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.