

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

Official Minutes

December 15, 2008

Central Office Building

7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 — Call to Order: Mr. Balda, board president, called the meeting to order at 7:30 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; Michele Butler, High School Associate Principal; Matt Terry, High School Associate Principal; Paul Bierman, Elementary Principal; Jenny Gehri, Teaching Principal; Ann Schmitt, Teaching Principal; Randy Johnson, Buildings & Grounds Director; Megan Porter, 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: None

Agenda Item 6 — Correspondence:

- A letter was received from Scott Breckley regarding the district's fiscal situation.

Agenda Item 7 — Committee Reports:

- John Pearson, Finance chair reported meetings on December 4 & 10. The committee discussed the proposed elimination of the freshman girls' soccer program, heard a proposal from Bill Klang and Dave Miotke regarding the possible reallocation of 80 Fund dollars to purchase needed electronic equipment at the CAL Center and discussed changes to the district's 403(b) plan. The remainder of the meeting was focused on the possibility of pursuing a Revenue Limit Referendum in April.
- Heather Scully, Curriculum chair reported a meeting on November 24. The committee discussed changing the following RAHS courses from "pilot" to "permanent" curriculum: Athletic Conditioning, Fitness for Life and Sports Management & Leadership. The committee will be recommending approval of this change later in the agenda. The committee also heard two (2) proposals for additional courses at the high school – Math for Transcribed Credit and Cell Biology. The committee is recommending approval of both courses under Agenda Item 9d. Ms. Suchla presented an update on 4-year-old kindergarten, which is still in the early discussion stage.

Agenda Item 8 — Administrative Report(s):

- **Ms. Suchla**
 - Gave an update on the PI34 Support Seminars being offered.
 - Gave an update on the Gifted & Talented opportunities available for our students.
- **Mr. Perrodin**
 - Tabled discussion on the DPI Suicide Prevention Training.
 - Provided information on the "Special Education - Withdrawal of Parent Consent" that will be an option for parents effective January 1.
 - Discussed the ADA changes that will become effective January 1.
 - Provided information on the passing of Christine Rohner, special education teacher at the high school. Chris passed away last Friday evening - services are pending at the Farber Funeral Home. Chris taught in the district for 30+ years and she will be dearly missed.
- **Tom Benson** reported on the following:
 - Provided clarification on the district's Reading Specialist position.
 - Provided an update on the November 21 make-up day. Monday, February 23 will now be a regular student day. The teacher in-service originally scheduled for that day will be made up in early June (exact date yet to be determined).
 - The School Board convention will be held in Milwaukee from January 21-23.

- There continues to be discussion regarding possible WIAA conference realignment, specifically moving Reedsburg back to the South Central Conference, from the Badger North Conference. We have indicated that we are not interested in such a proposal; however, the WIAA is continuing to review all options.
- Reedsburg Utility Commission has expressed some interest in taping School Board meetings.
- The next DARE graduation will take place tomorrow afternoon at 1:00 p.m. at the CAL Center and will involve students from Pineview, Westside and South Schools.

Agenda Item 9 — Action Items:

a. Consent Agenda

- Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
 - Regular Board of Education meeting November 17, 2008
 - Special Board of Education meeting November 19, 2008
- Approval, Early Graduation Requests
 - One (1) additional student requested early graduation consideration (January 2009), which was approved.
- Approval, Board Policies
 - 110, Educational Philosophy
 - 120, School District Legal Status
 - 130, School Board Legal Status
 - 131, Board Elections
 - 131-1, Board Member Oath of Office
 - 132, Filling Board Vacancies
 - 132 Rule, Procedures for Filling Board Vacancies
 - 141, Board Officers
 - 141-1, Representative to the WASB Delegate Assembly
 - 142, Legal Council
 - 150, Board Powers and Duties
 - 151, Board Policy Development
 - 420 Rule, Procedures for the Admission of Transfer Students
 - 830, Use of School Facilities
 - 830 Rule (1), Organization/ Group Classification for Purpose of Priority & Fee Determination
 - 830 Rule (3), Guidelines for Use of the CAL Center
 - 830 Exhibit (1), Facilities Rental Fee Schedule
 - 861, School Volunteers
- Presentation of Vouchers
 - 10 Fund vouchers 117045 through 117299 in the amount of \$1,109,989.77.

Motion by Ms. Brey, second by Mr. Wieczorek to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

b. Treasurer's Report

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

c. Approval, 2008-2009 RAHS Physical Education Pilot Courses

The Curriculum Committee is recommending that the following RAHS Physical Education Courses be changed from pilot courses to permanent offerings beginning with the 2009-2010 school year: Athletic Conditioning, Fitness for Life and Sports Management & Leadership.

Following discussion, motion by Ms. Brey, second by Mr. Hartje to approve the RAHS Physical Education course changes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

d. Approval, RAHS New Course Offerings

The Curriculum Committee is recommending approval of two new courses at the high school beginning with the 2009-2010 school year – Math for Transcribed Credit (to be taught by Joanne Brunett) and Cell Biology (to be taught by Aimee Ogden). No new staff additions are required to implement these two (2) new course offerings.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Wieczorek, second by Mr. Woolever to approve the two (2) new RAHS course additions beginning with the 2009-2010 school year as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

e. Approval, 403(b) Plan

The Internal Revenue Service has changed the rules for employers, vendors and employees as they relate to 403(b) programs. These programs allow an individual to contribute their own funds toward a retirement investment, which would be in addition to the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS).

With the plan revision, the district will have greater responsibility – more like a 401K plan that private employers have had for many years. Our revised plan has tentative approval from all three (3) union groups.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Ms. Scully to approve the revised 403(b) plan as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

f. Consideration, Varsity Reserve Wrestling Schedule

Through a scheduling error, our current wrestling schedule includes one more contest than is allowed by WIAA regulations. Following conversations with both the WIAA and the athletic directors of schools with whom we are scheduled to compete, the best approach seems to be the establishment of a Varsity Reserve schedule, which would consist on one (1) contest, with Mauston. Since it was scheduled as a regular varsity event, this contest is already included in Mr. Yager's budget.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Woolever, second by Ms. Brey to approve the establishment of a varsity reserve wrestling schedule, consisting of one (1) contest with Mauston. Motion carried 7-0.

g. Consideration, Soccer Proposal

In an effort to reduce expenses, freshman girls' soccer was previously eliminated as an extra-curricular offering. In an effort to reinstate the freshman program, Sonny Hyde, soccer coach, has offered to "coach for free", thus allowing his salary to be used to reinstate the program. While Mr. Hyde's offer is honorable and commendable, it establishes a potentially problematic situation for other coaches and athletes as the district continues to face tight budget situations. Not paying a coach may also establish some liability issues as well as being a potential violation of the collective bargaining agreement with the REA.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Woolever, second by Mr. Hatje to deny Sonny Hyde's offer to coach for no compensation, with the directive that the freshman girls' soccer program be reinstated this spring with monies to come from the Central Office Equipment Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 10 — Discussion Items:

a. Revenue Limit Referendum

The Finance Committee has met twice within the past two (2) weeks to further discuss the possibility of pursuing a Revenue Limit Referendum in April. A list was distributed that identifies each and every idea that has been received for potential reductions/cuts. The Finance Committee has brought the issue to the full Board for further discussion.

Mr. Balda asked each individual board member to answer the following two (2) questions:

- 1) Should we seek a referendum?
- 2) If yes, what should the question look like (i.e. should we try to maintain our current programs (no cuts) OR should we make cuts first and then proceed with a referendum)?

Jim Wieczorek – yes – not sure about cuts
Mike Hartje – yes – major cuts first
John Pearson – yes – make some cuts first
Gary Woolever – yes – make some cuts first
LuAnn Brey – yes – make some cuts first
Heather Scully – yes – unsure about cuts
Steve Balda – yes – no cuts first

All Board members also stated that a 2nd list needs to be generated that indicates specifically what cuts will be made in the event that a referendum does not pass.

Special meetings to further discuss the referendum were scheduled as follows: Monday, December 29 @ 7:00 p.m.; Monday, January 5 @ 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, January 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 11 — Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Ms. Scully to adjourn the open session at 9:09 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 12 — Reconvene in Open Session: Motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Ms. Brey to adjourn the executive session at 9:57 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 13 — Adjourn: There being no further business, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Ms. Scully to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Balda declared the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Gary Woolever, Clerk
Barbara Sand, Recorder