

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

Official Minutes

February 16, 2009

Central Office Building

7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 — Call to Order: Mr. Balda, board president, called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 Wiczorek 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; Jenny Gehri, Teaching Principal; Ann Schmitt, Teaching Principal; Randy Johnson, Buildings & Grounds Director; Shannon Knull, 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: FFA students provided milk and cookies in honor of National FFA Week.

Agenda Item 6 — Formal Response to January's Public Comment: A complete copy of the response to Dennis Rehr's questions can be obtained at the District Office, 501 K Street, Reedsburg, WI 53959.

Agenda Item 7 — Correspondence:

- A letter was received from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) recognizing March 2-6 as School Breakfast Week.
- A letter was received from Lathrop & Clark, Attorney at Law, indicating that there will be no price increase for 2009.
- A thank you letter was received from Officer Andrew Foesch, thanking the district for the donation to their K-9 program/unit.

Upcoming conferences include:

- Wisconsin School Public Relations Association (WSPRA) "Creating Referendum Success" Friday, February 27 in Neenah, WI.

Agenda Item 8 — Presentation, RAHS Inauguration Report: Kathleen Marien and Dave Moon gave a presentation on their recent trip to Washington D.C., along with 17 high school students, to observe the inauguration of our 44th president, Barack Obama. It was an incredible experience and they thanked the Board for providing this unique and exciting opportunity.

Agenda Item 9 — Committee Reports:

- Heather Scully, Curriculum chair reported a meeting earlier tonight. The committee heard 2 proposals from the high school, one for two (2) new courses (Computer Art & Everyday English) and one for a 4th quarter open campus pilot. The committee is recommending approval of the two new courses tonight under Agenda Item 11c; however, they are not bringing forth a recommendation on the open campus pilot as they were unable to come to a consensus. This issue will be discussed and acted upon by the full board tonight under Agenda Item 11d.
- Shannon Knull, RAHS student council representative, reported on the following:
 - Winter Carnival was very successful.
 - Choraliers competitions are going well, they have won 2 spirit awards and were 5th runner up at the Sauk competition.
 - The Home Show is coming up in mid-March
 - On Wednesday, February 18 a send off for the Reedsburg National Guard Unit will be held at the high school.
 - Reedsburg is hosting Solo & Ensemble contest next weekend.
 - The Forensics team is competing in the sub district competition tonight.
 - Wrestling tournament will be held this weekend.

Agenda Item 10 — Administrative Report(s):

- **Ms. Suchla**
 - Gave an update on the 4-Year-Old Kindergarten initiative.
 - Gave an update on the activities and status of English Language Learners (ELL).
 - Provided information on staff professional development opportunities.
- **Mr. Perrodin**
 - Dr. Deborah Ondersma is the new district medial advisor, replacing Dr. Robert Mortimore. Mr. Perrodin thanked Dr. Mortimore for his many years of service and welcomed Dr. Ondersma to the district.
 - Provided an updated on the status of advertising on our website.
- **Mr. Ruddy**
 - The School Finance Network (SFN), a new and growing statewide coalition of parents, school boards, teachers, support professionals and others have announced support for a comprehensive plan to help change how Wisconsin public schools are funded.
- **Tom Benson** reported on the following:
 - Some of the scheduling for our school buildings for the 2009-2010 school year has begun. One of the cost-saving ideas that has been suggested is to have our buildings closed to all activity on Sundays. We are seeking some guidance on how to proceed with this issue.
 - Expressed his gratitude for approving the 2 referendum questions last month. While we understand that we face some hurdles, the Board's 7-0 vote to move forward with these questions is an indication that individually and collectively, the Board understands the need to maintain programs and services for our children.
 - Significant effort has been spent gathering recommendations for reducing district expenses. Nearly 100 areas were received (from numerous sources) for consideration. At the Board's request, the Administrative Team has presented a recommendation regarding the potential cuts to positions and programs connected with these suggestions. Later in the agenda, discussion and possible action will be taken regarding those recommendations. During the same time frame, several suggestions were received that need further discussion, regardless of the result of the referendum. Those areas include 1) administration (specifically high school associate principal positions, high school activities director position and the director of instruction position); 2) two prep periods at the middle school; 3) the future of the SAGE program in our district and the possible reconfiguration of our elementary schools. A request was made to have these items placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action regarding the direction the board would like us to go.

Agenda Item 10 — Action Items:

a. Consent Agenda

- Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
 - Regular Board of Education meeting January 19, 2009
 - Special Board of Education meeting February 3, 2009
- Staff Considerations
 - Resignation(s)
 - Ann Schmitt, Rock Springs Teaching Principal has submitted her letter of resignation from her principal duties only effective at the end of the current school year.
- Approval, Mannigal Trust Fund Expenditure
- Approval, Web Site Advertising
- Presentation of Vouchers
 - 10 Fund vouchers 117568 through 117794 in the amount of \$2,398,762.11.

Motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Ms. Scully 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, 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. Computer Art (to be taught by Andrea Kaiser & Mark Gronley) and Everyday English (to be taught by Brenda Williams). No new staff is required to implement these new course offerings.

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

d. *Consideration, RAHS Open Campus 4th Quarter Pilot*

The curriculum committee also heard a proposal from high school administration on the possibility of implementing a 4th quarter open campus pilot program. The committee was unable to come to a consensus so the issue is being brought forward for full Board discussion and action. This would be for senior students with a study hall 1st or 7th hours only. In addition, certain criteria must be met and maintained for students to be eligible (and remain eligible) for this option.

Following discussion, motion by Ms. Brey, second by Mr. Pearson to approve the RAHS 4th Quarter Open Campus Pilot as presented. Motion carried 5-2 with Mr. Wiczorek and Mr. Hartje voting "Nay".

e. *Consideration, Disband RAHS Boys' Hockey Co-Op (w/Baraboo)*

Mr. Yager presented information on this issue. Basically, if this request is approved, Baraboo would co-op with Portage and Reedsburg would co-op with Wisconsin Dells. Both proposals have been approved at the conference level.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Mr. Woolever to approve the dissolution of the current RAHS Boys' Hockey Co-Op with Baraboo, contingent upon the Wisconsin Dells School Board approving the creation of a new 2-year co-op at their next board meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

f. *Consideration, Creation of a 2-Year Boys' Hockey Co-Op (w/Wisconsin Dells)*

The Wisconsin Dells School Board tabled this issue until their March meeting. If/when Wisconsin Dells approves the creation of this co-op the motion made under Agenda Item #10e covers our intent.

g. *Consideration, Administrative Recommendation of Potential Cuts for 2009-10 and 2010-11*

Mr. Benson distributed two separate lists of potential cuts (one for the 2009-2010 school year and one for the 2010-2011 school year) should the referendum fail. The Board discussed the items on each list; however, they tabled action until the next meeting to allow community input prior to approval.

Agenda Item 12 — Discussion Items:

a. *Revenue Limit Referendum Questions*

Some questions were asked regarding the Federal Stimulus Package dollars that the School District of Reedsburg is slated to receive. While we are thrilled to be receiving funds, there are significant strings attached to those dollars and the receipt of that money will not help with our current budget crisis. The stimulus money that we receive can only be spent in two areas – Title I (schools that are Title I eligible are determined by their free & reduced population) and IDEA (special education area).

b. *Referendum – Establish Dates & Locations for Public Information Sessions*

Meeting dates & times will be established at the upcoming February 24 Board meeting.

Agenda Item 13 — Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Mr. Hartje to adjourn the open session at 9:38 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 Mr. Pearson to adjourn the executive session at 11:54 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 15 — Adjourn: There being no further business, motion by Mr. Wiczorek, second by Ms. Brey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Balda declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.