

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

Official Minutes

March 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 7:31 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; Jenny Gehri, Teaching Principal; Ann Schmitt, Teaching Principal; Randy Johnson, Buildings & Grounds Director; Zach Meyer, 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: None

Agenda Item 6 — Correspondence:

- A letter was received from Edward Sibrava regarding his concerns about starting a 4-year-old kindergarten program at this time.
- A letter was received from RAHS advisors and head coaches regarding the potential changes to the Activity Director position.

Upcoming conferences include:

- WASB – A Day at the Capitol – Wednesday, March 18, 9-3:30

Agenda Item 7 — Committee Reports:

- John Pearson, Finance chair reported a meeting on March 5. The committee reviewed the current year budget and the 2009-2010 budget timelines, discussed the District's Fund Balance and future budget forecasts and projected deficits. The committee also discussed the upcoming referenda questions.
- Zach Meyer, RAHS student council representative, reported on the following:
  - Special Olympics basketball team took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the regional competition.
  - The spring jazz concert will be held tomorrow night at the CAL Center.
  - The spring choir concert will be held Monday, March 23.
  - Tiffany Hahn represented the Reedsburg gymnastics program for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year.
  - Reedsburg sent 3 wrestlers to the state tournament.
  - Prom will be held in early May.

Agenda Item 8 — Administrative Report(s):

- **Mr. Bierman**
  - Gave an update on the kindergarten roundup/screening process. Approximately 175 potential kindergarten students went through the screening process.
- **Ms. Suchla**
  - Recently attended a very informative 4K conference.
  - We qualify to apply for an extension to the Immigrant Youth grant. This extension would allow us to expand Sharon Peterson's hours, continue with professional development and expand the homework club.
- **Mr. Perrodin**
  - We have sold our first website advertisement with many additional inquiries. We hope to have all 10 ads sold by July 1.
  - Provided an update on the status of special education students applying to attend Reedsburg through the Open Enrollment process.

- The Dream Program is new to the district and will be used mainly for students with cognitive disabilities. There is no charge for this program and the district will be working closing with Dynavox Technologies for proper implementation.
- **Mr. Ruddy**
  - Provided a summary of the 2009-2010 budget timelines.
- **Tom Benson** reported on the following:
  - Later in the agenda the Board will be acting upon a resignation in the English department at the high school. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> resignation received in that department this spring. While the 1<sup>st</sup> position will remain unfilled, pending the outcome of the referendum, we plan to fill the 2<sup>nd</sup> position now open in that department unless the Board directs otherwise.
  - The next district newsletter will be out by the end of the month.
  - The new solar panel is being installed this week at the high school and we should begin generating electricity by early next week. WPPI, in conjunction with Reedsburg Utility provided this panel to us free of charge, which translates into free energy for the district.
  - Just a reminder that there are 3 referendum meetings yet to be held - March 19 @ Ironton LaValle Elementary (7:00 p.m.), March 24 @ the Fusch Center (1:00 p.m.) and March 30 @ Central Office (7:00 p.m.)

Agenda Item 9 — Action Items:

*a. Consent Agenda*

- Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
  - Regular Board of Education meeting February 16, 2009
  - Special Board of Education meeting February 24, 2009
  - Special Board of Education meeting March 5, 2009
- Staff Considerations
  - Resignation(s)
    - Eric Pendowski, RAHS English Teacher, has submitted his letter of resignation effective at the end of the current school year.
- Approval, Early Graduation Requests
- Approval, Youth Options Requests
- Approval, Open Enrollment Requests
- Approval, Boys' Hockey Co-Op (w/WI Dells)
- Presentation of Vouchers
  - 10 Fund vouchers 117795 through 118090 in the amount of \$2,549,779.81.

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

*b. Approval, Voucher #118025*

Approval of Hartje Lumber 10 Fund voucher number 118025 (\$24.00).

Motion by Mr. Wiczorek, second by Mr. Pearson to approve Voucher #118025 in the amount of \$24.00 as presented. Motion carried 6-0 (Mr. Hartje was not present when this action was taken).

*c. Approval, Voucher #118022*

Approval of Vierbicher Associates 10 Fund voucher number 118022 (\$1,501.30).

Motion by Ms. Brey, second by Ms. Scully to approve Voucher #118022 in the amount of \$1,501.30 as presented. Motion carried 6-0 (Mr. Woolever was not present when this action was taken).

*d. Treasurer's Report*

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

*e. Approval, 2009-2010 CESA5 Contract*

Administration summarized the proposed 2009-2010 CESA contract, which is projected to be \$252,145.99, which is slightly less than the estimate for last year (\$252,888.87). Mr. Perrodin also reminded everyone that this is an estimate only as services and charges can and do change throughout the year based on the district's needs. The district will only be billed for actual services provided.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Woolever, second by Ms. Brey to approve the 2009-2010 CESA5 contract at an estimated cost of \$252,145.99 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

*f. Approval, RAHS Personal Finance Course (as a graduation requirement)*

In December 2006 a Personal Finance Course was approved as an additional course at the high school. At that time the intent of high school administration was to also make that course a graduation requirement beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, which would increase the graduation requirements at RAHS from 22.0 to 22.5.

Following a review of Board action the course was approved in December 2006; however, no documentation can be found indicating that this course will be a graduation requirement beginning with the 2009-2010 school year or that the graduation requirements increased from 22.0 to 22.5.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Ms. Scully to approve the Personal Finance course as a graduation requirement, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

*g. Approval, RAHS Graduation Requirements (from 22.0 to 22.5 as a result of Personal Finance course)*

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, with the addition of Personal Finance as a graduation requirement, the intent of high school administration is to increase the graduation requirements from 22.0 to 22.5.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Mr. Wieczorek to approve the increase of graduation requirements at the high school from 22.0 to 22.5, as a direct result of adding Personal Finance as a graduation requirement. This will be effective with the 2009-2010 school year as presented. Motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Balda voting "Nay".

Agenda Item 10 — Discussion Items:

*a. First Reading of Revised Policies 345.5, 534*

The following policies were presented for first reading. They will be presented for approval at the April board meeting.

- 345.5                      Graduation Requirements
- 534                         Substitute Teachers

*b. Sunday Use of School Buildings*

One cost saving idea that has been presented and discussed over the past several months was to close school buildings to all activity on Sundays. Mr. Balda read a letter from the CAL Community Board requesting that the CAL Center be exempt from any change in current policy regarding the use of school buildings on Sundays if such a change is recommended and/or implemented.

Following discussion the consensus of the board is to make no changes to our current policy regarding the use of school buildings on Sundays. All district buildings will remain open for Sunday activities.

*c. Potential Changes to Administrative Positions (July 2010)*

The topic of the number of administrators in our district continues to be an issue of concern to many. Copies of administrative job descriptions were sent to each board member electronically prior to the meeting. In addition, a chart showing an administrative comparison to other districts in both the Badger Conference and schools similar in size to our district was distributed. Based on that chart it is clear that Reedsburg is not top heavy when it comes to administrative positions.

Board members and administration continued to discuss the make-up of the administrative team and the duties required of those positions (specifically at Central Office and the high school). The consensus of the Board was to determine how many administrative positions the district should have and if it is less than what we currently have the District Administrator should be the one to determine where that reduction needs to take place.

Mr. Benson reminded Board members that current administrative contracts expire on June 30, 2010. If a change is to be made to the administrative team, no action is required this spring and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their current contract would go into effect. The district cannot issue 1-year contracts. Formal action on new contracts should take place no later than the April Board meeting.

At this time the Board did not recommend any changes to the current administrative team, pending the outcome of the referendum and the assignment of principal duties at Ironton/LaValle and Rock Springs Elementary Schools (will be assigned to a current member(s) of the Administrative Team).

Agenda Item 11 — Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Ms. Scully to adjourn the open session at 9:42 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 Mr. Wiczorek to adjourn the executive session at 10:50 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 13 — Adjourn: There being no further business, motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Ms. Scully to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Balda declared the meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

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Gary Woolever, Clerk  
Barbara Sand, Recorder