

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

Official Minutes

July 20, 2009

Central Office Building

7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 — Call to Order: Mr. Balda, board president, called the meeting to order at 7:30 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; Rob Taylor, High School Principal; Matt Terry, High School Associate Principal; Bryan Yager, High School Activities Director; Clint Beyer, Middle School Associate Principal; Paul Bierman, Elementary Principal; Jenny Gehri, Teaching Principal; Randy Johnson, Buildings & Grounds Director; 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 thank you card was received from the family of Paul Bauer (Steve Bauer's father).
- A letter was received from Gary Williams regarding the Bike Shop program that is coordinated through the Summer Outdoor Adventure Club (SOAC).
- A resignation letter was received from Mary (Bunny) Frank, EBD Aid at Westside.

DPI Correspondence:

- A letter was received stating that Westside Elementary has been awarded a Reading Best Practices grant, in the amount of \$190,000, for the 2009-2010 school year.
- A letter was received stating that our School Food Authority was not selected for funding through the 2009 Equipment Assistance Grant.

Agenda Item 7 — Presentation, 2008-2009 CAL Center Annual Report: Kris Houtler, CAL Center Community Board Representative and Bill Klang, CAL Center Coordinator, gave a report on the usage of the CAL Center for 2008-2009.

Agenda Item 8 — Presentation, Volunteer Coordinator: Kristine Koenecke, volunteer coordinator, presented information on the 2008-2009 volunteer program (5,796 hours were logged) and the new teen court initiative.

Agenda Item 9 — Presentation, Best Practices in Reading: Paul Bierman and Sally Thompson presented information on the Best Practices in Reading grant that will be in effect at Westside Elementary beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The grant is for \$190,000.

Agenda Item 10 — Committee Reports:

- John Pearson, Finance chair reported a meeting on June 23. The committee finalized the 2009-2010 budget, which was presented at a special meeting immediately following the committee meeting.
- Gary Woolever, Buildings & Grounds chair reported a meeting on June 25. The committee discussed a number of items including transportation issues (cost, schedules, length of bus rides, biodiesel program, etc.); parking in the fire lane at RAHS; tennis courts; Buildings & Grounds summer projects and the Soccer Club of Reedsburg lease.

Agenda Item 11 — Administrative Report(s):

- **Mr. Beyer/Mr. Yager**
 - Provided a summary of participation numbers for activities at both the middle and high school for the 2008-2009 school year.
- **Mr. Taylor**
 - Recently received a \$5,000 donation from the estate of Lester Krey.
 - Late start Mondays have been eliminated.
 - Advisory periods will go from twice a week to once a week.
 - Mr. Syftestad will be assisting with some administrative duties due to the departure of Ms. Butler.

- **Mr. Perrodin**
 - With the resignation of Lisa Neustedter, Speech and Language Pathologist, coverage for 2009-2010 will be handled in part with a long-term substitute and in part a redistribution of current coverage. We will continue to seek a qualified individual to fill this vacancy.
 - Has been working with Head Start to consider an inclusive Early Childhood classroom at Head Start beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. This would include moving one of our ECH programs (including the teacher) into Head Start.
 - We have completed our DPI on-site audit with no errors reported.
 - The DPI application requesting permission to use Federal Stimulus Dollars for the Pineview CDS Classroom Renovations has been submitted.
- **Mr. Ruddy**
 - Last year our state aid was slightly over \$14 million. Our state aid projection for this year is approximately \$935,000 less than that. Under the revenue limit, the decrease in state aid can be made up by increasing the local tax levy. Our levy is slated to increase nearly 14%. In an effort to balance the budget at the state level, they have forced us to pass the loss in state aid on to the local taxpayers. Mr. Ruddy reminded everyone that these are only projections – we need the 3rd Friday in September count, property values and our final state aid number, which will come from DPI in mid-October before the Board can finalize the budget in late October.
- **Tom Benson**
 - Responded to questions raised at the June Board meeting -
What was the total budget for the past year - \$27.5 million. What percentage of the budget is related to wages & benefits of employees – 83.8%. How does that relate to the budget for next year? Our budget will be slightly higher than last year but as a reminder we have cut over \$1 million from our budget. Couldn't we be passing along more of the costs of student activities and extra curriculars on to the participants? Extra curricular costs are approximately \$430,000 - it would be impossible to pass along the entire cost of those programs to the participants. What is the actual cost savings if we close a school. We will have a more clear picture of this in the near future. Couldn't the building that closes be given to the local community for a different purpose? We have had no significant discussion regarding this issue. It might make sense to retain the building, at least for a short period of time, until a decision can be made regarding the future of the district.
 - Community First Bank is spear heading an effort to provide school supplies for families in need.
 - Extended his thanks and appreciation to the administrators who have recently left (or will soon be leaving) the district to pursue other opportunities – Sharon Suchla, Michele Butler and David Perrodin.

Agenda Item 12 — Action Items:

a. Consent Agenda

- Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
 - Regular Board of Education meeting June 15, 2009
 - Special Board of Education meeting June 23, 2009
- Staff Considerations
 - Resignation(s)
David Perrodin, Director of Pupil Services/Special Education submitted his resignation effective August 3. He has accepted a similar position in the DeForest School District.
- Approval, Annual Meeting Agenda & Resolutions
- Presentation of Vouchers
 - 10 Fund vouchers 118987 through 119321 in the amount of \$6,957,733.68.

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

c. Consideration, RAMC Proposal

Reedsburg Area Medical Center (RAMC) has submitted a proposal to sponsor the September 18 home football game.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Woolever, second by Mr. Wiczorek to approve the RAMC proposal to sponsor the September 18 home football game as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

d. *Consideration, Increase of RAHS Activities Fee(s)*

Information was presented comparing the activity fees charged at the high school as compared to several other school districts. In an effort to help offset rising costs, the consideration of raising fees at the high school has been suggested. In reviewing the comparisons Reedsburg is at the lower end of the spectrum.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Mr. Woolever to increase the RAHS activity fee from \$30/sport to \$50/sport with a family cap of \$200 (previously \$120). Motion carried 7-0.

e. *Consideration, RAHS 1st Day Freshman Only*

Mr. Taylor presented information requesting that the 1st day of school at the high school be for Freshman only, as we have done the past two years. This has been a very successful transition for Freshman students and one that we he would like to continue. If approved Mr. Taylor will submit the necessary paperwork to DPI.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Woolever, second by Ms. Scully to approve the high school request for a Freshman only 1st day for the 2009-2010 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

f. *Consideration, Partial Allocation of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Dollars*

Two proposals were presented for the purchase of some new computers in the district. Many of our current computers are outdated and need to be replaced. Plan A proposes purchasing new computers for Webb Middle School only and Plan B proposes purchasing new computers for Webb Middle School and all elementary teachers. Due to the current financial constraints that the district is operating under, either plan presented would require partial spending of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) \$'s received through the Federal Government (stimulus money). We will be receiving a total of approximately \$300,000 in MOE \$'s – Plan A would take \$44,098 of those dollars and Plan B would take \$68,677 of those dollars.

The administrative recommendation is to proceed with Plan B. Mr. Tock explained the need to replace the older computers in the district. Many of the computers are 5-7 years old and do not run any of the newer software programs. In addition many are requiring maintenance above and beyond what they are worth.

Following a lengthy discussion, motion by Mr. Wiczorek, second by Ms. Brey to approve a partial allocation of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) dollars of approximately \$68,677 as proposed in Plan B. The Finance Committee will discuss the remaining payment schedule at their next meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 13 — Discussion Items:

a. *WASB Region 10 Election*

There will be an election on Tuesday, September 22, for a three-year term on the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Board of Directors from Region 10. Anyone interested in running should contact WASB for additional information.

Agenda Item 14 — Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Ms. Scully 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 15 — Reconvene in Open Session: Motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Mr. Hartje to adjourn the executive session at 11:09 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 16 — Adjourn: There being no further business, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Mr. Wiczorek to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Balda declared the meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.