

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

Official Minutes

September 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 7:31 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; Casey Campbell, Middle School Principal; Clint Beyer, Middle School Associate Principal; Paul Bierman, Elementary Principal; Jenny Gehri, Teaching Principal; Ann Schmitt, Teaching Principal; Randy Johnson, Buildings & Grounds Director; Colton Schara, Student Council Representative; Jeff Seering, Reedsburg Independent; Nathan Greenhalgh, 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: None

- A letter was received from the Department of Public Instruction approving our waiver request for the first day of school at the high school.
- A letter was received from the Reedsburg Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.
- A letter was received from Rachel Burkel regarding future elementary building configurations.

Upcoming conferences include:

- WASB Employment & Labor Law Seminar, Friday, September 19, Madison
- WASB School Law Seminar, Friday, October 24, Madison
- WASB Legislative Issues Conference, Saturday, November 8, Wausau

Agenda Item 7 — Presentation, Youth Hockey: Stacy Clement and members of the Reedsburg Youth Hockey Association gave a presentation on the current status of the youth hockey program in Reedsburg. Hockey began as a WIAA sport at the beginning of the 1995-1996 season with the understanding that it would be a self-funding operation. The School District has had no financial obligation for this sport since its inception, with the exception of awards and letters that are distributed each year.

The original hockey agreement between the School District of Reedsburg and the Reedsburg Area Youth Hockey Association was officially terminated by the School Board at their July 21, 2008, regular Board meeting due to the fact that the WIAA stated that the agreement places both the boys' and girls' programs in jeopardy. A new agreement is being drafted and will be presented to the School Board at a future meeting.

Since the inception of the program, costs have continued to skyrocket and the RYHA is struggling to maintain the program without passing on additional costs to the parents and students. To that end, they are requesting that the School District fund the salaries of two (2) assistant coach positions, one (1) for the boys' program and one (1) for the girls' program. They anticipate these costs to be approximately \$4,000/year. This request will be on a future agenda for Board action.

Agenda Item 8 — Literacy Report:

Ironton/LaValle Elementary, Summer Camp Read A Lot: Teachers from Ironton/LaValle Elementary gave a presentation on the summer reading program that was offered this summer.

Agenda Item 9 — Committee Reports:

- John Pearson, Finance chair reported a meeting on September 9. The committee heard a proposal on "Paperless Board Meetings", reviewed the budget deficit from 2007-2008, continued to review the 2008-2009 budget and discussed the budget forecasts for the next few years. The committee also began preliminary discussion regarding the possibility of a future referendum.

- Colton Schara, RAHS student council representative, reported on the following:
 - Homecoming week begins next week with various activities planned.
 - The student council began this year with a budget deficit so they will be looking for additional ways to raise money.
 - The school store no longer operates during school hours, which is contributing to the student council financial hardship.
 - Cell phones, iPods and MP3 players are no longer allowed during study halls, which has created some discord among students.
 - The new food services management company, "A'viands", has been well received. While there were some initial problems, overall it has been a positive change.

Agenda Item 10 — Administrative Report(s):

- **Ms. Suchla**
 - In August we held our first all staff in-service regarding English as a Second Language/English Language Learners (ESL/ELL). Sharon Peterson is now on board as our ELL Coordinator and she is working at slightly more than 50% to get things up and running. Ms. Peterson is also working on getting the homework operational at Westside and Pineview. Stephanie Hasler has been busy working with ELL students at Webb as well.
 - At our all staff in-service in late August we held K-12 meetings, provided web site training, provided Houghton Mifflin training to our K-6 science teachers and the new counseling benchmarks were discussed in detail.
 - Our Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks with testing to take place in the areas of Language Arts, Reading and Math, grades 2-10.
- **Mr. Perrodin**
 - We will be providing suicide prevention training in the near future for select individuals in the district.
 - The new process for providing autism services in the district is working better than anticipated.
- **Mr. Ruddy**
 - Provided an update on current class sizes and building assignments.
 - Provided details explaining how we ended the last fiscal year with a \$593,715 budget deficit. This will negatively impact the 2008-2009 budget as well, which was originally based on a balanced budget for 2007-2008. Our original preliminary budget for 2008-2009 indicated a budget deficit of approximately \$25,000; with the revised numbers from last year that has increased to a potential budget deficit of \$206,549.
- **Tom Benson** reported on the following:
 - To date we have a total of five (5) applicants for the Teaching Principal position at Ironton-LaValle Elementary. We plan to keep this on the fast track and hope to have the position filled in the very near future.

Agenda Item 11 — Action Items:

a. Consent Agenda

- Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
 - Regular Board of Education meeting August 18, 2008
 - Annual Meeting August 18, 2008
 - Special Board of Education meeting August 26, 2008
 - Special Board of Education meeting September 9, 2008
- Presentation of Vouchers
 - 10 Fund vouchers 115962 through 116294 in the amount of \$3,912,249.01.

Motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Mr. Hartje 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. Approval, Choraliers Out-of-State Trip

Dave Miotke requested permission to take the Choraliers to a competition in Davenport, IA, on February 21, 2009. Board policy requires Board approval for any out-of-state trip. Approximately 72 students and 13 chaperones will participate with a departure date of February 20 and a return date of February 22. Transportation will be provided by Able Trek bus service. There will be no cost to the students, with the exception of their meals and personal purchases.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Wieczorek, second by Ms. Scully to approve the Choraliers trip to Davenport, IA, February 20-22, 2009, as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

d. Approval, FFA National Convention Trip

Courtney Churchill and Brittany Acker, representing the Reedsburg FFA, requested Board approval to travel to Indianapolis, IN, October 21-24 to attend the National FFA convention. Board policy requires Board approval for any out-of-state trip. Students from Reedsburg, River Valley, Dodgeville, Cuba City and Benton will participate with transportation provided by Able Trek bus service. The cost per student is approximately \$250-\$300.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Woolever, second by Mr. Hartje to approve the FFA trip to Indianapolis, IN, October 21-24 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 12 — Discussion Items:

a. Paperless Board Meetings

Barb Sand gave a brief overview of how this would work and what it would look like. This information was recently presented to the Finance Committee for consideration and is now before the full Board for discussion. Basically, Board packets would be done electronically rather than printed and mailed. The biggest advantage to this approach is the ease with which revisions can be made to the agenda and/or the Board packet. Changes can be made in a matter of minutes and those changes are available to the public and media immediately as well. Other benefits include the availability of Board materials to anyone who has access to a computer, it would be a significant time saver, and eventually there would be a cost savings in paper and postage expenses. A number of districts in the state currently use this format and the general feeling is that it is a worthwhile investment. The major cost to implement this would be the purchase of laptop computers for the Board members. It would cost approximately \$10,000 to implement this process.

b. Future Referendum Options

Mr. Benson once again stated that there is a distinct possibility that we may be considering the pursuit of a revenue limit referendum in the not too distant future. Based on our budget forecasts, we need to find a way to increase revenues and decrease expenditures. Projected budget **deficits** are as follows: 2008-2009 (206,549) and 2009-2010 (623,212).

Agenda Item 13 — Adjourn: There being no further business, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Mr. Woolever to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Balda declared the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Gary Woolever, Clerk
Barbara Sand, Recorder