

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #16 SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Mechanic Falls – Minot - Poland**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board  
for 2011–2012 was held**

**Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.**  
**in the Poland Regional High School Library**

*“ It is truly said: it does not take much strength to do things, but it requires great strength to decide what to do ”.*  
*Chow Ching*

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Terri Arsenault, Carl Beckett, Sue Callahan, Jennifer Boenig, Steve Holbrook, Mary Ella Jones,  
Jeanne Manley, Scott Tiner, Jack Wiseman

**Absent:** Melissa Hodgkin, Tina Love, Yvette Murray, Joe Parent, Ed Rabasco, Scott Sawyer,

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Ella Jones, Chair

Mary Ella Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

New member from Mechanic Falls, Jennifer Boenig, was welcomed.

It was determined that there was a quorum of board members present based on the value of the votes.

503 is needed for a quorum and with those present there was a total value of 509.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**2.0 PRESENTATION:**

**3.0 ACT ON MINUTES:**

Approve 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes – 08-08-11

Approve 1<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting Minutes – 08-22-11

Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Meeting Minutes – 09-07-11

Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes – 09-19-11

Approve 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting Minutes – 09-26-11

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to approve the minutes of the 08/08/11, 08/22/11, 09/07/11, 09/19/11  
and 09/26/11 meetings

Seconded: by Carl Beckett

Vote: Unanimous

**4.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

Approve Financial Statements of September 2011

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to approve the September 2011 Financial Statements

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

Rick - we do have a deficit in the fuel account because we had to buy oil.

**5.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**

**6.0 NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion – 2011-2012 School Budget

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to move public participation on the budget to 6.0

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: Unanimous

- Mary Ella opened the budget discussion and read a prepared statement regarding school board responsibility and the financial situation. She reviewed the budget, as it is now including new positions needed this year, bringing pay scales into alignment since consolidation and what has happened so far with contracted and non-contracted employees, proposal to not replace the librarian at PRHS for the remainder of this year and use the funds to hire a music teacher for K-2. This is the same dollar amount as the current budget.

Motion: by Carl Beckett to replace the librarian with the music teacher, conditional on the budget being passed.

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman  
Vote: 2-7 Motion failed. (Mary Ella and Carl in favor)

- Mary Ella explained that we would be adding a position for next year if we did this. Scott Tiner asked if we were to restart a search for a librarian, how long it would take to fill the position. Dennis said that since it is October, we may be able to get someone on board in January. We only had two applicants the last time it was posted. Dennis said we have to have a librarian for our district and we will have to hire one next year.
- Steve asked how long it would take to find a K-2 music teacher. Dennis said we don't know.
- Sue asked, given the budget situation, why we wouldn't just save the money.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to amend the motion not to hire the position until the budget gets passed  
Seconded: by Sue Callahan  
Vote: 7-2 Motion passed (Terri Arsenault and Jack Wiseman opposed)

- Bonnie Payette – If we offer every employee single coverage and budget \$600 per employee that would be  $226 \times \$600 = \$1,627,000$ . This is a +\$900,000 savings, take away the in-lieu benefit and you save more.
- Gerry (unknown) – Huge proponent for the music program, but fears that we will get someone to come in from January to June and it will go away. Feels the public will view this negatively. Would like to see music come back, but timing is really bad.
- Steve Robinson – In favor of music, but we have to be able to afford it. We have been hiring positions for an unratified budget.
- Tammy English – Afraid of the same thing, putting it in then losing it next year. Afraid that if we do this the budget won't pass.
- Hope Becker asked a question related to current negotiations and it could not be discussed.
- Ollie Emery – Once you negotiate and sign a contract with the teachers, there is nothing we can cut next year. We can't cut from a signed contract.
- Scott Tiner – If the motion is defeated what happens with the library position? Dennis said he would recommend we continue to pursue a librarian.
- Jennifer Boenig – It seems there is a lot of negative public perception, not sure how much is reality. Afraid of the same thing, if we add a music teacher, people will ask why we can't just save the \$25,000.
- Carl – Don't think it's about money. Won't matter if we have a music teacher or a librarian. It's sad because it isn't about money. We haven't changed the budget, it is still \$17.8. We have shuffled some money around trying to do what's right for the students. No tax increase in Mechanic Falls and Poland, and Minot it is 10 cents a day. Why wouldn't people vote for that?
- Sue – I am here for the kids, we don't have a budget and that is affecting our schools. We need to get a budget passed so we can move on and educate the kids. She is for music, but we are not going to rebuild trust by moving money around right now.
- Tammy English – Regarding the 15 hours registrar and transportation coordinator, have they been hired? Dennis stated that the registrar will be covered by another employee adding hours. The transportation position we are covering with a current special education secretary. We should make it be known that we have scaled back on those two positions.
- Jack Wiseman – We have also had over-runs with oil. We have had to use what we have and make sure to utilize our resources.
- Jeanne Manley – It's not that simple to make this clear to the public. We are using creativity, but not showing a decrease in the budget. It is creative and wonderful and we should let the public know about it.
- Mary Ella Jones – Are we moving forward with our warrants that were voted on last week? Yes.
- District budget meeting is Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at PRHS auditorium.
- Referendum vote is Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, the day of the election. Voting will be open all day, 8 AM to 8 PM.
- Absentee ballots for the school budget will be available October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Steve pointed out that you can't vote twice, so wait until October 26<sup>th</sup> to pick up absentee ballots.

- Jack Wiseman suggested we get that absentee ballot word out at the three town offices.
- The school board will sign the warrants on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

## 7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION – REPORTS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:

### A-team Reports

- Cari - School Culture and Leadership – Cari provided a handout of the standards for accreditation. Our first meeting with our NEASC representative is February 10<sup>th</sup> and they will meet with the steering committee. She explained the process.
- Jenny Rose, Adult Ed. – Terri asked how it was going with Adult Ed at Elm Street and Jenny said it was going well. Angie agreed it is all going great. They have had Open Houses and given tours, and have not heard anything back. The people who are going in to see how it is set up are saying it isn't really what they thought. Jeanne Manley asked how many students they were serving during the day - 10-12 students. Open one night per week, Tuesdays, about the same amount up to 15.
- Mary Ella asked for a report on the new Wellness Program for next month.

## 8.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

### Sub-Committees:

- Public Relations Committee Report – They have met twice and begun working. The focus is on public relations, community support and a better definition of how the school board presents itself and how they conduct meetings. We will be establishing procedures into a policy and bringing that to the board for approval.
- Budget Committee – N/A
- Negotiations Committee – (Mary Ella, Jack, Dennis) Teacher's contract for this year only. Has started up again, nothing to report.
- Facilities Committee - Nothing to report. Jeanne asked about the solar project. Dennis explained it is ongoing - they are seeking grant money. Carl asked for a copy of the facility evaluation report. Dennis said the facilities committee would report out on it. Mary Ella would like a report from the facilities committee and the curriculum committee by December.
- Policy Committee – need to get started. (Dennis, Mary Ella, Sue C. and Ed R.)

### Report of the Superintendent – Dennis Duquette

- Support Staff New Hires:
  - Ed Tech – Leonard Fox, PRHS
  - Ed Tech – Carole Del Duca, Elm Street
  - Ed Tech – Samantha Albert, Minot
  - Bus Driver – Elizabeth Keith, RSU
  - Coach, Girls Soccer WMS – John Yates (Now: Shane Barker)
- Resignations:
- Handouts:
  - PRHS - Leading Chapter Award (National Forensic League)
  - Health Insurance in Maine's Schools: Recent Legislative Changes – Dennis provided an update on how health insurance is changing in the state of Maine.
  - The Ever Increasing Burden on America's Public Schools
  - Dogs help schools lick bullies
  - Rural Superintendents Share Financial Success Secrets
  - Economic Strength Fosters Freedom

9.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Moved to 6.0

10.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS: Communications to the School Board

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

13.0 REMINDER:

14.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to adjourn at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis J. Duquette