

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

**The 1st Regular Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board
for 2011–2012 was held
Monday, August 8, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.
Poland Regional High School Auditorium**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Ed Rabasco, Jr. Joe Parent
Scott Tiner Tina Love**

MINUTES

Present: Terri Arsenault, Carl Beckett, Sue Callahan, Dave Griffiths, Melissa Hodgkin,
Steve Holbrook,
Mary Ella Jones, Tina Love, Joe Parent, Ed Rabasco, Scott Sawyer, Scott Tiner,
Jack Wiseman
Absent: Jeanne Manley, Yvette Murray

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

Dave Griffiths called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

ACTION ITEMS:

2.0 PRESENTATION: Shane Barker – Solar Panels for BMWMS

Shane Barker and Revolution Energy LLC reviewed a proposal to install solar panels to generate electricity at the middle and high school complex. They also reviewed the educational curriculum that would accompany the project and the work they would be doing with students on site. A subcommittee of the school board will examine the proposal in more detail.

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to send it to the building committee for further investigation

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

3.0 ACT ON MINUTES:

Approve 3rd Special Meeting Minutes – 05/11/11

Approve 4th Special Meeting Minutes – 05/23/11

Approve 12th Regular Meeting Minutes – 06/06/11

Approve 5th Special Meeting Minutes – 06/13/11

Approve 6th Special Meeting Minutes – 06/27/11

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the minutes of 05/11/11, 05/23/11, 06/06/11, 06/13/11, and 06/27/11
Seconded: by Terri Arsenault
Vote: Unanimous

4.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Approve Financial Statements of June & July 2011

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to accept the financial statements for June & July 2011
Seconded: by Steve Holbrook
Vote: Unanimous

Terri commented that this amount is not audited, but the rollover amount will be about \$260,000.

Jack asked if we were still ok with operating even though we do not have an approved budget. Rick said yes, we are ok.

Terri asked about payments being withheld from the towns. Will we need to borrow money? Rick said we might, depending on when the budget is resolved.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss 2011–2012 School Budget and schedule dates

- Dave G. reported that Mary Ella, himself and Terri A. have been meeting with Dennis regularly about the budget. They met last Friday morning after last Thursday's budget meeting.
- Dennis – Talked with Jim Ryer from DOE this morning. Jim has been receiving calls, emails and letters from RSU #16 community members. He wants the communities in the district to know that what we are doing is credible, accurate and legal. He doesn't know why community people keep copying him on emails, because everything we are doing is in line with consolidation law. Dennis keeps being told he needs to further cut the budget, but he is more inclined to add back in programs and positions that have been cut because he believes it is in the best interests of the students. He cannot recommend we cut anything further. We can cut \$100,000 by using \$100,000 of our \$150,000 fund balance.
- Wednesday, Sept 7th, next public budget meeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 13th, referendum

School board discussion:

- Dave G. – \$100,000 cut in the fund balance would be high risk. This would only leave \$50,000 in the fund balance.
- Jack – CIP currently is \$100,000 and we will be adding \$150,000 this year. A building assessment has just been completed district wide. We need about \$600,000 to address the critical needs identified.

Motion: by Carl Beckett to take \$150,000 from fund balance and use for a tax reduction this year then find \$98,000 more to cut
Seconded: by Melissa Hodgkin
Vote: Motion failed with Carl Beckett & Melissa Hodgkin in favor, all else opposed

- Terri – It is too dangerous to drop the fund balance to nothing. Could support \$100,000 but not deplete it.
- Tina – Are we going to talk about any of the other ideas people brought up at the meetings?
- Dave – We are not currently prepared to react to ideas yet.
- Melissa asked about the \$765,000 fund balance we had left last year.
- Terri – When we formed the RSU we started with no money. Zero.
- Steve – How much money went back to the towns that were in the school Union 29 fund balances? Mechanic Falls– none. Poland – \$300,000+, Minot – amount unavailable
- Dennis – We are the only school union that became an RSU, and the only one that lost our fund balance from prior years. We are the only new district that started with zero funds. This put us way behind.
- Steve – If we move money from the fund balance to reduce the task rate, we aren't listening to the voters in these three towns.
- Colleen Quint – With genuine appreciation for the work of the school board to define a budget that will pass, I would be concerned if the budget goes back to the townspeople with the same dollar amount and it is being addressed by taking away from the safety net.
- Ed Rabasco – Would the taxes be lower than the last budget? Yes, but we would still be spending the same amount.
- Tina wondered why we wouldn't have more of a budget discussion. Dennis said any ideas are welcome.

Motion: by Mary Ella Jones to take \$100,000 out of fund balance and \$25,000 out of expenditures

Seconded: Terri Arsenault

Vote: Motion passed. See worksheet #1.

- Ed Rabasco – Doesn't support telling Dennis to go slice out \$25,000.
- Scott – Found 35 lines in the budget that last year were zero and this year had over \$100,000 included, why is that?
- Rick – Over the last two years we have done a lot of work in equalizing the budgets in the three communities and have moved funds around to meet that need. We are trying to show the costs where they actually occur.
- Katarin Arvedson – We have staff who have left and more looking to leave and we need to make sure that does not continue to happen. Not convinced budgets were voted down due to tax increases. Thinks it is more fear, such as the adult ed program going into Elm Street School in Mechanic Falls. Teachers constantly go above and beyond.
- Ollie Emery – Fox News – President was handing our waivers for NCLB. Jump on the bandwagon.
- Terri – Lets talk about how we don't charge for the use of our buildings, we don't charge recreation departments at all and we incur all the associated costs for their use.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to have no 1.3% salary raises for all people and make it zero increase and leave the fund balance alone (\$125,000 savings)

Seconded: by Sue Callahan

Vote: Steve Holbrook & Tina Love in favor, all else opposed

- Dennis – All contracts already signed will go forward and those raises will go forward.
- Rick – It would take about \$39,000 to bring ESS and MCS up to WMS – does not include the HS or any step increases. Administrator contracts have already been signed and ratified by the board. We can only discuss this for the teacher's contract.
- Terri – Was elected to the board to do what is right for all students in this district. I will not support paying our own teachers in the other towns less money than the teachers in Poland make. It is not fair and we cannot do it. We are going to keep losing staff, they are leaving. The towns are showing they don't value education and we are nickel and diming teachers.
- George Sanborn – Agree with Mr. Holbrook. Last year they got their raises. We don't have a contract so we don't have to give them this year.
- Steve – Don't sign any contracts until the money has been raised through the proper channels.
- Sue C. – We did ask all staff to take four furlough days last year, which is how we added to our fund balance.

Motion: by Ed Rabasco to approve the third recommended budget by the Superintendent

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: Motion passed

Motion: by Scott Tiner to add K-4 music and a World Language teacher back at the high school at a cost of \$99,000

Seconded: by Joe Parent

Vote: Motion failed. See worksheet #2.

- Terri – Would love to do this but it's not the best time for this to happen. Let's get through this and rebuild next year.
- Scott – A lot of parents aren't out voting for a mediocre budget.
- Jack – Did that include any money coming out of fund balance – yes, \$100,000.
- Norm B. – With the proposal \$17.8 – impact to taxes, reduced by applying \$100,000 of fund balance to lower the tax rate in the three towns.
- Rick – Taking \$150,000 out of fund balance won't empty your fund balance, you will have \$250,000 or so from the year that just ended. Furlough days saved \$225,000 and freezing the budget saved \$225,000 and we normally save about \$225,000 per year.
- Joe Parent – 14% of registered voters voted in the first vote. Don't know what to do to get more people in this auditorium and voting for education for students.

- Cari Medd – Regarding Scott Tiner’s motion – we need this issue resolved now. To try and fit things in at this time will disrupt school. It may not make sense in terms of getting this resolved. People fear that staff is leaving because they are sick of this. I don’t think it will make things better at this point. Teachers are nervous.
- Terri – After hearing from administration she changed her vote to opposed.
- Carl– We can’t find anything else to take out; I don’t know what to do.
- Mary Ella – This reduces what we need for revenue. Can we get the message out that if we say that we have a tax reduction but our expenditures are going to be the same, what will the reaction of the voters be?

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to use additional \$100,000 of the fund balance and we approve the budget at \$17.8 to take to the public (final increase to tax payer will be \$148,000).

Seconded: by Sue Callahan

Vote: Motion failed. See worksheet #3.

- Cari urged the board to have a unified vote and take that into the community.
- Colleen Qunit– Strong supporter of education. Trying to find a budget that will pass. If the bottom line remains unchanged we will have a hard time passing. Would like to see this settled before school starts. It is symbolically important.
- Paula Stotts – Will volunteer and sign a contract for a year for one of the positions that have been added, registrar secretary or transportation secretary.
- Dennis – If \$125,000 is the magic number, then let’s make it \$125,000 right now. We will cut a school bus and the transportation secretary.
- Steve – Could we make this right off the top of the budget and not cut a bus.
- Dennis – The bus fleet is extremely old with a lot of mechanical issues. We are trying to buy one or two busses per year. This year we budgeted for three. We will cancel the third bus.
- Terri – The magic number is different for everyone. Not willing to withdraw her motion.
- Tina – We have to show compromise and look at expenditures.

Motion: by Jack Wiseman to accept Dennis’ recommendation of the existing budget of \$17,847,155.36, decreased by \$25,000.

Seconded: by Mary Ella Jones

Vote: All in favor except Steve Holbrook who was opposed

- Ed Rabasco asked about the cut.
- Dennis – The cut will be a bus.
- Jack – Leave it at Dennis’s discretion.
- Terri – We don’t need to amend the motion about the bus.
- Mary Ella –Agree it is his discretion to find the cut.
- Scott Sawyer – Will we be able to get that third bus next year?
- Dennis – We will get two busses next year.
- Joe P. – He is swinging from adding \$99,000 in to taking \$25,000 out because he respects Cari Medd's word.
- Rick – Warrants need to be prepared in the next week.

- Ayesha – One of the things that is striking about these conversations, is it is devoid of any conversations about how we define a quality education in this community. We need to use the budget to reflect the priorities we have for the education of the children in this community. Use this opportunity to talk about what it is we want for our kids. How do we define success? A question from the last meeting. We need to talk about what it is we stand for. This has been missing from this process.
- Dennis' recommendation is to have the district wide budget meeting on September 7th followed by the referendum vote on September 13th.
- Dennis – Teachers come back August 29th. The 7th & 9th grade kids come August 31st. Grades 10, 11, 12 on September 1st. PreK a week later.

Motion: by Ed Rabasco to hold the district wide budget meeting on September 7th followed by the referendum vote on September 13th.

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: All in favor except Steve H who abstained

- Rick needs a meeting to sign the warrants – August 22nd – 6:30 PM, PRHS
- Lori McDonald – question about absentee ballot. Rick explained that the clock starts when the warrants are signed.

Approve School Health Coordinator – RSU16 – Darren Carter,
 Approve Teacher Nomination – 4 Year Old Program, Minot, Rebecca Goss
 Approve Teacher Nomination – Applied Academics (Gr 9–10), Matthew Closson
 Approve Teacher Nomination – Applied Academics (Gr 11–12), Donald MacVane
 Approve Teacher Nomination – Science, PRHS, Robert O'Brien
 Approve Teacher Nomination – Functional Life Skills, PCS, Jennifer McNally
 Approve Teacher Nomination – 2nd Grade, PCS, Sasha Levasseur
 Approve Teacher Nomination – English, PRHS, Kris Wright
 Approve Administrator Nomination – Principal, ESS, Angie Taylor
 Approve Speech Pathologist – ESS, Danielle Baker
 Approve Speech Pathologist –Minot, Tracy Gagne
 Approve Teacher Nomination – Special Ed, BMWMS, Kim Caron
 Approve Teacher Nomination – Academic Evaluator (Gr 7–12), Caroline Peinado

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to approve the above nominations

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

Introductions:

- Patrick Flynn, the new Dean of Students at PRHS
- Angie Taylor, the new principal at Elm Street School. Maggie Thornton is taking over the D-Path program at PRHS.
- Darren Carter, RSU16 Health Coordinator
- Arthur Reed, Principal at Minot Consolidated School

- Jenny Rose, New Adult Ed Director

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION – REPORTS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:

A–team Reports for July

- Scott Sawyer asked about Amy Hediger. She moved from PCS to WMS.
- Mary Ella – Open House for Adult Ed is September 6th at 7 PM.

7.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD: Report of the Superintendent – Dennis Duquette

- Support Staff New Hires:
 - Ed Tech III Library (PCS) – Sara Willett
 - Varsity Boys Soccer Coach (PRHS) – Kris Wright
 - JV Boys Basketball Coach (PRHS) – Stephen Ray
 - Varsity Football Coach (PRHS) – Ted Tibbetts
 - JV Field Hockey Coach (PRHS) – Robin McAllister
- Resignations:
 - Mark Soehren, PRHS
 - Michelle McPherson, PCS
- Handouts: MLTI Student Conference

ACTION ITEM:

8.0 Elect a Chair and a Vice Chair, Dennis Duquette

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to nominate Mary Ella Jones as Chair

Seconded: by Carl Beckett

Vote: Unanimous

No other nominations. Dennis thanked Dave Griffiths for two years as Chair.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to nominate Dave Griffiths as Vice Chair

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

9.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

10.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS: Communications to the School Board

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

13.0 REMINDER:

14.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Mary Ella, Scott, Jack, Dennis and Rick formed the Solar Committee.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis J. Duquette