

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

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board  
for 2010 - 2011 was held  
Monday, January 10, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.  
in the Poland Regional High School Library**

**A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.**

- Erin Majors

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Jack Wiseman, Melissa Hodgkin, Dave Griffiths, Carl Beckett, Yvette Murray,  
Chris Woodford, Steve Holbrook, Sue Callahan, Annette Annance, Scott  
Sawyer, Norm Davis, Martha Stone,  
Jeanne Manley

**Absent:** Terri Arsenault

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Dave Griffiths, Chair

Dave Griffiths called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM pledge and a moment of silence.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**2.0 PRESENTATION:** College Bound Canines

- Dennis talked about some issues they are working on with the service dogs, such as allergies, etc. The service dog club, represented by student Emily Buell, came and talked about how the program is working. Emily thanked the administrators for helping to get the program off the ground and expressed gratitude to all the parents and community for their support. The club has received donations from all around the country and are receiving media attention, as well. She spoke about the many activities of the group and the invitations they have received to do presentations, along with some of the ideas they have been working on to address allergies. This was followed by a demonstration in the lobby of some of the skills the dogs are learning.
- Sue Callahan said she had heard from two or three students who want to keep the dogs at school and hope there is a solution to the allergies. Dennis explained they are dealing with some students who have allergies. They are looking at student schedules and trying to minimize contact, eat in a separate room, air filters, cleaning up, etc. There are currently three dogs on campus and it may increase to six after the semester break. We need to figure out a solution before having six dogs in the building, as we don't want anyone to become uncomfortable.
- Jack asked if the people impacted have been identified. Dennis said students and staff members have been identified and we are trying to make adjustments for them. The dogs are no longer riding on the school bus. Dennis explained the difference between a student with a service dog and a training program.

- Chris Woodford explained that he is a person with allergies who is being affected by the dogs here tonight. He understands that parents of allergic kids object to the allergies caused by the dogs interfering with their learning. Dennis agreed that was the biggest challenge.
- Mary Ella agreed students come first and we need to evaluate the situations where allergic students are affected. She asked if there was a plan for finals week due to the varied schedule.

Curriculum – Gary Chapin  
 Tabled until next month.

**3.0 ACT ON MINUTES:** Approve 6<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes – 12-6-10

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the minutes of the 12-06-10 meeting  
 Seconded: by Yvette Murray  
 Vote: Unanimous

**4.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Approve Financial Statement of Dec 2010

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the minutes of the 12-06-10 meeting  
 Seconded: by Sue Callahan  
 Vote: Unanimous  
 Rick supplied a copy of the final audit from last year.

**5.0 NEW BUSINESS:**

Sub-Committees:

- Public Relations Committee Report – Scott had nothing new to report, but scheduled a meeting prior to the next school board meeting on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.
- Budget Committee – Dennis provided an update. The budget committee met last week with administrators. He gave them an overview of last years budget and provided them with some preliminary figures for the upcoming year, including the fund balance and some federal money they set aside for next year. GPA budget figures from the state are not available yet. We will need to find about \$1M to continue doing business as we are this year. Next budget meeting is Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at Elm Street School.
- Negotiations Committee – Dennis explained that negotiations are underway with the maintenance staff and they are making significant progress. It is possible they may finalize tomorrow night. Teacher negotiations start this Thursday night, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. We do not know the impact on the budget yet.
- Facilities Committee – Dave reported that they met last week and they do need to do a facilities audit as required by the state. Rick explained that we need to use the DOE’s Facilities Management System to do audits of our buildings on an annual basis. He suggested we contract out for someone to come in and do a complete building assessment (for the first year) and next year the maintenance supervisors will do it themselves. This will establish a baseline for us. He is collecting bids for the assessment at this time. Rick explained how the software program works and fielded questions about the initial assessment. It will be in the \$25,000 to \$30,000 range.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to rotate the school board meetings to all three towns and have the budget meetings at the high school  
Second: by Sue Callahan  
Vote: 11-2 (Jeanne Manley & Scott Sawyer opposed)

- Dave – we do not have the opportunities to broadcast on TV at the other schools.
- Melissa – only people who have Time Warner can watch it anyway.
- Chris – if the goal is to have the meetings televised we need to have it here. If our goal is to make sure we are touching each community, then we should rotate.
- Sue – a small portion of Minot who has no internet and no cable.
- Mary Ella – perhaps the public relations committee could find out what the communities prefer.
- Melissa – people who don't have kids at the high school aren't likely to come here for meetings, but they would probably go to the elementary schools.
- Jeanne – it makes it difficult for community members to keep track of where we are on what night and what school.
- Yvette – it would be good PR to publish it in the newspaper and send home flyers with the kids of where the current month's meeting is.
- Steve – it would do all the board members good to see the other schools.
- Norm – doesn't think a lot of people watch the meetings anyway.

Sue Callahan asked about the paper that listed election dates and she said some of the information is incorrect. Dennis said the information was provided so it could be checked. Dennis asked the other board members to check the chart and make sure their information is accurate.

## **6.0 POLICIES**

### **7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION – REPORTS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

#### **A-team Reports**

- Dave asked Margaret about the significance of the hospitalizations. Margaret explained that PCS has seen a total of 6 hospitalizations for psychiatric care since school started. She explained it was to illustrate that we do have significant issues that can impact the budget with regards to hiring people.
- Dave asked if we are at normal field trip level or if we are restricted. Mary said we are not restricted, but we have taken very few. Most trips are taken at the end of the year.
- The high school field trip budget covers only the college trips with the counselors.
- Special Ed director's report. Regarding Special Olympics, is this offered to all kids? Only kids from Minot are going. Cathy Adams from Minot has kids from all three towns.
- Dave brought up a survey that he heard about on the radio. Narcissism is on the way up and empathy is on the way down. How do we address this with teaching? Cari said we have put a tremendous amount of energy into teaching ethical behavior online. We are also developing a 4-year plan in dealing with

and staying at the forefront of the issues. We are also bringing back the single day of community service where all the juniors go out into the community and perform service.

- Sue pointed out digital citizenship is very important and hard to teach in large classes. College bound canines program is a great example of service to the community.
- Jeanne asked about bringing back required course work in civics and/or ethics and character development. Ayesha mentioned that these things are part of the comprehensive guidance curriculum. The middle school also addressed the digital citizenship issue before rolling out the laptops and continues to deal with it. The restorative practice work also addresses these issues.
- The issue of students with cell phones and what the rules and policies are was discussed.
- Dave read a statement that was issued by the new governor with regards to education.
- Dave asked the board about Dennis's evaluation forms and asked to have them by February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Ray Lafreniere handed out the details of this year's college visit trip. It is March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. Two nights overnight. We have seven schools tentatively lined up. The cost is about \$82; they sleep four to a room. There are four chaperones including Ray. We take 40 kids, first come first serve. Juniors have priority, then sophomores. It cost \$7,500 to fund the trip, the students pay half and the other half comes from a grant.

Motion: by Chris Woodford to approve the college visit trip

Seconded: by Martha Stone

Vote: Unanimous

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

Updates:

- Snow plowing at the schools: The towns previously plowed the school buildings. Now that we are an RSU, the towns are not doing this free of charge. The cost is approximately \$50,000. We have decided to do it ourselves and have invested \$50,000 this year to do that. We are plowing and sanding our lots ourselves. Gary Purington and Tom Kelley are doing most of the plowing. Tony Bennett is also doing some around the middle school and high school complex. Steve asked if the school trucks are driven home at night. Dennis explained that the high school truck goes home at night and the rest do not, unless there is going to be a storm, then they do go home.

- Adult Education Location: Adult Education may be moving into the former Head Start building in Mechanic Falls. The Mechanic Falls library may be moving into the current adult education space. Another option came up at the facilities subcommittee meeting at a location in Poland that Nancy Watson is checking into. In terms of programming, they have had students rate the space very low in surveys, often noting that they need more space. Family literacy is an area they want to add for programming and the new space would help with that. They have 1,700 square feet currently and the new building has 2,500 square feet. The rent

would be \$1 per month, so there would be savings. We currently pay about \$15,000 per year.

- Support Staff New Hires:
  - Paul Candello – Ed Tech 11, WMS
  - Andrew Robbins – Ed Tech 11, WMS
  - Kristin Otten – Ed Tech 111, WMS
  - Bonnie Robbins – Asst. Indoor Track Coach, PRHS
  - Dawn Mailhot – Girls Basketball, WMS
- Resignations:
  - Susan Stockwell
- Handouts:
  - Board Member Expiration Listing
  - Visioning Conclusions ( Mary Jane McCalmon)
  - Article – A New Education Vision

## **9.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Jill Cramp– asked if there is a policy on how to limit parent participation in school. Dennis clarified it is at the discretion of administration. Dennis explained what is in place now and he may bring forth a policy to address the situation(s). Jill wondered if the parent should be notified if their visitation in the school is limited. Martha thinks we should leave it up to administrators and we don't need a policy for it. Chris asked Dennis to check and see if there should be a policy or if one exists somewhere. Jeanne hopes a good resolution can be had with each parent. Carl said (like the service dogs) its up to the administrators to make it work and do what's fair. The students come first.

## **10.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**

## **11.0 COMMUNICATIONS:**

## **12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Discussion of personnel issues pursuant under 1 M.R.S.A.§ 405 (6) (A)

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to enter Executive Session at 8:25 PM for discussion of personnel pursuant under 1 M.R.S.A.§ 405 (6) (A)

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 PM

Seconded: by Yvette Murray

Vote: Unanimous

## **13.0 REMINDER:**

## **14.0 ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 9:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis J. Duquette