

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

**The 6th Regular Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board
for 2010 – 2011 was held
Monday, December 6, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.
in the Poland Regional High School Library**

MINUTES

Present: All 15 board members were present.

Absent: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Dave Griffiths, Chair (again at 7 PM)

Mary Ella Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1.1 EXECUTIVE SESSION: To consider the possible suspension or expulsion of a public school student pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6) (B).

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to enter into Executive Session at 6:00 PM to consider the possible suspension or expulsion of a student

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to come out of Executive Session at 7:00 PM

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

Dave Griffiths reconvened the public meeting at 7:01 PM at the close of the Executive Session.

Motion: by Mary Ella Jones to adopt the finding of fact and to set a long term suspension of 39 days of student X pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A.405 (6) (B)

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: 12-2 (Opposed: Terri Arsenault & Scott Sawyer)

ACTION ITEMS:

2.0 PRESENTATION: FLS Swim Program K-12 – Susan Prince

Tabled

3.0 ACT ON MINUTES: Approve 5th Regular Meeting Minutes – 11-15-10

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept the minutes of 11-15-10

Seconded: by Annette Annance

Vote: 12-2 (Abstained: Chris Woodford & Martha Stone)

4.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Approve Financial Statement of November 2010

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept the November 2010 Financial Statement

Seconded: by Yvette Murray

Vote: Unanimous

Terri asked if we could go through all the overages. Dennis said under Report of Superintendent it will be brought up.

Rick talked about the boiler – arrives Boston 12/21 hoping over the holiday break it will be installed.

They are making an offer to reimburse expenses occurred due to the lateness of the delivery of the new burner. Rick will meet with the committee members involved to discuss.

Norm asked if Rick had priced out wood chips with different suppliers. Jolly Gardner has been given the specs, but we haven't heard back from them.

Stipends will go out this week and the school board was asked to fill out direct deposit requests.

Jeanne Manley and Steve Holbrook do not have direct deposit and will need a paper check.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS:

Sports Committee Recommendation – Terri Arsenault

- ☒ Terri Arsenault - Terri and Dennis talked about the sports programs and some of the issues. Don King, some coaches and community members got together. She provided and reviewed a handout. It is a Sports Analysis including whether or not we switch from Western Maine Conference to Mountain Valley Conference. Darren Littlefield explained the process for requesting a change in conference.
- ☒ Jeanne asked why the committee was formed, what prompted it? Terri said it was mostly due to conversations she has had with lots of parents. She asked if the coaches were in favor of changing conferences. For the most part they felt that we could be competitive in Western Maine if we continue to work at it. Some felt we could change.
- ☒ Carl asked if we could change for 5 years and then revisit. Terri said we could, but don't want to be known as a conference jumper.
- ☒ Missy agreed with Terri that it is tough to watch the teams lose almost all of the time.
- ☒ Chris Woodford thought it would be a great topic for the public relations committee to talk to people about what they want. We could try to make the program stronger or we can switch to the MV Class C conference.
- ☒ Martha agrees with Chris that we need more input from the community regarding changing conferences. We have had a lot of turnover with our coaching staff and in order to build good programs we need continuity in coaching staff.
- ☒ Dave asked Scott if the PR committee would take on this topic for discussion and Scott said they would.
- ☒ Student Paxton Arsenault said it is tough to think you are going to lose every game every time you play. It would be nice to think we might win once in a while.
- ☒ Aaron Rand, soccer coach, explained the biggest pro is that Mountain Valley is equal when comparing skill sets. Their feeder programs are very similar to ours.

Dave introduced Tony Bennett our new facilities manager at the HS & MS. Cari said that more has gotten done in the month that he has been here than since she has been principal. They are thrilled with Tony. Tony said he really likes it here and likes the building and is hoping to get more and more of the building fixed.

☒ Sub-Committees:

☒ Public Relations Committee Report – Scott Sawyer

Scott presented some ideas of the committee members; Annette, Missy, Jean, Martha, and Scott. The PR committee would like to find vehicles to effectively communicate with the public. Quarterly newsletter, survey to see how we are doing, (parents and taxpayers), collect feedback and input.

☒ Budget Committee – Possible Dates

Terri would like dates for budget committee meetings. Dennis explained that we haven't put out dates yet because we have to be prepared before we sit down. Thursday he is meeting with the Windham Business Manager and the Cumberland County Superintendents for additional information. He explained that they are not dragging their feet; they have a lot of things in the works. He would like to schedule Wednesday, January 5th @ 6:00 PM at the Central Office for the 1st budget committee meeting. Yvette said Minot's elections are the 1st of March. The RSU 16 budget will not be presented with the town meetings, it is not possible. Steve asked how far into the budget we could get into until we get numbers from the state.

☒ Negotiations Committee – Dennis

Hoping to begin negotiations in early January. The teachers are still working on some internal stuff in bringing together four contracts.

☒ Facilities Committee – Suggested date for this meeting is January 4th @ 1:00 PM at Central Office.

Don King – Light the Knights

Don talked about all the efforts the community has put in to upgrading our sports facilities, press box, dugouts, etc. Harlem Superstars basketball games, road race, and more.

Falmouth HS did some upgrades and decided to install new lights on their new football field and we were able to get the lights they purchased in 2005 at a considerable discount. They initially wanted \$60,000 but we eventually got them for \$9,000. We had a lot of help, LRTC electrical class ran wires, Cody Crane hauled the lights here, Mechanic Falls Rec Department and the Booster Club assisted, and the list goes on and on.

Steve asked about when they get turned on in the evening with regards to peak hours. Don said he would check into that. He also has lights on the golf cart now thanks to Laurie Callahan's husband. Chris Woodford thanked Don for the five years spent working on this project.

Scott asked how much we have spent so far on the lights. It was \$9,000 for the lights and \$18,000 to do all the electrical work, etc. We will absorb some of the cost, but the fund raising is continuing.

Scott asked who authorized the expenditure – Dennis said he authorized the \$9,000 to be spent until it could be raised and we are continuing to fundraise to put towards the materials. Terri asked where it was budgeted. Dennis said it was not budgeted and he made the decision so we wouldn't lose out on the offer. When you are in a leadership position you sometimes have to make these types of decisions.

Steve asked if we truly believe we will raise the \$11,000 to put back into the budget? Don King said yes, that is what we are hoping for.

Carl suggested we should set some kind of policy. Dennis should be protected so this isn't an issue. We have a PR issue here, as well. Someone is going to come forward and ask why we are cutting music and spending money on lights. We are going to hear it. They will have some legitimate questions.

Jack said this subject has come up in the past. In Mechanic Falls we had a dollar amount that had to be brought before the board. Terri said it was \$1,500 in Mechanic Falls if it was moved from a line for a purpose for something other than it was budgeted for.

Norm said he recalls it was \$5,000 in the Union #29 school committee.

Scott asked what if it involves a student safety issue; we don't want to tie his hands. If something happens and the welfare of the students is at risk, do we wait until the school board meets or do we give authority to the superintendent to make those decisions?

Chris pointed out that we just replaced the steamer in Minot without issue and that was a high-ticket item not budgeted. The lights are going to mostly be paid for through fundraising. I would like Dennis to be able to do his job and make decisions. Terri said the steamer was discussed two months in advance. Chris again stated it still wasn't in the budget.

Jeanne said it is not about the amount, but about purchasing large items that aren't in the budget.

Norm said they are going to continue to fundraise and pay some of the money back.

Motion: by Terri Arsenault that when more than \$5,000 is being taken from a line for a purpose other than what it was budgeted for it comes before the board for approval.

Seconded: by Scott Sawyer

Motion: To amend by Mary Ella Jones to increase the amount to \$10,000.

Seconded: by Martha Stone

Vote: 11-3 Passed

Vote on Amended Motion: (7) for and (7) opposed. Motion defeated. See attached Tally of Weighted Vote.

Carl asked Dennis about Mary Jane McCollum's report. Dennis said he has it and will bring it to a future meeting.

6.0 POLICIES

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION – REPORTS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:

* A-team Reports

- Ayesha announced the WMS Christmas Party on Dec 18th for family and staff for the hour prior to the dance from 7-9.

8.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Report of the Superintendent – Dennis Duquette

- Dennis said \$163,000 was needed to balance our budget this year. We have done this. He had a list of accounts that were affected. He will email it out tomorrow morning. Rick, Wendy & Dennis met with the auditors last Wednesday. We are going to have a \$765,000 fund balance on July 1st. It cannot be spent this year. The staff furlough days, reduced & frozen budget last year all contributed. We started this year with no money, next year we will have a \$765,000 balance.
- Sue Callahan said we asked staff to take furlough days last year and now we have all this money left over. She is disappointed in the board. Carl pointed out that we did not know this ahead of time.
- Mary Ella said it was a combination of many factors, we didn't know if the state was going to come back and take even more money from the budget. We also lose \$550,000 in stimulus money next year.
- Norm said we have to be very careful of not spending our fund balance. We used to have to keep a percentage, and we haven't funded capital expenditures as we should.
- Martha said we were talking about planning for the future with the furlough days, it was a safety net and Dennis added it is a credit to everybody that works in our school district. They helped respond to the emergency we had last year.

Included in packets:

- Enrollment
- Support Staff Wage Scale
- New Hires – new position or replacement
- Tuition Contract
- Tuition Students
- Superintendent's Evaluation Form
- Wood Boiler Update
- Town water hook up at PCS

➤ Support Staff New Hires:

- * Betty Hayes – Food Service Director RSU #16
- * Maureen Keefe – Assistant to Food Service Director (PRHS/BMWMS)
- * Stephen Ray – 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
- * Ken Grant – Boys' Basketball – BMWMS
- * Pam Ashby – Girls' Basketball – BMWMS

➤ Resignations:

- * Cynthia Larrabee
- * Dottie Barton
- * Jane McGlaulin
- * Maureen Downs

Handouts:

- * Lady Knights Basketball
- * Class Sizes Show Signs of Growing
- * Educators Advised to be Cautious on Facebook Profiles

9.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

10.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT: See 12.1

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS: Communications to the School Board

Sue Callahan's son Quinn was student of the month from Minot selected by the Tri-Town Optimist Club.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to enter into Executive Session at 8:35 PM to consider the possible suspension or expulsion of a public school student pursuant to 1

M.R.S.A § 405 (6) (B).__

Seconded: by Yvette Murray

Vote: Unanimous ____

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

Seconded: by Yvette Murray

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adopt the finding of fact and to expel student Y pursuant to

1 M.R.S.A.405 (6) (B)

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

12.1 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to enter into Executive session at 9:10 PM pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F)

Seconded: by Yvette Murray

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to come out of Executive session at 10:15 PM pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F)

Seconded: by Yvette Murray

Vote: Unanimous

13.0 REMINDER:

Jan 10th is the next meeting. Subcommittees meet the week before.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 10:16 PM

Respectfully submitted,