

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

**The 6th Special Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board
for 2010 – 2011 was held**

Monday, June 27, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

at Poland Regional High School in the Auditorium

MINUTES

Present: Terri Arsenault, Carl Beckett, Sue Callahan, Norm Davis, Dave Griffiths, Steve Holbrook,

Mary Ella Jones, Jeanne Manley, Yvette Murray, Martha Stone, Jack Wiseman

Absent: Annette Annance, Melissa Hodgkin, Scott Sawyer

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Dave Griffiths, Chair

Dave Griffiths called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ITEMS:

2.0 PRESENTATION:

3.0 ACT ON MINUTES: Approve 1st Special Meeting Minutes – 4-25-11

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to approve the minutes of the 04-25-11 meeting

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

4.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

5.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD, Report of the Superintendent – Dennis Duquette

• School Budget 2011/2012

- Dennis reviewed the budget process to date. He expressed his concerns with reducing the budget any further and the effect it would have on our children's education. He addressed the Adult Ed issue and how it would work to move that program to Elm Street School. The third district-wide budget meeting and referendum vote will likely be in September. We have much to discuss as administrators, school board, parents and communities.
- Terri requested that the budget committee meet with the administrators again to restart the process
- Sue said she doesn't want us to cut the budget any further.
- Norm – Before any budget work is done we need to include the finance committees in the three towns. For input but with no voting privileges. Dave explained that the budget process is the sole province of the school board, not that we wouldn't like the input and they were welcome at all public meetings. Norm wants to see them in the workshop meetings when the budget is being built.
- Steve – Back when we were a school union, the school board would prepare the budget and then share it with the town budget committee. Each group would make their recommendations. They were never apart of us preparing our budgets.

6.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Cassie – Mechanic Falls resident – Thanked the board and administrators for all the hard work. Regarding Adult Ed: She has 155 people who have signed a petition that she created and is asking the school board to change their decision about moving Adult Ed to Elm Street School. We don't think it is an appropriate place to have Adult Ed in a PreK – 6 school.
- Ollie Emery – Appreciate the hard work. Make sure when you call the budget committees from the towns you do it at a time when they can make it.
- Hope Becker – Poland – RE: Equalizing salaries. How many were not included in this and are getting raises?

- Terri – It's premature to delve into the budget because we need to re-evaluate the budget ourselves first.
 - Dennis – We always supply Hope with any information that she asks for and she can come in anytime to do that. What amount are you suggesting we cut? And where would those cuts come from?
 - Jamie Ricker – Sexual Assault Crisis Center – RE: concerns of Adult Ed. The Adult Ed students do deserve as much of an education that the kids do, but she is concerned with safety. Is there a legal status that says you can turn people away?
 - Terri – Why are we assuming that Adult Ed is full of criminals and child molesters?
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- Dennis – Nancy Watson has never had a sex offender in Adult Ed in the last 17 years. Mary Martin would never jeopardize any student at any time and neither would he. The Adult Ed students would not be on the ESS playground unless accompanied by an Adult Ed staff member.
 - Bonnie Payette – She has concerns about putting elementary kids in harm's way.
 - Cassie – She is for Adult Ed but the place for them to be educated is not with the ESS children.
 - Nicole – Will there be extra police on school grounds?
 - Terri – She doesn't have a vested interest in where Adult Ed is, but does feel we made the best decision we could make about where to put it. I understand people have concerns. We have a lot of adults in and out of our building every day. Parents, volunteers, pick up and drop off, etc.
 - Dennis – What the public doesn't know is the number of adults we have to exclude from our schools in our three towns. None of them are Adult Ed students, they are parents.
 - Jeanne Manley – We have a secure system at our school buildings. People have to sign in. Do we have a system for Adult Ed that every student would have to sign in? Dennis said there would be a buzzer system to let them in just like at all the schools. Jeanne suggested Adult Ed students should have a student ID.
 - Terri – When we moved the middle school over here to the MS/HS building there were a lot of concerns about the safety of those students. Those concerns were all addressed, and she was wrong. Chief Goss has a very close relationship with the school and would be there in an instant.
 - Jack – We as a board had concerns as well, and our concerns have been addressed. We are all thinking of the worst situation possible here.
 - Dennis introduced Jenny Rose who is being nominated tonight for the Adult Ed Director's position. She is open for any discussion of concerns.
 - Jennifer – A lot of the Adult Ed conversation is based on fear. It kind of came out of nowhere. It would be helpful to provide a walk-thru for people to address these concerns. Maybe the Adult Ed students could just come at night.
 - Mary Ella –She was assured, after the board did the walk-thru and saw the precautions that were going to be taken and attending the Adult Ed graduations. Many of the Adult Ed students have small children themselves.
 - Terri suggested we hold an open house once it is ready. Mary Ella said people could come and offer input and suggestions.
 - Carl asked Jenny Rose if there was any way for the Adult Ed day students to come at night. She responded that she thinks we would lose both students and staff if we limit Adult Ed to only evenings. Dennis said if there was a security issue with a student, they would look at that.
 - Kevin – Why is it that summer rec is operating in the Head Start building that is not safe for Adult Ed? Dennis said it was not a safety factor; it was a cost factor for that building. It needs more work than we can afford. Dennis explained the work that was needed at the Head Start building. The Recreation Dept. uses that building in the summer only.
 - Norm – Has been very close to Adult Ed for the last 12 years. They are not criminals. They are people who are down on their luck due to life circumstances.

Budget Discussion

- Joe Parent – Poland – No longer being passive on the building of this budget. Speaking on behalf of all the people who take part in the education of our students. He is going to do whatever he can to ensure that the budget is not cut anymore.
- A Parent with kids in the district – We need more support for the administration, school board and teachers in this district. It's always the same parents who are in the schools to help. She and her husband are in support of this budget and she will do whatever she can to help. A lot of parents don't know what is needed for them to help out.
- Martha thanked her and said parents can come to the school board meetings and hear what's going on or try to watch it on cable TV and get involved that way.
- Scott Tiner – Regarding adding music and world language back in. How do you hire people to do this if the budget process doesn't start up again until September? Dennis said we have reduced programs and it has come at a huge cost. If we reduce any more we are not doing our jobs.
- Carl – When we started the RSU we had no beginning balance, then the state reduced subsidy. The last Union 29 budget was over \$19M. We just turned down \$17.8M. We have saved the three towns \$4M and now we are asking the towns to give us back \$240,000 and he can't figure out why people are so opposed. If we had continued spending \$19M every year – would people be happy because there was not tax increase?
- George Sanborn – He met with Dennis last Saturday morning about the mindset of the people in this economy. They want a flat budget.
- Jack Wiseman – We will be working on the budget all summer and the September timeline will hopefully be the referendum date.

- Mike Callahan – Increase the voting time to be longer than 4 to 8 PM. Yvette said anyone can go absentee ballot from 9 AM to 5 PM. There is a substantial cost to running the polls. It is up to the individual towns when they want their polls open. Dennis agreed that we need to extend the hours for voting.
- Daniella – PCS Teacher – Cutting programs is not the answer. She had to tell students this year that there is no music program. Some students chose music as a career and it is difficult for teachers to explain to students when they have lost opportunities.
- Tammy English – Supports all the people who have said we cannot cut any more from our children's education. We need to show them that education is worth spending money on.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS: Get Names

Approve 2 Teacher Nominations – 1st Grade @ PCS, Amy Kohtala & Suzanne Piraino

Approve Teacher Nomination – 4th Grade @ Elm Street School, Amy Wasilkowski

Approve Teacher Nomination – 6th Grade @ Elm Street School, Andrew Young

Approve Teacher Nomination – Science @ PRHS, Charles Yancey

Approve Teacher Nomination – Math/Science – WMS, Kara Nener-Plante

Approve Teacher Nomination – Social Studies/ELA – WMS, Erica Swenson

Approve Teacher Nomination – English (1 year position) – PRHS, Helen Moulton

Approve Teacher Nomination – Spanish – PRHS, Michelle Leaman

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to approve the above nominations

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

Approve Adult Ed Director Nomination

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve Jenny Rose as Director of Adult Education

Seconded: by Yvette Murray

Vote: Unanimous

- Dennis – Arthur Reed has been the Assistant Principal at ESS for nine years. Arthur is going to be the new principal at Minot Consolidated School. Since he was already approved to be the assistant principal, his salary has increased so that is different from his contract that was previously approved.

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to approve Arthur Reed as Minot Principal at the new salary level
 Seconded: by Jack Wiseman
 Vote: Unanimous

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION – REPORTS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:

A-team Reports for May

- Terri – Emily Gibson’s name in the report is shown as Amanda Gibson
- Martha thanks Ayesha for doing the exit interviews at the middle school to collect helpful information
- Cari has added discipline events to her reports.

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

Support Staff New Hires:

Fall Cheering Coach, PRHS – Nikki Pratt

Varsity Girls Basketball Coach – Darren Littlefield

Assistant Football Coach, PRHS – Charles Yancey

Resignations:

- Nancy Watson
- Alex McGregor
- Joy Proctor
- Hannah Bernier
- Tammy Fraser
- Emily Higgins

• Handouts:

- Expelled kids find road back
- Maine School Board Nominating Committee

10.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS: Communications to the School Board

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

13.0 REMINDER:

14.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis J. Duquette