

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

**The 12th Regular Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board
for 2010 – 2011 was held
Monday, June 6, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.
at Poland Regional High School in the Auditorium**

MINUTES

Present: Terri Arsenault, Carl Beckett, Sue Callahan, Norm Davis, Melissa Hodgkin, Steve Holbrook,
Mary Ella Jones, Jeanne Manley, Yvette Murray, Scott Sawyer, Martha Stone, Jack Wiseman,
Dave Griffiths

Absent: Annette Annance

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Dave Griffiths, Chair

Dave Griffiths called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with The Pledge of Allegiance

ACTION ITEMS:

2.0 PRESENTION:

3.0 ACT ON MINUTES:

Approve 2nd Special Meeting Minutes – 4-28-11

Approve 11th Regular Meeting Minutes – 5-2-11

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the minutes of 4/28/11

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the minutes of 5/2/11

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

4.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Approve Financial Statement of May 2011

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the May 2011 Financial Statement

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

Scott asked why the secretary's salary line is \$3,600 over. Rick – due to the support contract.
Terri asked if everything is encumbered? Rick – yes.

Norm asked how much of a fund balance will we carry forward? Rick \$250,000 to \$300,000

5.0 RETIREMENTS – Recognizing a great group of dedicated employees.

Dennis talked about the staff members who are retiring and awarded them a plaque of appreciation, along with a letter from the governor and a picture of their school. Their years of service in education and RSU16 were announced.

There are three (3) retiring school board members, as well; Norm Davis, Martha Stone & Chris Woodford.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS:

Approve Business Manager Contract

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the Business Manager Contract as amended

Seconded: by Carl Beckett

Vote: Passes with Sue, Jean, Scott, Norm opposed – See vote tally sheet

Motion: by Mary Ella Jones to amend by adding – approve the Business Manager contract with the standard administrative insurance package.

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

- Scott asked what the increase was. 1.3 %.
- Terri asked about health insurance plan – 100% paid adult w/child. Dennis explained that Rick does not take health insurance. He has an in lieu of clause. Sue asked about the sick days. A 260-day contract doesn't account for time off, holidays, etc. Mary Ella explained that the 260 days includes vacation days, sick days, holidays, etc.
- Scott –20 sick days a year is excessive. Mary Ella said they are cumulative up to 100 if they don't use them. Terri said she had 20 sick days in her two prior jobs.

Approve Transportation Director Contract

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the Transportation Director Contract

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: 8-4 (Sue, Jean, Scott, and Norm opposed)

Approve 2011–2012 Probationary Teacher Nominations/Staff Reductions

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the 2011–2012 Probationary Teacher Nominations/Staff Reductions

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: Unanimous

Approve PRHS Assistant Principal Nomination

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the PRHS Assistant Principal Nomination of Patrick Flynn

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: Unanimous

- Sue thanked the PRHS students who served on the committee.
- Jean asked about the salary and if it was the same as Ray's salary. Dennis explained that he would receive the same amount that Ray did.
- Terri asked when the school board would meet him. Dennis said August. He will begin working in July at the high school.

Approve Leave of Absence – Lori Gunn

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the Leave of Absence for Lori Gunn

Seconded: by Jeanne Manley

Vote: Unanimous

Lori is taking one year off to care for her child. Her job has been filled with a one-year position.

Discuss/Approve Revised 2011–2012 School Budget

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the revised 2011–2012 school budget

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: 10-2 (Scott Sawyer & Jeanne Manley opposed)

- Steve Robinson – If this budget is not passed, does that mean it will hold at the current years' budget of \$17.1? Dennis said it would revert to the last district budget meeting that was approved by the voters until we go through another cycle. There is a \$270,000 reduction in the budget. Steve has concerns it may not pass the referendum vote and urged they put the budget at a zero dollar increase to the taxpayer.

- Ollie Emery – If people can't pay their taxes, they have to pay interest. He has never seen this before and feels a lot of people can't pay their taxes.
- Sam T – Poland. I understand people not wanting to pay more taxes, but our kids need their education, especially in high school. This budget is less than the 2008 budget. Things go up. People don't like the budget if it means paying more taxes. He would like to know what those people would like to cut. Other districts are charging fees for everything.
- George Sanborn– Would like a flat budget. People aren't going to vote for this budget. He doesn't think that a reduction of \$270,000 is enough.
- Terri – We looked at bringing all three schools together for our teachers. We did cut the full increase in half. It's not fair to not have everyone on the same level.
- Bonnie Payette – Understands the teacher uniformity we want to create, but the economy can't support it. Why didn't you have everyone re-apply for his or her jobs and set the salaries? We are voting on administrative contracts and there is not uniformity of the in lieu of clause among other things. She gets five sick days and two weeks of vacation. She doesn't believe programs would be affected, we could do it.
- Mary Ella said the budget is already bare bones. We don't want to lose good staff members because they fear losing their jobs. Approve this budget, support our children and allow us to continue.
- Martha Stone – If we continue to cut the budget we will lose income into our communities. We are preparing our kids for the future here and we need to support this and not cut the budget any further. We have one foreign language. We have cut as much as we can. We won't have anything left if we continue to cut.
- Sue Littlefield – The \$17.1M Budget was low because all the employees took four furlough days so that programs could stay in tact and colleagues didn't lose jobs.
- Linda Bernier – What about the kids who have no voice. She is disappointed with the turnout, with all the complaining about the budget, there aren't many people here. The competition to get into college is fierce for kids; we need to support their education.
- William Cormier – Applauds all the people who have spoken. You are going to have trouble passing this budget. Salaries in Minot were compared to Auburn and seemed to be on par. Salary increases, stipends, etc. He made suggestions to spread things out to diminish this year's impact. There are twelve pages in the Poland town report of people who were delinquent on their taxes.
- Sue Callahan said she works in Auburn and she makes more than a teacher in Minot with the same year's service and a Masters degree. We are not equal to Auburn. She makes \$8,000 more than a teacher in Mechanic Falls with the same teaching experience.
- Carl reviewed how much money has been saved in the last four years, \$4M. We have cut this budget to the bone.
- Hope Becker – Find a way to shave it down so that people who are struggling can have an even tax bill this year. She asked Rick some questions about health insurance. What is in the 8% benefit increase?
- Danny Gilpatrick – We have over a 110 delinquent taxes in Minot. You had \$17.1M for the 2010–2011 budget with a \$765,000 fund balance. Dennis explained that the budget was frozen for the year and the staff all took four furlough days.
- Melissa Hodgkin – Very discouraged sitting here. Wishes we hadn't cut \$2M two years ago. We could have had a zero budget at \$19M and all the towns would have been happy. We are being punished for the cuts we made in the last three years.

- Norm Beauparlant – Thanked all the board members for all the time they have spent wrestling with this budget. Hopes that the people in all three towns look deep into themselves whether they are supporting their kids or grandkids.
- Julie Martin – Concerns about the suggestions that we just get creative, we have already done that. If we cut any more we will be in trouble. These kids need to be competitive and we need to see that they get a good education.
- Scott Tiner – Pointed out that the furlough days were creative, we have cut 74 positions, we have done all these things. We have cut back on Music and Physical Education.
- Jack Wiseman said the creativity has gone even further than that. We have the wood fired boiler and we are looking into solar power. We have cut 74 positions. How far can we go and sustain this?
- Steve Robinson – Not saying anything has to be cut. Continue to look at health insurance and what employees pay.
- Dave – will not be here next week. Regarding a letter to the editor of the Sun Journal. It said this tax increase is devastating to most people. That is not correct. Most people can afford the increase. It is an outrageous charge that the school board is using the children as a shield. We are not using kids as a shield against anything. That is pathetic. We care about your kids.
- Mary Ella – We pay the costs of all those CEO's at hospitals and corporations. It is not the school system that is causing this economy to be what it is.
- Brian Gagnon – The school board is the one group you can come to and tell them how you feel about the budget, but they are not the problem. It is the state and federal government.
- Next meeting date is Monday June 13th, at 6:30 here in the PRHS auditorium.

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to have no regular July meeting

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: 11-1 (Scott Sawyer opposed)

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to hold future school board meetings on the second Monday of the month

Seconded: by Yvette Murray

Vote: 8-2 (Melissa & Steve opposed, Norm & Martha abstained)

7.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

8.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

Boys & Girls Track Team needs to go out of state for New England Competition in Burlington, VT

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the Boys & Girls Track Team out of state trip to Vermont

Seconded: by Carl Beckett

Vote: Unanimous

Norm shared that the Functional Life Skills class participated in a Bocce competition recently.

9.0 COMMUNICATIONS: Communications to the School Board

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

11.0 REMINDER:

12.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis J. Duquette