

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

**The 4th Regular Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board
for 2011–2012 was held
Monday, November 14, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.
Poland Regional High School in the Library**

MINUTES

Present: Terri Arsenault, Carl Beckett, Sue Callahan, Jennifer Boenig, Melissa Hodgkin, Steve Holbrook, Mary Ella Jones, Tina Love, Yvette Murray, Ed Rabasco, Scott Sawyer, Scott Tiner, Jack Wiseman

Absent: Jeanne Manley, Joe Parent

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Mary Ella Jones, Chair
6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

ACTION ITEMS:

2.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

- 3.0 PRESENTATION:** Elm Street School PreK – K Teachers – addressing AYP Reading
- Angie Taylor introduced the Pre–K and Kindergarten teachers from ESS. They reviewed the AYP and CIPS status for the past two years and the intervention measures in place to address the needs of the students who did not meet the standards.
 - One of the goals they have is to enhance early literacy by increasing reading comprehension. The Daily 5 is one of the programs they are implementing: Read to Self, Read to somebody else, Listen to Reading, Work on Writing and Word Work. They are monitoring student progress throughout the year. The Waterford Early Learning Program is a computer–based program building on similar types of skills and provides reports back to teachers.
 - They will be tracking the progress of these students to see if the practices they have implemented have a long–term effect on their academic performance.

Darren Carter – Wellness

- Darren Carter provided information for the board about the grant funded five–year position of the district health coordinator. Darren was a health teacher for the five years previous to taking this position.
- Darren reviewed the wellness outreach being implemented in the district and provided a handout. This includes Smoke–Free Home Pledges and Tar Wars Presentations, Establishment of a District Wellness Team and a number of Staff Wellness Opportunities.
- The Wellness blog is located at <http://rsu16wellness.blogspot.com>

4.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Approve Financial Statements of October 2011

Motion: by Jack Wiseman to accept the Financial Statement of October 2011

Seconded: by Yvette Murray

Vote: Unanimous

5.0 NEW BUSINESS:

Approve 3rd Special Meeting Minutes – 10-03-11

Approve 3rd Regular Meeting Minutes – 10-12-11

Approve 4th Special Meeting Minutes – 10-17-11

Approve 5th Special Meeting Minutes – 10-25-11

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to approve all of the above minutes.

Seconded: by Sue Callahan

Vote: Unanimous

School Board Attendance – The School Board Attendance Policy was distributed for review by the board. The policy committee will review it and provide feedback for the board.

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION – REPORTS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:

A-team Reports

- Tina Love asked for an explanation about the HS dropout rate. Cari Medd explained the two graphs that were provided in her report comparing dropout rates from 05-06 to 10-11.
- Scott Tiner asked what constitutes a dropout. Students who disappear or leaves for adult-ed are included.
- Sue Callahan reported that the Veteran's Day Luncheon in Minot went very well. The 4th grade class and the school band put on a presentation for the Veteran's.
- Tina Love asked about the cameras in the parking lots. Dennis reported that we met with a company to review what we wanted done and have received a quote. It is close to \$20,000 to put cameras in the student parking lot. Cari said she would advocate for this due to safety concerns as a result of some vandalism and criminal behavior that has occurred.
- Yvette asked about the Make Schools Safe grants. Dennis said he has put an application in that would help if we were awarded it.
- Carl asked if the incidents have increased without a school resource officer. That data was not readily available. Dennis said he supports having a resource officer, but it is not financially feasible at a cost of about \$50,000.

7.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Sub-Committees:

- Budget Committee – Terri reported the budget committee (Terri, Jack, Tina, Scott T. Jeanne, and Yvette) is going to meet Monday, Dec 5th at 6:00 PM at Elm Street School.
- Curriculum Committee – N/A (Gary Chapin, Sue, Jeanne, Melissa, Joe) Gary Chapin is taking a position with the Dept. of Education through the Distinguished Educator Program. It is a two-year research contract. His last day is November 30th. He will be paid through RSU #16, but the state picks up the cost. We will need to hire someone to take his place.

- Facilities Committee – Rick will provide an update to the facilities committee next Monday at 5 PM (Scott T., Scott S., Steve H., Carl)
- Negotiations Committee – Dennis, Mary Ella, Jack – will meet this Wednesday.
- Policy Committee – Ed, Sue, Mary Ella, Dennis – tomorrow at 4 PM at Central Office.
- Public Relations Committee – Joe, Tina, Missy, Dennis, Mary Ella – Have been meeting and went to Oxford Hills to see their school board in action and brought back some ideas with them. Their sub-committees meet prior to the regular school board meetings and that seems to work well.

Report of the Superintendent – Dennis Duquette

- Budget Update – Dennis thanked the three communities for passing the budget and he is sending a letter to the newspaper to that effect. He also wrote a letter to thank all the RSU #16 staff for always being there and continuing to do their jobs, despite the difficult budget process. Scott Tiner also thanked Dennis for his good leadership through that difficult process.
- Food Service – Betty Hayes was appointed Food Service Director a little over a year ago. She has brought organization and quality to our food service program. She also works with the Wellness Team. We had an audit about two weeks ago and Dennis read his report. He was so pleased, he would not be back for three years. No errors were found in the audit. She has done an amazing job and the quality of the food is so much healthier.
- Support Staff New Hires:
 - Scott McKenzie, Coach Boys Basketball – WMS
 - Daniel Roy, Assist. Coach Indoor Track – PRHS
- Class Rank Announcements – Terri asked about this. There are some people who say AP classes should be weighted heavier. Cari explained that when the school opened, it had an unweighted GPA calculation but did have a valedictorian and salutatorian classification. The class rank and GPA issue is all over the place around the state. Schools all calculate differently. We provide to the colleges the percentile that the kids are in, top 5%, top 10%, etc., so they have a picture of where the student is. Some top tier schools throw out the provided GPA and figure it out on their own based on the transcripts. Every school provides a school profile to all colleges that explains, among other things, curriculum and the grading process. We provide all the information the colleges need in order to interpret our transcripts.
- We do name the top two students in January after seven semesters. Our councilors found only one college that does that scholarship based on the top two. Colleges do want to know what percentile the kids are in in relation to the rest of their class. Colleges are looking at who takes the most difficult classes and challenged themselves.
- Terri asked if we could have more conversation about what we want to do, talk more with Cari and the counselors. Dennis said the policy committee would raise it.

- Dennis talked about the book “Inevitable” Bea McGarvey – it makes us look at what we offer to our kids in our communities. We will talk more about what is in this book in December, especially as we develop a budget and what we want long term.

Handouts:

- ✓ Bus refurbishment pilot opens Nov 1; survey responses requested
- ✓ Maine submits Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge application
- ✓ Jobs plan would help modernize schools
- ✓ How high school sports save our schools

8.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Bonnie Payette asked if she could attend the December 5th budget meeting and was told she could.

9.0 COMMUNICATIONS: Communications to the School Board

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to enter executive session for information on negotiations at 8:30 p.m.

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to come out of executive session at 8:44 p.m.

Seconded: by Terri Arsenault

Vote: Unanimous

11.0 REMINDER:

12.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis J. Duquette