

Our Mission is to prepare and support all students within a culture of excellence to do their best and to be their best, so that each can be a successful contributing citizen, able to adapt to change and to successfully respond to the future.

RSU #16
Mechanic Falls * Minot * Poland
the 7th Regular School Board Meeting
for 2019-2020 was held
Monday, February 10, 2020
6:30 p.m.
Poland Regional High School Library

MINUTES

Present: Mary Martin, Steve Holbrook, Norm Davis, Mike Downing, Mike Lacasse, Laura Hemond, Melanie Harvey, Ed Rabasco, Scott Lessard, Travis Ritchie, Norm Beauparlant, Chelsea Clavet, James Crouse

Absent: Joe Parent, Lou Goulet

Student Reps: Lily Cote-Powell, Amy Fryda

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Mary Martin, Chair

Pledge of Allegiance & Mission Statement

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: (10 minutes)

None

3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)

Welcome James Crouse our new Minot school board member

ESS, PCS & WMS were selected by the DOE to attend the Trauma Informed Practices workshop.

Thank You to Amy Hediger for all of her work organizing the successful Book Drive

Congratulations to Mackenzie McQuaide who won the Whittier Middle School Spelling Bee. Emma Crouse was the runner-up. Both represented the school at the county spelling bee.

Grade 7 boys basketball had undefeated season

4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

5.0 PRESENTATIONS: (20 minutes)

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)

Approve 6th Regular Meeting Minutes

Approve New Teacher Hire:

Approve Teacher Resignation:

Notification of Support Staff New Hire:

- Wayne Chevalier – Custodian, WMS/C.O.
- Wendy Simard, Administrative Assistant – MCS (transferred from Ed Tech position)

Notification of Retirements:

Notification of Resignations:

Sub Committees Minutes (January)

- Operations
- Personnel & Finance (no meeting held)
- Educational Policy Committee:

Friends of RSU 16's 1-10-20 Minutes

Friends of RSU 16's 2-14-20 Agenda

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve consent agenda

Seconded: by Mike Downing
Vote: Unanimous

7.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES: Stacie Field (10 minutes)

Summary provided by Stacie. Only sub category below is System Administration due to Assistant Superintendent position and completion of audits. Special education, overall, is spending ahead of the target of 38%. Lines change once school year starts depending on student needs. Bond payments have been made for this fiscal year. Food service report was added at the meeting. Report starts with audited fund balance, then current debt level. Debt is increasing and this will be discussed with the Finance Committee. There was a loss in January. Mike said that debt is not uncommon. Stacie agreed and shared that other districts subsidize more than we do. Stacie and Ken will recommend transferring from fund balance at the end of the year. The "Food Shaming" bill from the state is making it harder to collect debt. Mary asked about the elementary guidance lines that still have a lot of money in them. Amy said that PCS guidance position was open and is now partially covered by a new social worker shared with MCS. The ESS line just didn't line up with what was predicted when budget completed.

Motion: by Mike Downing to accept the financial summaries
Seconded: by Norm Beauparlant
Vote: Unanimous

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (20 minutes)

Superintendent Goals-was done last time so won't be speaking to this.

The current enrollment of Regional School Unit #16 as of February 10, 2020 is: Minot Consolidated School (269), Elm Street School (271), Poland Community School (480), Bruce M. Whittier Middle School (259), and Poland Regional High School (484) for a grand total of (1,763) (+5 from the last report). We had our Monthly Town Manager's Breakfast Meeting on February 5, 2020 and our next breakfast will be held on March 4, 2020. This still continues to be a great local resource for RSU 16. Amy and Stacie attend as well. Met with Building Administrators and Directors for budget preparation on multiple occasions over the last month. We will have our proposed budget ready to provide to the budget committee later this week or early next week. Our focus has been and will continue to be the salary and benefit increases for our staff.

Attended the LRTC Advisory Committee on January 15, 2020. They created a common school calendar just this week for the region for us to review and make suggestions. We will review it and make decisions about our calendar. Attended the Annual Superintendent Convocation from January 16 & 17, 2020, held at Sable Oaks in South Portland. Amy and Cari attended as well. Excellent speaker, retired NH Supreme Court justice. Attended the PRHS Unified Basketball Game on January 30, 2020. It was great fun.

Spent the morning of January 24, 2020 as Mentor Principal for The Day. This was at ESS. Mrs. Young ran the school for the day and Ken just supported her. She did a great job. Ken was not entrusted with the whistle. Went to the Selectman's Meeting with Mary Martin in Poland on January 21, 2020 to discuss the pending budget. Went to the Selectman's Meeting with Mary Martin in Minot on January 27, 2020 to discuss the pending budget.

RSU 16 will be exploring ways to continue to unify our elementary curriculum and grade levels this year and next year. We will be looking for community, parent, staff, and board member input on how best to go about this exploration. We will be forming committee groups to see how best to design or redesign our elementary structure to ensure that every student has the same educational opportunities and a similar educational experience no matter where they live or attend school in RSU 16. This is an open idea to start talking about how we can continue to make our elementary levels even more effective than they are now.

9.0 ASST. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (5 MINUTES)

MEA Scores

Students take MEA's in grades 3-8 in March. This is about 6.5 hours of testing.

Grade 11 takes April SAT for 4.5 hours.

Grades 5, 8, and 11 take Science.

Test results take 4 - 6 months to get reported. Test gives a glimpse into our schools, but not a broad perspective.

Amy asked the board "What do you think students are being asked on these tests?" Amy provided examples of questions from the Grade 5 test, and noted that the rigor of the test is difficult. Amy walked the board through a couple of the math questions. The questions highlight the need for good reading skills, problem solving and perseverance.

Amy asked the board to look at results provided on the pink paper. Data begins 2016 when this current test was first used. The data is for each year through 2019. The state average is in one column so we can compare our student's achievement to the rest of the state. English Language Arts in each school and by grade is presented. ELA SAT data for the high school was also shared.

Math data was presented in the same format. Amy reported that the new Education Commission is examining the test across grade levels to make sure that the tests are appropriately rigorous and not too difficult. Elementary teachers are working on developing common assessments to more closely monitor student achievement and intervene when needed. Regarding math at the high school, we are working the problem of low scores through a variety of ways. Pathways through the curriculum, curriculum revisions and instruction. PSAT scores show that a large number of students move out of the Does Not Meet to Partially Meets category. Additionally, 20% of the current senior class will have taken and passed an AP math course by the time they graduate. The cut scores are set for the fall of 12th grade so students may not have had the content. Science scores only exist in grades 5, 8, and 11.

Norm Davis - If you follow kids from 4th grade to higher grade levels, kids scores are going down. Amy said that it can be the difference between answering one of 2 questions wrong. It's alarming to see the average drop, but it isn't drastic. James Crouse - Math scores are looked at the most and changed the least. Is there any movement towards shifting the math testing to accommodate different math interests and future goals? Amy and Cari talked about changes in Math 4 to support different student post-secondary goals. The SAT test is a snapshot in time. Boys and girls are performing at the same rate when we break things down. We also look at our neediest students to make sure they are getting what they need.

Travis Ritchie - Do students use technology for testing? Amy: Yes

Travis offered that computer use could have a negative effect on student scores. Mary asked Amy Fryda and Lily to comment. Lily commented on her acceleration in Math. There are lots of opportunities to be challenged if you want to. Amy wishes there was middle ground between required curriculum and AP courses. Both Amy and Lily took college classes for math because of the missing opportunity at PRHS.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS: (15 minutes)

Approve out-of-state trip - Gran Turismo of Colleges in the Boston area – Patrick Flynn

Motion: by Ed Rabasco to approve the out-of-state trip

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

11.0 OLD BUSINESS:

12.0 POLICIES:

13.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

➤ Student Representatives: (5 minutes)

Lily: Winter Carnival week, winter sports winding down, track has states coming up. Amy: Speech and Debate has been very successful. 8 placed in top 3, 2nd in state. Last week was national qualifiers, 7 students qualified for nationals in Albuquerque. A second national qualifier this coming weekend. Amy Fryda and Sophie Patenaude qualified 1st.

➤ Report of the School Board Chair: (5 minutes)

Superintendent Evaluation Committee selection

- This will be 3 meetings to create process and looking at results, and then evaluating the superintendent. We will try to align the meetings with current board meetings. Norm Davis, Norm Beauparlant, Mike Lacasse and Chelsea Clavet volunteered. James Crouse will be added to the Personnel and Finance committee.
- All day budget meeting is 2/25 (Scott, Ed, Mary and Mike Lacasse)

➤ Attendance

➤ LRP/Board Governance

14.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

A Team Reports

Mary highlighted the Unified Basketball game schedule.

This is counselor appreciation week.

Whittier History Day is Wednesday and judges are still needed.

Rick Benoit oral report - school goals and the progress around them. Rick handed out materials. Rick followed up on past goals from PCS. He shared that there had been a 3-year slide in literacy scores, and this year finally saw a big improvement in the scores. Staff just kept plugging away at what they had been doing, including vocabulary acquisition and reading, but didn't do anything dramatic. They tested reading first last spring and that may be why students did better because they were less tired. Also from last year, they have increased parent engagement. Did math and literacy nights and a movie night. Had over 200 families attend. Reduced chronic absenteeism of 13% down to 8%, this year we are at 6%. Majority of this work is due to Mrs. Comeau's work connecting with families. We also wanted to

formalize the RTI process. Families are being pulled into the conversation much sooner in the process. Meet weekly with families to share information about how their student is doing.

This year, two main goals. Provide time and structures to improve culture for students and adults. Working with a consultant to support staff work. Learning about Restorative Practices and implementing them in the school. Created the “fair process procedure” to identify a problem and develop solutions as a staff. Staff works in small groups brainstorming ideas that are shared through leadership team. A team was sent to a Trauma workshop and they created a plan to implement. Adding the second step curriculum at PCS (like ESS and MCS), which is a socio-emotional curriculum to use in classrooms in addition to a free curriculum in kindergarten. PCS has not been able to fill school the counselor position, so the part time social worker is helping. Implementing the new reading curriculum is a big goal. Amy Hediger and literacy coach Kelly Labonte have been doing great work with the staff. Grade level teams meet weekly to plan lessons. PCS is implementing new curriculum in grades 5 and 6, and this has been a challenge and teachers have been stepping up.

Norm asked about transportation and drivers. Ken said we are short about 4 drivers. Fred and Craig are driving regularly to keep the system afloat.

Travis suggested creative solutions to the transportation problem similar to the beginning of the school re-configuration process.

15.0 COMMUNICATIONS:

16.0 HANDOUTS:

17.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

18.0 REMINDERS:

19.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Healey