

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE MOUNTAIN HOME BOARD OF EDUCATION**

January 13, 2011

The following members of the Board were present for the informational meeting held in the Board room of the administration office: Robert Nelson, Neal Pendergrass, Doug VanDolah, Steve Bergman, Lisa House and Jason Schmeski. Administrators, media and other guests were also present. Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Pendergrass made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bergman, to approve the agenda as printed.

The motion was unanimously approved.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Dr. Myers began by stating that not quite a year ago he was hired for the job of Superintendent. During his first few months, he did a lot of listening to people in the district/community. Two things continued to come up and they were:

1. Should Mountain Home School District attempt to run an alternative education program entirely on their own?
2. What will the school district do with Guy Berry Intermediate School building when the students move to the new elementary school facility (i.e. Hackler Intermediate School)?

Two committees were formed for the purpose of addressing these concerns and tonight they will bring their findings to the Board for thoughtful consideration. This is not a meeting to make a decision, just an information meeting to provide options that have been researched over the last several months by committee members.

Dr. Myers commended the committee chairs and members for their diligent efforts in trying to find solutions to the questions proposed.

He turned the meeting over to Dr. Gigliotti, Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Gigliotti reiterated her thankfulness to the committee chairs and members for their hard work. She stated when Dr. Myers initially spoke with these committees he charged each of them with specific tasks. The Education Committee who was charged to *“find a direction for Alternative Learning that allows flexibility for graduation, enables students to obtain credit recovery and also deal with discipline issues. Try to meet the needs of every student, looking at alternative education programs in other districts and work with other community entities to provide the best possible program for our students.”*

PRESENTATION OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman, Jeff Kincade, presented a power point which is part of these official minutes. He offered two options to the Board from the research the committee had done. There were some questions by the Board. He emphasized that we must change the paradigm thinking of alternative education from a correction facility to a place where those students that may need extra help can find a safe harbor and in the process find success. They have spoken with ASU-MH about helping

students in welding, virtual classes and certified nursing assistant classes. They have also looked at other support services such as

- Mental health counseling
- Family dynamic counseling
- Social Skills training and
- Mentoring

Dr. Myers stated that what the committee has presented is a framework and there are a lot more pieces. They have talked with retired teachers about their support in this work and with other community people. It was mentioned that there is a strange correlation with graduation and students that have good relationships. It is essential for students to have good relationships in order to have the desire to move forward.

PRESENTATION OF FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Wes Henderson, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, presented a power point that is made a part of these official minutes. He stated his committee was charged with *“evaluating the Guy Berry facilities to see what rooms are available, what improvements need to be made before use and how the building would best be used for the school and community. The committee was to look at the possibility of an alternative school/offices and historical function as well as looking at the needs of other buildings in the district.”* The committee was also asked *“to prioritize the needs with students as the first concern”*.

Mr. Henderson presented three options for the Guy Berry School facility. In two of the options presented Mr. Henderson stated that the committee is proposing a multiple use of the facility to accommodate alternative education as well as pre-school education. The committee and community will have to get past the issue of having alternative education in the same building as pre-school education and the committee feels this is a doable option. The building basically has two separate parts that can be completely blocked from one another by doors and outside entrances. All three options include moving the special services administrative offices from the old white house located on Maple Street over to Guy Berry School.

At one point the historical society was very interested in having a part of the old school building. One of the members of the committee however is the fire chief and he informed the committee that if the building is used for anything other than a “school” then a firewall has to be built between the “school” use and any other use of the facility. It would be an enormous investment in a building this old. At that point, the thought of trying to accommodate two separate entities in that way was thrown out.

OVERVIEW

The Board requested copies of the power point presentations from both committees. The Board was also given a list of committee members that served and a hard copy presentation from the Baxter County Alternative School by way of their director, Cheryl Green.

There was some discussion that followed after the presentations. Dr. Myers asked the Board to give the committees some feedback for direction in the next several days. There were questions regarding cost options and refining and defining staff needs for the options presented.

Dr. Myers explained that each teacher needs to be the highest quality because of the difficulty of the student issues involved in alternative education. Alternative education is a fairly complex issue. One

size does not fit all and there are multiple issues, relationships can go deep and the staff needs to be dedicated to student success and passionate about their calling in that area.

There was a consensus that the next juncture needs to be in the way of a decision so that work could be started in time for the fall semester.

Mr. Nelson stated that it was obvious there had been a lot of work involved in all of these committee options. He asked if we could afford to proceed but didn't feel we could afford not to proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 p.m. Mr. Pendergrass made a motion, seconded by Mr. VanDolah, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Robert Nelson, President

Ben Strider, Secretary