

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

**January 16, 2014**

The following members of the Board were present for the meeting: Robert Nelson, Jason Schmeski, Lisa House, Ben Strider, Neal Pendergrass and Steve Bergman. Administrators, media and other guests were also present. Mr. Strider called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mr. Strider welcomed Mountain Home Junior High. Ron Czanstkowski introduced the students and they lead the pledge of allegiance. The students then read a few words about what the school board means to them in recognition of board appreciation month. The students present were: Hunt Nosari, Mason Worsham, Katie Byler, Billy Beck, Cara Conner, Hayden Strider, Victoria Carlisle, Rosella Kowalsky and Michael House.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Schmeski made the motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2013 and January 8, 2014 board meetings.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**RECOGNITIONS-**

**National Board Certified teachers- Dr. Myers**

Darla Deatherage introduced 4 teachers that earned the National Board Certification, Christy Curtis, Chris Davis, Jennifer Seaman and Linda Thrasher. Here is what was read about each teacher:

**Christy Curtis** is a Mountain Home graduate. She is a graduate of Arkansas State University where she received her Master's Degree in 2007. Mountain Home School District has had the pleasure of having Christy on our faculty at Kindergarten for 17 years. In addition to her classroom duties she has served ACSIP Chair since 2001. She has also participated as Pathwise Mentor. Christy is a progressive, caring and compassionate teacher that strives to bring the very best to her students and fellow teachers. She meets challenges and new initiatives with enthusiasm and determination. Vanessa Thomas stated "Christy has a sincere interest in the wellbeing of her students that goes

beyond the classroom.” Christy, we are so thankful to have you as a member of our educational team and we are proud of your newest accomplishment. Congratulations on being a National Board Certified Teacher.

**Chris Davis** is a 2007 Cum Laude graduate of Arkansas Tech University. Chris has been a member of our educational team since 2008. That same year Chris was awarded the Raymond and Ruth Brandon Award for new band directors. Today Chris serves as our 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Director. He received his Master’s from Arkansas State University and is currently working on a Specialist’s degree in educational leadership. Chris has a sincere love for music. His desire to draw students in to learning the art of music and its benefits to humankind is expressed each day. Chris and his wife Sarah, also a teacher in our district, are the parents of a precious baby boy, Landon, 7 months old. Chris is a vital part of the music program in our district. We are thankful for Chris and his dedication to his students. Chris, we are also very proud of you as you have earned National Board Certification.

**Jennifer Seaman**- was born in Mountain Home and graduated from Salem High School. She attended UCA and graduated in 2006 with a degree in Mass Communication with a Journalism emphasis. In a short time, Jennifer discovered she truly loved teaching and combined with her love of the English language she added another area of accomplishments by earning her Non-Traditional License. Jennifer became a member of our Mountain Home High School faculty in 2008. She earned her Master’s Degree from ASU in 2010. We can echo the words of a former mentor who stated that “Jennifer always strives to learn and glean as much information available to make herself be the best teacher she can be. She is constantly looking for new and exciting ways to help her students learn.” Thank you, Jennifer, for bringing the very best to your students. We are proud of your dedication and hard work. Congratulations on earning National Board Certification.

**Linda Thrasher** – is a graduate of Conway High School and the University of Central Arkansas where she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi. She received her Master’s Degree from ASU-Jonesboro in 2011. Linda has been a faculty member at Mountain Home High School for 18 years. She taught English at Mountain Home High School for 10 years before moving to the Social Studies Department. Linda serves as Department Chair and is a member of ACSIP Team. She and her husband, Scott, have two children. Savannah is a student at Pinkston and son Jordan is proudly serving his country in Afghanistan. Teachers and students both know they can count on Mrs. Thrasher. Linda is a dedicated teacher with a true passion for history that she strives to share with her students. Linda, we are thankful you are part of our education team and we are proud of your newest accomplishment - earning National Board Certification.

Dr. Myers congratulated the teachers and presented each with a check for \$2100.00 from the district.

### **School Board Appreciation Month- Dr. Myers**

Dr. Myers stated that January had been declared by Governor Mike Beebe, as Arkansas School Board Appreciation Month and he read this press release from the district:

Thank you Mountain Home School Board Members. January is School Board Recognition Month and the Mountain Home School District is proud to acknowledge the dedicated service and invaluable contributions made by the members of the Mountain Home Schools Board of Education; Ben Strider, Lisa House, Steve Bergman, Robert Nelson, Jason Schmeski, Neal Pendergrass and Bill Wehmeyer.

“How fortunate we are to have these exceptionally talented, incredibly dedicated people leading our district, said Superintendent Lonnie Myers.” Every action they take is based on what is best for our 4,000 students. They provide leadership for academic programs and achievement, district funding, school facilities and many other critical issues. “Their service ensures that decisions about our schools are made by people who are most familiar with the needs of our community.”

The board members – who are unpaid volunteers – spend countless hours studying complex issues like student achievement and school finance, working with lawmakers and educational experts, meeting with district administrators, teachers, staff members, parents and students, and attending school and district events. They are responsible for the academic success of 4,000 students, as well as the efficient management of a district with more than 500 full and part-time employees and an annual budget of just over 36 million.

Each board member represents the entire district and they are elected ‘at-large’ to four-year terms by registered voters via a non-partisan ballot.

## **REPORTS**

### **Financial Reports– Ann Harned**

Ms. Ann Harned, Business Manager, referred Board members to page IIA for the Statement of Changes in Fund Balance for the month ending December 31, 2013. We ended the month with total fund balances of \$11,529,164.29.

Ms. Harned went over the page on Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance (IIA1) for the month ended December 31, 2013. The total current expenditures and outgoing transfers were \$3,673,089.44.

Ms. Harned went over the Statement of Changes in Activity Funds and the Summary of Bond Issue Activity.

### **Enrollment- as read**

## **BOARD ACTION**

### **Agreement between MHPS and the City of Mountain Home- Dr. Myers**

Dr. Myers explained the background on the previous agreement to use the city’s baseball fields. He went on to explain how we didn’t have an agreement last year and how there needs to be a current agreement in place. He recommended that Mountain Home Public Schools enter into an agreement with the City of Mountain Home, for a year lease retroactive to the 2012 expiration date of the prior agreement, at a cost of \$6,600 per year.

**Motion to accept the agreement with the City of Mountain Home**

Ms. House made the motion, seconded by Mr. Schmeski, to enter into an agreement with the City of Mountain Home for a year lease retroactive to the 2012 expiration date of the prior agreement, at a cost of \$6,600 per year.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Recommendation to accept fiber optic cable bid- Mike Walker**

Mike Walker went over the history of the bid and explained what the bid included. He let the board know why the bid was higher than expected and he recommended that the board accept the bid of \$24,248.68 for fiber optic cable to include the installation, labor and materials.

**Motion to accept the bid for fiber optic cable installation, labor and materials for \$24,248.68**

Mr. Nelson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bergman to accept the bid for fiber optic cable installation, labor and materials.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Recommendation to accept the Resolution for Local Support Master Plan & Partnership Program – Wes Henderson**

Mr. Henderson went over the background and rationale for the Resolution and Partnership Program. He answered questions from the board. He recommended that the board accept the resolution for Local Support Master Plan and Partnership Program.

**Motion to accept the recommendation of the Resolution for Local Support Master Plan & Partnership Program** Mr. Pendergrass made the motion, seconded by Mr. Schmeski to accept the Resolution for Local Support Master Plan and Partnership Program.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Recommendation to accept the 2013-2014 school calendar revisions- Becca Camp**

Ms. Camp explained the process that the PPC and CPPC went thru to create the 3 options for the staff to vote on for the calendar revisions. She went on to explain that the calendar option B was the most popular option with the staff. She answered questions from the board. She recommended that the board accept option B as the revised calendar for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year.

**Motion to accept the option B revision as the revised calendar**

Mr. Schmeski made the motion, seconded by Ms. House to accept option B of the revised calendar for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year.

The motion passed 4-2.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE AND BOARD DISCUSSION**

Dr. Myers expressed his condolences to Mr. Wehymeyer and his family on the passing of his father Howard Wehmeyer. Dr. Myers spoke of Pinkston student Austin Snyder that is battling cancer and of the t-shirt fundraiser that is going on to benefit the Snyder family.

In keeping with the Governor's declaration, Mayor David Osmon proclaimed January as Mountain Home School Board Appreciation Month. Dr. Myers read the proclamation to the Board. He presented Mr. Strider with the Proclamation from Mayor Osmon. A copy of this proclamation and of the Governor's Proclamation has been made part of the official minutes.

**A break was taken at 7:06 p.m.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION RESULTS – 9:10 p.m.**

### **Extension of Superintendent Contract**

Mr. Schmeski made the motion seconded by Mr. Pendergrass to extend the contract for Dr. Myers, Superintendent, for an additional year. Approval of this motion will extend Dr. Myers contract to the end of the 2015-16 school year.

The motion passed 5-1.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Board approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Ben Strider, President

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Steve Bergman, Secretary