

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

February 17, 2011

The following members of the Board were present for the meeting: Robert Nelson, Steve Bergman, Jason Schmeski, Doug VanDolah, Lisa House, Neal Pendergrass and Ben Strider. Administrators, media and other guests were also present. Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Students from Nelson-Wilks-Herron Elementary assisted Mr. Nelson in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mr. Nelson recognized Ms. Cotter, Principal of Nelson-Wilks-Herron Elementary. Ms. Cotter thanked the Board and stated that the Nelson-Wilks-Herron choir had been originally scheduled to perform at the January meeting. Since they were unable to attend that meeting due to snow, they were bringing something special to tonight's meeting in honor of School Board Appreciation Month.

The choir, under the direction of Mr. Tim Nelson, performed two numbers for the Board: *I'm So Glad to Be Here* and *Thank You for All that You Do*. Students, Kyla Willig, Cheyann Neal, Emily Payne, Whit Lawrence, Gianna Taylor, Tyler Firment and Samantha Vaccarella read positive recognition notes about the Board.

The choir students that performed were as follows: 1st Grade: Madison Schmeski, Issac House, Connor Brewer, Mia Lopes-Denton, Emili Elkins, Adriane Saathoff, Xander Phillips, Sydney Chipps, Luke Proctor and Sami Seamans. 2nd Grade Students were: Kyla Willig, Cheyann Neal, Emily Payne, Whit Lawrence, Gianna Taylor, Tyler Firment, Samantha Vaccarella and Hunter Douglas.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Ben Strider made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Bergman.

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schmeski made the motion, seconded by Mr. VanDolah to approve the minutes of the January 13th, January 20th and February 2, 2011 Board meetings.

The motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Financial Reports– Ann Harned

Ms. Ann Harned, Business Manager, referred Board members to page IIA for the Statement of Changes in Fund Balance ending January 31, 2011. We ended the month with total fund balances of \$13,215,349.18. Ms. Harned noted that fund 6519, the new Education Jobs Fund has revenue which was reimbursement for the bonuses paid to employees in November 2010.

You will see a charge each month because we are still paying a kindergarten teacher from that fund. Then there will be bonuses paid again from that fund in November 2011. There was a reclassification of revenue from Fund 6802 to 6511. The State did not give us the original funding code on that when the transaction was originally made. Most of the 6000 Funds are Federal funds that have gone to primarily reimbursable funds and we are fortunate enough that we can maintain a substantial cash flow and make those purchases up front then be reimbursed for them.

Ms. Harned went over the page on Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for the month ended January 31, 2011. Current revenues and incoming transfers are the Teacher Salary Fund \$1,106,886.88, Operating Fund \$1,967,691.87, Building Fund \$5,406.31, Federal Grants Fund \$608,303.01 and Food Service Fund \$55,652.08 for a total current revenues and incoming transfers of \$3,743,940.15. Expenditures and outgoing transfers in the current column are Teacher Salary Fund \$1,106,886.88, Operating Fund \$2,109,430.22, Building Fund \$597,267.89, Federal Grants Fund \$227,754.16, and Food Service Fund \$108,674.05 for a total current expenditures and outgoing transfers of \$4,200,013.20.

Ms. Harned went over the Changes in Activity Funds for the month ended January 31, 2011 and the Summary of Bond Issue since July 1, 2008. Mr. Nelson asked for questions or comments. There were none.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Special Education Projects –Mr. Trey Carter, Baldwin and Shell Construction Managers

Mr. Carter addressed the Board concerning the bids that were received for the CBI remodel project at the High School and the Daily Living Skills Classroom remodel at Pinkston Middle School. The tabulation sheets for each project had been given to the Board at an earlier date. He began with the Pinkston Middle School Daily Living Skills Classroom which listed the guaranteed maximum price of \$203,689.00. The guaranteed maximum price for the CBI building was \$205,582.00. Mr. Carter noted the allowances listed beside some items on both tabulation sheets indicate an amount Baldwin and Shell will allow for, although they did not receive a bid for at the latest bidding in December. The allowance price listed is the bid amount they received at an earlier bidding. He reminded the Board that these projects were originally bid in May 2010 and were extremely high. That was at a time when the stimulus money had just been made available to school districts which may have been a reason they were higher. By meeting with the architect a second time to make adjustments in the plans and rebidding the projects, the bids came down a considerable amount. There was approximately \$114,000 decrease in the CBI remodel bids and \$164,000 decrease in the Daily Living Skills Classroom bids.

There is an estimated calendar construction for both projects of 70 calendar days with commencement occurring after approval of the major items. The reason for that being that these items (i.e. HVAC, plumbing equipment) could hold up construction if we have to wait for them as they can sometimes take up to a month to receive.

Mr. Carter recommended that the Board approve the guaranteed maximum price of the Pinkston Middle School Daily Living Classroom for \$203,689.00 and for the CBI building for \$205,582.00. Some discussion followed.

Motion to Accept Guaranteed Maximum Price

The motion was made by Mr. Strider and seconded by Mr. Schmeski to accept the guaranteed maximum price of \$203,698.00 for the Pinkston Middle School Daily Living Skills room and \$205,582.00 for the CBI house located at the High School.

The motion passed by six votes. Mr. VanDolah opposed the motion.

Bid for Zero Turn Mower – Mike Walker

Mr. Walker addressed the Board regarding a bid for a zero turn mower to accommodate the extra grounds added for mowing at Hackler Intermediate School. A bid was written for a diesel zero turn and three bids were received. Mr. Walker recommended that the Board accept the lowest bid of \$11,147.17.

Motion to Accept Bid for Zero Turn Diesel Lawn Mower

Mr. Bergman made a motion to purchase a zero turn diesel mower for the low bid of \$11,147.17. The motion was seconded by Ms. House.

The motion passed unanimously.

Bid for Electric Mower for Hackler Courtyard – Mike Walker

Mr. Walker stated that he had researched possible mowers for the courtyard at Hackler. They were looking for a mower that would be quiet as to not disturb instruction going on in the building and were also concerned with the storage of gasoline in the courtyard. After some research, they found an electric mower that will run 80 minutes on a charge and there is a 34% noise reduction in an electric mower as opposed to a gas powered mower.

Motion To Accept Bid for Electric Mower

Mr. Strider made the motion, seconded by Mr. Schmeski to accept the bid of \$5,938.00 for the purchase of an electric mower for Hackler Intermediate School.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Three Year Banking Contract – Ann Harned

Ms. Harned addressed the Board concerning the Prudent Fiscal Policy that indicates an entity should review banking and investment holdings periodically to ascertain the most attractive rates and services. Letters requesting banking proposals were sent to local banks requesting a bid response. Any analysis of the products offered serves as a basis for the proposal. A critical factor for our District is coverage for our deposits in excess of FDIC coverage. Since our district revenue cycles swing so dramatically, we requested an additional \$1 million cushion of collateralization. Ms. Harned gave the Board the list of five bidders and made a recommendation that the Board approve doing business with Bank #2 for a 3-year term beginning March 1, 2011.

Motion to Accept Three Year Banking Contract

Mr. Bergman made the motion seconded by Mr. VanDolah to accept the recommendation of securing a new depository agreement with Bidder #2 for a 3-year term beginning on March 1, 2011.

The motion passed unanimously.

Alternative School Proposal – Dr. Gigliotti

Mr. Nelson recognized Dr. Gigliotti who addressed the Board concerning an Alternative Learning Environment proposal for the now vacant Guy Berry School building. Dr. Gigliotti stated that at the beginning of this school year, Dr. Myers asked members of the school district to work along side members of the community to form an Educational Committee. This committee analyzed student populations with potential academic needs through the means of surveys, interviews and focus groups. The committee also met with Lori Lamb, Director of Alternative Education at the Department of Education. Based on variables such as the ADE requirements for alternative learning, the District is responsible for building positive alternatives for grades K-12 students in transition. The committee was in agreement to expand the District's present academic offerings to a full ALE K-12 program.

In a summative review of the committee findings, Dr. Gigliotti stated that this would be a second chance program which would not be the extreme of what is offered at the Baxter County Alternative School (BCAS) where students are sent for discipline issues and through court orders. This program would give the school the opportunity to work with parents and increase the graduation rate. We would be working with BCAS, not competing with them. In a summative review, this facility would need six (6) new certified personnel and two (2) new classified personnel. Three of the six certified personnel could be absorbed with the MHSD and the all of the classified personnel can be absorbed by the District.

Dr. Gigliotti recommended that the Board approve an alternative learning environment program for grades 5-12 to be housed at the current Guy Berry facility beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. She also recommended that the Board approve the position of a director for this 5-12 ALE program.

There was some discussion that followed. Ms. Harned addressed the financial aspect of re-opening Guy Berry as a school. They have enough students/faculty furniture already, which includes a distance learning lab. It would be approximately \$70,000.00 to cover the start up costs in the first year. The total estimated annual cost after the initial start-up year would be approximately \$350,000.00. We would actually spend about \$100,000.00 less running our own program that we currently do.

Mr. Nelson thanked the committee for their time and effort. He said he was personally excited about the prospects of having this opportunity for students.

Motion to Accept Three Proposal for Alternative Education School

Mr. Strider made the motion, seconded by Mr. Schmeski to approve an alternative learning program for grades 5-12 to be housed at the current Guy Berry facility beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. In addition, they motioned to approve the new position of a director for this 5-12 ALE program.

The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers spoke to the issue of the make-up of inclement weather days. The PPC met on Monday and should have a recommendation for the Board at the lunch board meeting to be held at Pinkston on March 2.

A break was taken at 8:10 p.m.

Executive Session Results 9:08 p.m.

Recommendation on Classified Staff – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers recommended that the Board approve the resignation as listed on the classified staff sheet.

Motion on Classified Staff

Mr. Pendergrass made the motion, seconded by Mr. Strider to accept the recommendation of Dr. Myers to approve the resignation as listed on the classified staff sheet.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Recommendation to Re-Hire Administrators and Specialists – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers recommended that the Board approve the re-hire of district administrators and specialists as specified on the re-hire list.

Motion to Re-Hire Administrators and Specialists – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Mr. Bergman made a motion, seconded by Mr. VanDolah, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the re-hire administrators and specialists as specified on the re-hire list.

The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Strider made the motion which was seconded by Mr. VanDolah to adjourn the meeting.

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

Robert Nelson, President

Ben Strider, Secretary