

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

**April 21, 2011**

The following members of the Board were present for the meeting: Robert Nelson, Jason Schmeski, Doug VanDolah, Lisa House, Ben Strider, Neal Pendergrass and Steve Bergman. 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**

Mr. Nelson recognized Ms. Cassy Fowler, Assistant Principal of Hackler Intermediate School. Students from the Quiz Bowl team lead in the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Mr. Neal Pendergrass made a motion to approve the agenda as well as the minutes of the March 17, 2011 meeting and the April 6, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schmeski.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**NCEA Higher Performing Schools – Ms. Dana Brown/Mr. Wes Henderson**

NCEA stands for the National Center for Educational Achievement and ACT, Inc. This award was bestowed on the Mountain Home High School Career Academies and the Mountain Home Junior High School. Ms. Brown stated the ACT scores are consistently higher with our Mountain Home students than that of the national average. The Center recognizes schools that consistently out perform their peers and recognize their achievement in bringing more students to college and career readiness than expected. Mountain Home Junior High was recognized in both literacy and math. Last year the Junior High received this award for just literacy. Mr. Nelson congratulated both Ms. Brown and Mr. Henderson on their high student achievement.

**Mountain Home Boys Bowling Team – Ms. Pendergrass**

Mr. Nelson recognized Ms. Devona Pendergrass, who coaches the bowling league. This is the fifth year to officially recognize bowling as a sport at the Mountain Home High School. Ms. Pendergrass stated that unofficially she has coached the team for the last 20 years. The Mountain Home Boy's Team won the 7A/6A Conference Championship this year and four boys qualified for All Conference. Ms. Pendergrass also recognized Jasmine Traylor who was the only girl to move on to All Conference.

Members of the Boy Bowling team present were: Gary Queen, Jr., Garrett Foley, Kyle Alkire, Joey Hedrick (not present) all qualified for All-Conference. Other team members present were: Hunter Queen, Jacob Estes, Jasmine Traylor, Robert Wyble. Ms. Pendergrass

noted that she was so proud of the students' accomplishments and was proud to be associated with this group of students.

## **POSITIVE NOTES**

Mr. Nelson stated that Baxter Regional Hospital and Mountain Home Public School's School Based Mental Health Program received an EXEMPLARY status on their monitoring by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). This commission is a nation-wide agency that monitors "how organizations insure operation at the highest level of organization and effectiveness". This is the second monitoring of the program with the same exemplary status awarded on each visit.

Mr. Strider recognized Senior Mason Jones who was selected and will receive a scholarship to cheer at UCA this fall. He was called back from the original 85 who tried out, and made the squad of 35. He will be cheering on the new purple and gray football field which has grabbed national attention. Mason was a stand-out football player as well as competed on the cheer squad who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the 5A – 7A state division. Congratulations to Mason.

Mr. Bergman stated that the Mountain Home Junior High's Odyssey of the Mind team placed second overall in Division III Problem III at State Finals in Beebe. This earned the team their ticket to World Finals which will take place at the University of Maryland campus. The team placed first in "Style" and second in "Long Problem" and "Spontaneous." It's exciting to have another World Finals Team represent Mountain Home School District!

Mr. Schmeski extended congratulations to Wil Norris for being named as one of five finalists for Arkansas Activities Association Interscholastic Star. He was selected because of his demonstration of the "Three A's" – Active Involvement in school and community activities; Adaptability to meet challenging situations with courage, perseverance, and commitment; and an Attitude of cooperation, dependability and application of interpersonal skills. Wil is a standout in Cross Country and Track and is a member of Key Club, National Honor Society, St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church Youth Council, and Jr. Class Vice President.

Mr. VanDolah said that this year, seven students from Mountain Home High School Career Academies have been selected to attend the 2011 Arkansas Governor's School. Those selected are Shannon Davis, Drama; Matthew Dunn, Social Science; Krystal Johnson, Math; Daniel Key, Instrumental Music; Morgan Leach, Natural Science; Christine Lee, Instrumental Music; and Mayra Ramirez, Natural Science. Selection for Governor's School is based on a combination of ability and interest and is highly competitive. The four-week intensive program is in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year. This year Governor's School received almost 600 applications from 98 schools, representing 45 counties. The Arkansas Governor's School program is designed for only 400 students, so the competition is strong.

Mr. Pendergrass stated that the High School Quiz Bowl team has finished their season. They went to the Inter-Scholastic Competition at Missouri State University in West

Plains on Friday, April 1, 2011 and won eight gold, seven silver, and five bronze medals for individual scores; took first in 6A schools; and took first overall for the entire competition. They then returned to school to get back on a bus to go to Van Buren, AR to the State High School Quiz Bowl tournament. They played well during the preliminary competition, but lost during the first round in the finals. It was a great year and their coach, Mrs. Gonten, as well as the MHHS is very proud of how well they did for the year.

Ms. House said the Mountain Home High School Career Academies is proud to be sending their top two seniors (based on the 7-semester transcript) – Robert Forrest Lowery and Katherine Elizabeth Wilson to the Annual Governor’s Scholastic Honors Day which will be held in Little Rock on May 7, 2011. This is a day where Arkansas recognizes the best and brightest of the class of 2011. In addition, activities will include touring the Governor’s Mansion and its landscaped gardens and refreshments. This is a wonderful honor and a press release will be provided to the Baxter Bulletin by the Governor’s staff.

## **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 March 31, 2011. We ended the month with total fund balances of \$10,274,112.18

Ms. Harned went over the page on Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for the month ended March 31, 2011. Current revenues and incoming transfers are the Teacher Salary Fund \$1,167,655.48, Operating Fund \$1,360,795.78, Building Fund \$4,035.05, Federal Grants Fund \$329,935.73 and Food Service Fund \$240,319.37 for a total current revenues and incoming transfers of \$3,102,741.41. Expenditures and outgoing transfers in the current column are Teacher Salary Fund \$1,167,655.48, Operating Fund \$2,149,172.12, Building Fund \$896,585.45, Federal Grants Fund \$265,719.12 and Food Service Fund \$126,779.23 for a total current expenditures and outgoing transfers of \$4,605,911.40.

Ms. Harned went over the Changes in Activity Funds and the Summary of Bond Issue. She noted that the large increase to Pinkston Middle School Activity Fund was due to funds received for space camp.

### **School and Department Reports**

Mr. Nelson noted the that according to the Enrollment Report are numbers are up which is good. He asked if there were any questions or comments on those reports. There were none.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

### **Copy Machine Bids – Ann Harned**

Ms. Harned addressed the Board concerning copies and printer equipment contracts for the District. By a three-year term end, our large machines are worn out. Sealed bids were invited and opened on Thursday, April 14, 2011. Ms. Harned provided the Board with a matrix of various options on the machines. Four of the bidders gave proposals that met all

the specs requested. After some discussion Ms. Harned recommended that the Board accept Bidder #4 (Copy Products) on a 3 year lease option.

### **Motion to Accept Copier Bid**

Mr. Pendergrass made the motion to accept the three year lease option from Bidder #4 (Copy Products). The motion was seconded by Mr. Bergman.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **Issuance of Second Lien Bonds – Ann Harned**

Ms. Harned stated the Board voted to apply for the Qualified School Construction Bonds through the Arkansas Department of Education. The State recently released the allocation of those bonds and the District has been allocated \$925,000.00. The District will need to issue second lien bonds to fund that indebtedness. The mills for a second lien bond have already been approved by voters, so a second vote is not necessary, only Board action.

Ms. Harned recommended that the Board approve a resolution the authorized Stepes, Inc. to file an application with the State Board of Education for the issuance of Second Lien Bonds in the amount of \$925,000.00

### **Motion to Invest Bond Proceeds**

Mr. Strider made the motion that to approve a resolution which authorizes Stephens, Inc., to file an application for the issuance of Second Lien Bonds in the amount of \$925,000.00. The motion was seconded by Ms. House.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

### **Personnel Policy Proposals Sections 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7 – Dr. Leigh Anne Gigliotti**

Dr. Gigliotti stated that due to the changes in law that occurred during the last legislative session is necessary to make some changes to our current Board policy. The recommended changes to the policies will bring the District in compliance with Arkansas Law.

#### **Policies Changed or Added:**

**1.14—MEETING AGENDA** – A sentence was added to specify that advance notice for agenda items does not apply to special board meetings.

**1.18—DISTRICT AUDITS** – This is a new policy designed to alert board members to their role in reviewing District audits.

#### **3.19 and A-1 (MH) – CERTIFIED PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT/ APPENDIX A-1**

"Certified employees within the district will be given priority consideration in filling said positions, if said employee is equally or better qualified than other candidates and meets the qualifications of 3.19C." Appendix A-1 explains the hiring procedures of MHPS. Both 3.19 and A-1 have been reviewed and approved by MH PPC.

**4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS** – The birth date for kindergarten enrollment eligibility has been changed to August 1. This is the final step in the rollback of the enrollment date. The

paragraph that dealt with the exception for previously enrolled Pre-K students with a birth date no later than September 15 no longer applies and has been deleted.

**4.3—COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS** - The birth date for kindergarten enrollment eligibility has been changed to August 1. This is the final step in the rollback of the enrollment date.

**4.7—ABSENCES** – An additional sentence has been added to #1 on page one designed to help stem the abuse of excused absences due to less than real “illness.”

**4.23—TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS** – A sentence was added to address the use of electronic cigarettes.

**4.26—GANGS AND GANG ACTIVITY** – A formatting error in the policy has been corrected.

**4.43—BULLYING** – The USDOE Office for Civil Rights has issued new guidelines expanding bullying to include types of sexual harassment. Language has been added correlating to the Guidance.

**4.45—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASSES OF 2010-11, 2011-12, AND 2012-13** – Language has been changed to align with the Standards Assurance’s concerns about the policy’s previous wording regarding credits to graduate.

**4.45.1—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2013-14 AND ALL CLASSES THEREAFTER** – Language has been changed to align with the Standards Assurance’s concerns about the policy’s previous wording regarding credits to graduate.

**5.15—GRADING** – Language has been added to allow for the blending of final grades for transfer students.

**5.16—GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASSES OF 2010-11, 2011-12, AND 2012-13** – Language has been changed to align with the Standards Assurance’s concerns about the policy’s previous wording regarding credits to graduate.

**5.16.1—GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2013-14 AND ALL CLASSES THEREAFTER** – Language has been changed to align with the Standards Assurance’s concerns about the policy’s previous wording regarding credits to graduate.

**7.15—SERVICE ANIMALS IN DISTRICT FACILITIES** – This is a new policy required by new federal rules written due to changes in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

After reviewing each change in policy, Dr. Gigliotti recommended the Board accept the changes to comply with Arkansas Law.

### **Motion to Accept Changes to Policy**

The motion was made by Mr. Bergman to accept the changed to Board Policy as recommended. Mr. Schmeski seconded the motion.

The motion passed by unanimous consent. The Board thanked everyone who worked on the policies.

Dr. Gigliotti introduced Ms. Martin who, along with the rest of the Personnel Policy Committee, had worked tirelessly on the calendar recommendations. Ms. Martin began by stating that she was very proud to be a part of this District and took this job very personally to provide the very best for their kids. She stated that she was the co-secretary for the PPC and was representative for Ms. Teems, the chairperson of the committee. Every year the PPC recommends a possible calendar for the upcoming school year to make it easier for the Board to see the preferences of the teachers and staff.

Ms. Martin provided with a color printout of the two calendars that were closest in votes, Option B and Option C. She pointed out the differences in each calendar. There was some discussion that followed. Dr. Gigliotti recommended that the Board approve Calendar Option C.

### **Motion to Approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar**

The motion was made by Mr. Strider and seconded by Mr. VanDolah to approve Calendar Option C as the school calendar for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Superintendent's Update – Dr. Lonnie Myers**

Dr. Myers stated that 30-45 days from now they needed to have a work session for the purpose of working on the stimulus/QSCB projects. Representative from Baldwin and Shell along with Mike Walker needed to be available for the meeting. The Board agreed to meet for a work session to look at how to spend these funds.

Mr. Strider stated that he attended the Fiddler on the Roof production by the Mountain Home Junior High Drama group and was very impressed. He stated that the students and Ms. Hickey had done a wonderful job.

### **A break was taken at 7:21 p.m.**

### **Executive Session Results – 8:43 p.m.**

### **Recommendation on Certified Staff – Dr. Lonnie Myers**

Dr. Myers recommended that the Board approve the recommendations as noted on the certified staff sheet.

### **Motion on Certified Staff**

Mr. Schmeski made the motion, seconded by Ms. House to approve recommendations as noted on the certified staff sheet.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Recommendation on Classified Staff – Dr. Lonnie Myers**

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

### **Motion on Classified Staff As Amended**

Mr. Strider made the motion seconded by Mr. Bergman to approve the recommendation of Dr. Scriber classified staff as listed on the classified staff sheet as amended.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Strider made the motion seconded by Mr. VanDolah to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Robert Nelson, President

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Ben Strider, Secretary