

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

July 14, 2011

The following members of the Board were present for the meeting: Robert Nelson, Steve Bergman, Jason Schmeski, Doug VanDolah, Lisa House, Ben Strider and Neal Pendergrass. 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 led the group in the pledge of the allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Strider made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pendergrass to approve the agenda.

The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pendergrass made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bergman to approve and the minutes of the June 16, 2011 and the June 27, 2011 Board meetings.

The motion was carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Financial Reports– Ann Harned

Ms. Harned, Business Manager, referred Board members to page IIA for the Statement of Changes in Fund Balance ending June 30, 2011. We ended the month with total fund balances of \$8,635,045.00. Ms. Harned explained the zero balances in Fund 1000, 1246, 1275, 1276, 1281, and 2000. The State requires that as we come to the fiscal year end the 1000 and 2000 with a zero balance. At the beginning of the 2011-12 school year the state would like to see the ADM (Average Daily Membership) of students times the State Foundation Funding. That will be one journal entry. This is required by the legislature and will allow the State to make sure that districts are actually using students funds for what they are designed for.

Our carryover each year is the operating fund balance without the categorical funds. That is Funds listed under 1000, 2000 and 4000 without adding in Funds 2223, 2275, 2276 and 2281. We have had an increase of \$600,000.00 in our carryover this year. We currently have a carry-over of \$2.8 million. We are gradually making progress toward the healthy carry over of 3.2 million. Dr. Myers stated that it was his understanding from Ms. Harned that two years ago we were at 1.6 million carry over and before that it was merely 1 million.

Ms. Harned went over the page on Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for the month ended June 30, 2011. Current revenues and incoming transfers are the Teacher Salary Fund \$2,462,604.33, Operating Fund \$3,975,159.85, Building Fund \$24,961.19, Federal Grants Fund \$1,166,582.42 and Food Service Fund \$385,653.23 for a total current revenues and incoming transfers of \$8,014,961.02. Expenditures and outgoing

transfers in the current column are Teacher Salary Fund \$2,462,604.33 Operating Fund \$6,398,690.47, Building Fund \$558,525.03, Federal Grants Fund \$751,304.76 and Food Service Fund \$265,482.02 for total current expenditures and outgoing transfers of \$10,436,768.29.

Ms. Harned went over the State of Changes in Activity Funds and noted the year end activities, awards and field trips.

Ms. Harned went over the final account of the Summary of Bond Issue Activity cumulative as of June 30, 2011. Mr. Strider stated that he liked the format of this report and would like one similar for the QSCB money if that was possible. Ms. Harned said that would be possible.

Preliminary Benchmark Test Results – Dr. Gigliotti

Dr. Myers began by stating that he would like to present a little bit of data to show the public at each board meeting. This is the first attempt at providing that. He referred to Dr. Gigliotti who addressed the Board on the Preliminary Benchmark Test Results of Combined Populations. The report was in the Board book and Dr. Gigliotti it was a summative preliminary report and did not include sub-populations. This was a snap-shot of our district performance.

Dr. Gigliotti pointed out that in Math we were above state scores in all grade levels. We did meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in all levels as well. In grade 5, 90% of our students scored proficient and advanced.

In Literacy, we were above state scores in all grade levels. We did meet AYP in all grade levels with the exception of 7th grade. In grade 7, 90% of our students scores proficient and advanced.

Dr. Gigliotti went on to say that we may be able to increase the AYP status of 7th grade after appeals are made. This report does not include special education or other sub populations and they can change our total scores.

Using Data to Drive Decision – Dr. Gigliotti

Referencing the report on the preliminary benchmark results, Dr. Gigliotti stated that we are using data that we have on each student to drive decisions to move each student forward academically. During the 2010-11 school year, two school sites created *data walls*. Data walls consist of cards that are created for each student with stickers indicating whether or not they are on grade level, emerging or at-risk. The cards give the instructor a visual aid to helping each student. Other buildings will be implementing the data walls in the coming school year.

Ms. House mentioned that this might be something to present at the ASBA conference in Little Rock. It was a great example of *every student – every time*. Dr. Gigliotti will look into necessary steps to make a presentation at the Arkansas School Board Conference.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Meal Price Increase – Debbie Braunagel

Ms. Braunagel stated that reimbursement from the State for a full price student lunch in the 2010-2011 school year was \$.26. The actual cost of the student full price meal for grades K-7

is \$1.75 and grades 8-12 is @.26. The reimbursement we received from a free meal is \$2.72. Food service was informed by USDA that free meals cannot support the price of paid lunches. The difference is \$.46 per meal at the 8-12 grade level.

Ms. Braunagel recommended that the meal price for a paid student should go up \$.05 for the 2011-2012 school year. Price for a full paid student at K-7 level should be \$1.80 and 8-12 level should be \$2.05. This is a yearly process until the full price lunches equal the free reimbursement

Motion to Increase Student Meals

Mr. Pendergrass made the motion to increase the price K-7 student lunch to \$1.80 and a 8-12 student lunch to \$2.05. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strider.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Disposal of Hobart Mixer – Ms. Debbie Braunagel

Ms. Braunagel stated that the Flippin School District had requested to buy the Hobart industrial mixer that is now located at the Guy Berry kitchen. The mixer has not been used by the Mountain Home School District since the Guy Berry kitchen closed and is 35-40 years old. The mixer could be refurbished and used again according to the Hobart company.

It is our policy to present commodities that are no longer of use to the District to the Board for an authorized sale at the fair market value. Ms. Braunagel stated that she had contacted the Hobart company for a fair market value of the mixer and they suggested \$2,000.00. Ms. Braunagel recommended that the Board approve the sale of the Hobart mixer to the Flippin School District for the total amount of \$2,000.00.

Motion to Dispose of Hobart Mixer

Ms. House made the motion to accept the fair market value of \$2,000.00 for the Hobart mixer from Flippin School District. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bergman.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Revision of Athletic Department Handbooks – Mr. George Sitkowski

Mr. Nelson recognized Mr. George Sitkowski, assistant principal of the Mountain Home High School, who was presenting the athletic handbooks for Ms. Janet Wood, athletic director. Mr. Sitkowski stated that handbooks are normally proposed in July to give the committee the opportunity to review anything that might need adjustment in the program during all sports, including the spring sports. The committee this year was made up of the following:

Ms. Lisa House, Board Member\
Mr. Hilary Adams, Parent
Coach Lindsey Larry Leonard
Coach Ronnie Blevins
Coach Janet Wood, Athletic Director
Mr. George Sitkowski, Asst. Principal, High School

Mr. Sitkowski stated that he was available for questions to the handbooks the Board had on the books they had received.

There was some discussion about drug testing. Mr. Sitkowski stated that each athlete will be tested prior to their season sport. The reason for that decision is to establish where the student is right at the beginning of the sport season they are participating in. All athletes, in season or out are subject to random drug testing as they always have been in the past.

Mr. Bergman noted there was an omission of the word “building” on page 3 of the Athlete Parent Handbook under *V. DISCIPLINE POLICY, 1. First Violation a.*

He stated that the first sentence should read: “Determined by building administrative recommendation ranging from possible suspension from school, referral to the College and Career Academy, referral to legal authorities for possible prosecution, etc. (per student handbook).”

Mr. Sitkowski noted the omission and stated that would be changed before the books went out.

Motion to Revise Athletic Handbooks

Mr. Bergman made a motion to approve the revisions for both of the athletic handbooks presented, (i.e. Coaches Handbook and Athlete/Parent Handbook) with the correction noted for the word omission on page 3 of the Athlete/Parent Handbook. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schmeski.

The motion carried unanimously.

Bid For Inside Data and Fiber Optic Relocation at Nelson-Wilks-Herron – Mr. Mike Walker

Mr. Walker stated that with the new construction and remodeling at the NWH offices the network hub and switches need to be relocated from the south wing library to a new location. In order to proceed with computer service to the new areas of the building, new fiber optic relocation is necessary. Mr. Walker recommended that the Board approve the only bid received in the amount of \$59,849.58. This bid price includes labor and material for the relocation of the fiber optic wiring.

Mr. Keith Alman, addressed the technology aspect of the bid. He stated that there have been two separate networks set up at NWH. By moving forward with this particular bid, the District will be solving issues that have been going on for a long time. This will clean up problems and bring the old and new wiring up to speed. The wireless system will also integrate seamlessly into this structure. This meets the Department of Education standards.

There was some discussion about whether or not we expected this. Mr. Walker stated that we did expect this to come up, we just didn't know how expensive it would be. Dr. Myers stated that we are in good shape at this building financially and we can handle this expense.

It was noted that this bid does not include F and C hall. It also does not include the cable t.v. which is an animal all its own. There is a network t.v. that will need to be relocated in the new media center. Mr. Walker stated that he had met with the phone company today (Mr. Johnny Scott) and they have a board in the same closet as the network that can be relocated and the District will not be charged for that relocation fee.

There was more discussion about what is included in the Baldwin and Shell contract. Mr. Walker stated that Baldwin and Shell always excludes fiber optic and asbestos. This project will be paid for out of construction money on the bonds.

Motion to Accept Bid for Inside Date and Fiber Optic Relocation at Nelson-Wilks-Herron

The motion was made by Mr. Pendergrass and seconded by Mr. Schmeski to accept the single bid of \$59,840/58 for all labor and material for the relocation of fiber optic wiring in Nelson-Wilks-Herron.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Sewer Work in Connection with Gym Renovation – Mr. Mike Walker

Mr. Walker stated that on February 22, 2011, the District Facilities Committee reported on various projects for consideration by the Board to be paid for out of Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) money. On June 16, 2011 the Board approved a motion to move forward with the project list as prioritized. The first project on the prioritized list was the locker-room sewage problem located in the old high school gymnasium.

After a lengthy investigation of the problem, a decision was made to cap one of the sewage lines and divert the sewage underneath the old gymnasium. What they originally thought could take hundreds of thousands of dollars could be averted with this solution. By capping off this particular sewage line, a high percentage of the sewage going underneath the old gym will be eliminated. The only sewage they anticipate still running in that direction would be the bathroom from the med pro-ed classroom. In comparison, the sewage that has been going to that line has come from the high school kitchen, the CBI room, the science lab and the student commons area.

The information from the engineer was not received until July 8, and according to Board policy the earliest bid opening date after running an ad in the local paper would be July 19. Since the next regular Board meeting does not take place until August 18 school would already be started before work could begin on this project.

State law requires that the lowest bidder must be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances. Since timing is crucial, Mr. Walker requested that the Board authorize the Superintendent to accept the lowest bidder for the high school old gym locker room renovation as soon as bids are received on July 19th.

Mr. Pendergrass questioned whether to Board could legally make a motion to authorize the superintendent. Some discussion followed. Dr. Myers assured the Board that legal counsel would be consulted and the Board would be advised if they needed to meet again for approval of the lowest bidder. Some discussion took place about the date. Dr. Myers stated that he would be at a HSTW (High Schools That Work) conference beginning July 19th and would be unavailable in person. The Board could meet and teleconference Dr. Myers.

Motion to Appoint Superintendent Pending Approval of Legal Counsel

Mr. Strider made the motion to authorize the Superintendent to accept the lowest bidder pending approval from legal counsel. If legal counsel recommended that the Board reconvene for a decision, the Board could meet at noon on Tuesday, July 19th for the purpose of approving the low bidder and moving on with the project. The motion was seconded by Ms. House.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request to Partner with the City to Resurface Parking Lot at Guy Berry Learning Center – Mr. Mike Walker

Mr. Walker stated that the City of Mountain Home had been replacing the water/sewer lines around an area of Guy Berry and in doing so, portions of our parking lots at the site were destroyed. The City will be repairing the streets in this area which were damaged by the replacement of the lines. The City and has agreed to replace a portion of our parking lots as well at the measure of five feet into each parking lot at their expense. The City has also proposed to replace the remaining footage in each of the five parking areas at the same time for a cost of \$12,880.00.

Mr. Walker recommended that the Board approve the partnership with the City to replace the remaining portions of five parking lots for the total cost to the District of \$12,880.00. It was noted that these lots will be concrete and not asphalt allowing for a greater number of years usage.

There was some discussion about where the money would come from for this project. Ms. Harned stated that there was money budgeted each year in capital outlay (Fund 5000) for these types of projects.

Motion to Partner with City to Resurface Parking Lot at Guy Berry Learning Center

Mr. Bergman made the motion to approve the partnership with the City to resurface five parking lots located at Guy Berry Learning Center for the total cost of \$12,880.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schmeski.

The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Update – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers stated that on December 11-14 has been designated as the time that we will be hosting the AdvancED accreditation team in our District. This visit will become a big part our continuing to achieving excellence in our District. We have data, we have our mission and vision, and we have a lot of documentation to back up what we say we do.

Dr. Myers noted that two of his recent Harding students were in the members present for the Board meeting this evening. He recognized Dixie Mahmud and Lynette Cooper, teachers at the middle school level, who he had the privilege to teach in a June class. He expressed how fulfilling it was to instruct the class for Harding.

There was Board discussion about the upcoming Arkansas School Board Association conference in December. Mr. Pendergrass noted that he would be happy to provide information to the association on behalf of the District with regard to the data walls. Dr. Gigliotti and Dr. Myers will fill out the paperwork for that.

A break was taken at 7:16 p.m.

Executive Session Results – 8:14 p.m.

Recommendation on Certified Staff – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers recommended that the Board approve the certified staff recommendations as reflected on the Certified Staff sheet.

Motion on Certified Staff Recommendations

Mr. Bergman made the motion, seconded by Mr. VanDolah to approve recommendations by Dr. Myers for certified staff as reflected on the Certified Staff sheet.

The motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation on Classified Staff – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers recommended that the Board approve the classified staff recommendations as reflected on the Classified Staff sheet.

Motion on Classified Staff

Mr. Strider made the motion, seconded by Mr. VanDolah to approve recommendations by Dr. Myers for classified staff as reflected on the Classified Staff sheet.

Six members voted for the motion. Mr. Schmeski voted against the motion. The motion carried.

Recommendation on Changes to Activity Stipends – Dr. Myers

Dr. Myers recommended changes to individual contracts as reflected on the Stipend sheet.

Motion Change Activity Stipends

Mr. Schmeski made the motion, seconded by Ms. Strider to accept the changes to individual contracts as listed on the Stipend sheet.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Robert Nelson, President

Ben Strider, Secretary