

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

October 27, 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. Rita Persons, Assistant Principal of Nelson-Wilks-Herron Elementary. She brought the Ambassadors from the second grade along with Ms. Debbie Sabo, counselor to lead in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Dr. Myers addressed the business of electing a new Board president. He asked for nominations for President of the Mountain Home School Board for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Nelson nominated Mr. Schmeski to serve as president. There were no other nominations. Mr. Bergman seconded the nomination. Mr. Schmeski was elected President by acclamation.

ELECTION OF 2011-2012 OFFICERS

Mr. Schmeski asked for nominations for Vice-President. Ms. House nominated Mr. Strider as Vice President. There were no other nominations for the position. Mr. VanDolah seconded the nomination. Mr. Schmeski was elected Vice-President by unanimous consent.

Mr. Schmeski asked for nominations for Board Secretary. Mr. Pendergrass nominated Ms. Lisa House for the position of Board Secretary. Mr. Nelson seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and Ms. House was elected Board Secretary by unanimous consent.

BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED TO COMMITTEES

Mr. Schmeski, as President, appointed the Board members to serve as representatives on the various committees of the Mountain Home School District for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Nelson – PPC – (Certified Personnel Policy Committee)
Mr. Bergman – T.A.C. – (Teacher Advisory Committee)
Mr. VanDolah – P.I.E. – (Partners In Education)
Ms. House – Technology Committee
Mr. Pendergrass – Curriculum Committee
Mr. Strider – CPPC – (Classified Personnel Policy Committee)
Mr. Schmeski – Finance Committee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Mr. Pendergrass made a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes of the September 7, September 15 and October 5. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bergman.

The motion was unanimously approved.

POSITIVE NOTES

Mr. Schmeski stated thanked the Mountain Home Rotary Club who recently sponsored the “Choices” Program at the junior high. Students circulated through several rotations that focused on creating life-long habits that will positively impact their futures. The interactive rotations were taught by ten local Rotarians who did an excellent job engaging our students.

Mr. Strider stated that Mr. Tim Nelson’s music students at Nelson-Wilks-Herron Elementary are excited about the new mini hi-fi Stereo System and Apple I-pod funded through a grant from the Mountain Home Education Foundation. In the past his students have worked with a group of 2nd grade students in Australia. Each sent a folk song from their country to the other class, created instrumental accompaniment for a song, performed the song then sent a video/audio recording back to the other class. Now with more modern playback equipment the exchanges between the two classes will be reduced to make future “song swap” projects even more possible. He stated that technology is wonderful.

Mr. Bergman said the Hackler students are learning about saving the habitat of woodland creatures. Students are learning the value of their environment and how they can affect it in a positive way. Students in Wendy Spivey, Becca Martin & Lindsay Kincade’s 4th grade classes participated in a wide range of activities including writing thank you letters to a tree for all the products they provide, creating poet-tree, and recycling old worksheets into handmade paper.

Mr. Nelson thanked DonorsChoose.org for funding a total of \$1,367.06 towards Pinkston’s Science Department. Mr. Fisher will be receiving 5 Carolina Triple Beam Balance scales. Mrs. Biggs is receiving funding for 8 different types of lab supplies for a “Discovery and Inquiry” project. Ms. Kelsh is being funded for “A Cut Above” project and Ms. Meissner’s “Everyday Labs” will receive funding for 8 different types of supplies. All of the labs will help assist students to further engage in the science curriculum.

Mr. VanDolah congratulated the Lady Bomber volleyball team who advanced to the semi-finals yesterday in the state conference and won in today’s games advancing them to the finals. The finals are set for Saturday at 3:00 p.m. at Conway High School.

Mr. Pendergrass extended thanks to Ms. Jones and Ms. Czanstkowski who recently led an internet safety presentation for students. The presentation centered on securing both personal and financial data, as well as a person’s “Electronic Fingerprint” when using the internet.

Thanks to Sgt. John A. Crain who spent time with Pinkston Middle School students sharing stories of what life was like as a civil war soldier. He showed students lead bullets, a cannon ball, a hat from the north and a hat from the south. Sgt. Crain clarified that a soldier used the bayonet more for a tool than a weapon. He showed students how to load a Confederate Musket and explained that a soldier would have to “bite the bullet” before loading. Once the students

saw the entire procedure for one shot, he then said, “a good soldier could shoot three times in a minute.” Students were amazed!

Mr. Pendergrass thanked Mr. Robert Nelson for his service to the board the last two fiscal years. During his tenure they worked through building projects for the district and hired a new superintendent. He stated that Mr. Nelson did a fantastic job as president.

Financial Reports– Ann Harned

Ms. Ann Harned, Business Manager, referred Board members to page IIA for the Statement of Changes in Fund Balance ending September 30, 2011. We ended the month with total fund balances of \$6,421,093.67 as reflected at the bottom of the page and in the Distribution of Funds box to the right of the spreadsheet. Ms. Harned noted the District received all their money in Fund 223 for the 2011-12 school year. We also received the second funding for QSCB in 3130. In addition \$525,000.00 was received today in stimulus funding for ARRA.

Ms. Harned went over the page on Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for the month ended September 30, 2011. Current revenues and incoming transfers are the Teacher Salary Fund \$1,151,356.71, Operating Fund \$1,999,957.88, Building Fund \$188,703.29, Debt Service Fund \$3,895.00, Federal Grants Fund \$682,143.29 and Food Service Fund \$38,850.68 for a total current revenues and incoming transfers of \$4,061,606.85. Expenditures and outgoing transfers in the current column are Teacher Salary Fund \$1,151,356.71 Operating Fund \$2,298,563.20, Building Fund \$494,166.24, Debt Service Fund \$3,895.00 which is the closing costs on the QSCB (Qualified School Construction Bonds), Federal Grants Fund \$4,307.76 and Food Service Fund \$156,793.85 for a total current expenditures and outgoing transfers of \$5,072,441.85.

Ms. Harned reported on the Bond Issue Activity sheet ending September 30, 2011. According to the (GMP) for the building projects which include building costs and architect fees there is still \$1,122,000.00 left to complete the Nelson-Wilks-Herron project. Furnishings for that building are not covered in the GMP.

The final report was the Summary of QSCB activity as of September 30, 2011. Ms. Harned pointed out that the \$18,500.00 listed in closing costs does not count toward the 10% of what has to be spent by December.

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC – Dr. Leigh Anne Gigliotti

Mr. Schmeski referred to Dr. Gigliotti for the Report to the Public. The Board heard reports from the following buildings and departments:

- Kindergarten – Dr. Leigh Anne Gigliotti stood in for Ms. Vanessa Thomas
- Nelson-Wilks-Herron – Ms. Rita Persons
- Hackler Intermediate School – Ms. Sondra Monger
- Pinkston Middle School – Ms. Michele McWilliams
- Mountain Home Junior High School – Mr. Ron Czanstkowski
- Mountain Home High School – Ms. Dana Brown
- Special Education Department – Ms. Debbie Atkinson
- Guy Berry College and Career Academy – Mr. Jeff Kincade
- Federal Programs - Dr. Leigh Anne Gigliotti stood in for Ms. Dorothy Cook
- Technology – Mr. Keith Alman

A copy of the power point in its entirety is a made a part of these official minutes.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Staff Bonuses Resulting from Education Jobs Fund Program – Ann Harned

Ms. Harned addressed the Board concerning the Ed Jobs program (“EJFP”) that President Obama signed into law in August, 2010. The board already recognized that the efforts of all employees in education our students through the use of a bonus structuring two school years last year. The first bonus of \$600.00 was paid to regular contracted employees in December 2010. Approximately two dozen employees are specifically excluded from this program funding. Bonuses for those employees without direct student contact are also deemed appropriate and will be covered by operating funds released due to the allocation of one staff salary to this program.

Ms. Harned recommended that the Board approve the distribution of the bonus to all district employees under contract as of November 2011 to be paid November before the Thanksgiving break.

Motion to Approve Staff

Mr. Nelson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bergman to approve the distribution of a \$600.00 bonus to be paid to all regular district employees under contract in November 2011.

The motion carried unanimously.

Related Party Disclosures – Ann Harned

Arkansas Act 1599 requires school district to make known to the public any potential transactions with related parties. The state imposes tighter restrictions on administrators and board members than it does on employees of the district. Some of our employees, administrators and board members qualify as related parties. Ms. Harned recommended that the Board approval a resolution to do business with vendors that have related interest to board members.

Related Party Disclosure for First Security Bank – Ms. Harned

Ms. Harned asked for the approval from the Board to do business with First Security Bank. The related board member is Mr. Robert Nelson. Mr. Nelson was asked to leave the meeting for the vote.

Motion to Do Business with First Security Bank

The motion was made by Mr. Strider and seconded by Mr. Pendergrass to do business with First Security Bank.

The motion carried unanimously.

Related Party Disclosure for Strider Consulting - Ms. Harned

Ms. Harned recommended the Board approve a resolution to do business with Strider Consulting. Related board member, Mr. Ben Strider, was asked to leave the meeting.

Motion to Do Business with Strider Consulting

Mr. Pendergrass made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve a resolution to do business with Strider Consulting.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Related Party Disclosure for White River Petroleum – Ms. Harned

Ms. Harned recommended the Board approve a resolution to do business with White River Petroleum. The related Board member, Mr. Neal Pendergrass, was asked to leave the meeting.

Motion to Do Business with White River Petroleum

Mr. Bergman made a motion, seconded by Mr. VanDolah, to approve a resolution to do business with White River Petroleum.

The motion carried unanimously.

Related Party Disclosure for General Water Conditioning – Ms. Harned

Ms. Harned asked for the approval from the Board to do business with General Water Conditioning. The related board member is Ms. Lisa House. Ms. House was asked to leave the meeting for the vote.

Motion to Do Business with General Water Conditioning

The motion was made by Mr. Strider and seconded by Mr. Nelson to do business with General Water Conditioning.

The motion carried unanimously.

Related Party Disclosure for 62 East Auto – Ms. Harned

Ms. Harned recommended the Board approve a resolution to do business with 62 East Auto. Related board member, Mr. Jason Schmeski, was not in attendance.

Motion to Do Business with 62 East Auto

Mr. Bergman made a motion, seconded by Mr. VanDolah to approve a resolution to do business with 62 East Auto as well as each other vendor listed as a related party to all other employees of the District.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Other related Party Disclosures – Ms. Harned

Ms. Harned stated that the full board action could be taken on the remaining vendor list. She recommended that the Board approve the rest of the vendors having related party interest to employees of the district.

Motion to Do Business Other Vendors as Listed

Mr. Strider made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pendergrass to approve a resolution to do business with 62 East Auto as well as each other vendor listed as a related party to all other employees of the District.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Amendment to Title VI-B Budget for 2011-2012 School Year – Ms. Harned

The Board adopted the operating budget for the 2011-2012 school year at the September 15 board meeting. Since that time, the Special Education department was notified that the Department of Education announced a larger than anticipated carryover in Title VI-B funding.

The Department of Education requires budgeting 100% of the Title VI carryover plus new funds, so there will be an increase of \$16,589.48 to the Special Education budget. Ms. Harned recommended that the Board approve the carryover funding in the Special Education budget increasing the final budget line to \$845,410.00.

Motion to Amend Title VI-B Budget

Mr. Nelson made the motion to amend the Title VI-B Budget increasing the final budget line in Special Education to \$845,410.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bergman.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Bid for Purchase of New Seating at Dunbar Auditorium – Mike Walker

Mr. Walker said he would like to seek the permission of the board to purchase new seating at Dunbar auditorium. The seating at Dunbar was on the original list of the projects for QSCB (Qualified School Construction Bonds). The first project on the list has been completed and the second project cannot be started until the summer of 2012. Mr. Walker checked with the architect to see if there would be funds available to finish the second project if we moved ahead to the Dunbar seating. He assured Mr. Walker there would be enough available and 10% of the QSCB money has to be obligated by December of 2011.

Bid specifications were issued and one bidder responded. Mr. Walker recommended to the Board that they accept the bid of \$161,057.00 for the replacement of seating at Dunbar auditorium. Mr. Walker pointed out to the Board that there is an alternate deduction in price of \$4,500.00 if the Board would like the District to dispose of the used seating rather than have the seating company dispose of it. Discussion followed.

Motion to Accept the Bid for New Seating at Dunbar Auditorium

Mr. Strider made a motion seconded by Mr. Nelson to accept the bid of \$161,057.00 for the replacement seating at Dunbar Auditorium.

The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Update – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers commended the work of Mr. Robert Nelson as the Board president for the last year and for his leadership in his first year as superintendent.

A break was taken at 7:43 p.m.

Executive Session Results – 8:37 p.m.

Recommendation on Classified Staff – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers recommended that the Board approve the retirements, resignations and employment of the classified staff as listed on the classified staff sheet.

Motion on Classified Staff

Mr. Schmeski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Strider, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve retirements, resignations and employment of classified staff as listed on the classified staff sheet.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Recommendation on Certified Staff – Dr. Lonnie Myers

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

Motion on Certified Staff

Mr. Bergman made a motion, seconded by Mr. VanDolah, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve retirements, resignations and employment of certified staff as listed on the certified staff sheet.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Recommendation on Classified Staff – Dr. Lonnie Myers

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

Motion on Classified Staff

Mr. Strider made a motion, seconded by Ms House, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the recommendations as listed on classified staff sheet.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Recommendation on Stipends – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers recommended that the Board approve the recommendations of the stipends for employees as listed on the stipend activity sheet.

Motion on Stipends

Mr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pendergrass, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the recommendations as listed on stipend activity sheet.

The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Strider made the motion seconded by Mr. Pendergrass to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jason Schmeski, President

Lisa House, Secretary