

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

November 17, 2011

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Sondra Monger, Principal of Hackler Intermediate School, escorted students of employees at Hackler Intermediate to lead in the pledge to the flag. The following students were present:

Shep, Emma and Ashlynn Martin (children of Becca Martin)
Hayden, Katy and Lauren Strider (children of Laura Strider)
Georgia and Tanner Burnham (children of Marcie Burnham)
Adam and Abby Fowler (children of Cassy Fowler)
Lindsay Dunnavan (adopted by Cassy for the evening)
Taylor, Geoffrey and Brianna Mahmud (children of Dixie Mahmud)
Maddie and Gavin Belk (children of Sharon Belk)
Whit and Ty Lawrence (children of Judy Lawrence)
Sheldon and Chesney Cooper (children of Lynette Cooper)
Jackson Steiner (son of Melissa Steiner)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Strider made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. VanDolah.

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2011 and November 9, 2011 Board meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bergman.

The motion was unanimously approved.

POSITIVE NOTES

Mr. Schmeski congratulated the Baxter Bomb Squad *FIRST* Robotics team who won the 4th Annual CowTown, ThrowDown in Kansas City last weekend. The Bomb Squad competed with 32 teams from Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Arkansas to win the Championship trophy. The team has won the event every year.

Mr. Strider extended thanks to parents who donated supplies and hosted the “Voyage” where seventh grade students in Mrs. Nelson’s math class designed and engineered watercrafts. Students planned their craft, developed a prototype, built the actual product, and tested the finished watercraft. Products were engineered from PVC pipe, plastic bags, duct tape, and empty plastic bottles. It has been an exciting adventure for students and parents.

Mr. Bergman noted that the library at Mountain Home Junior High School will be sponsoring a Virtual Book Fair from November 28th through December 9th. The online website features over 6 million books, movies and music cd's. Parents and students will be able to log-on to the website at school or at home and all of the items will be delivered to the school within 3 business days of the end of the book fair.

Mr. Nelson stated that Mountain Home Junior High hosted its annual "*Freedom is Not Free*" program to honor our country's veterans. The program is organized by social studies teacher Mr. George Zorman, who is a veteran himself. Mr. Zorman was assisted by his Pre-AP United States History classes, NJROTC cadets, several choir, drama, and band students. There were around 20 local veterans in attendance, as well as the entire 9th grade class. State Senator Johnny Key delivered a very motivational speech to the audience, and the American Legion Honor Guard performed an official 21 gun salute. The program included information about the meaning of the colors in our flag, as well as the meaning of each "fold" of the flag in a flag-folding ceremony.

Mr. VanDolah congratulated Mrs. Melissa Green, Nelson-Wilks-Herron Art teacher, on her recent selection as 2011 Rural Art Teacher winner by the local Apple Blossom Decorative Artist Club. Chapter president, Lorna Newburn, presented Ms. Green with a certificate and check for three hundred dollars.

Mr. Pendergrass stated that the Bombers Cross Country Team won state on Saturday, November 11th. It is the first time in 11 years for the boys to win state and only the second time in the history of the program. He extended congratulations to Wil Norris who was the overall state champ for 6A. Medalist included: Wil Norris, Josh Kruse, Daley Byrd, Ben Ritcheson, Samantha Mohler, Kelsie Harris, and Mackenzie Mohler.

Ms. House extended congratulations to 7th grade choir students Lauren Wilber, Amanda Crow, Gwen Poe, Dezi Rivera, Madison McGinnis, Brenna Cannon, Leila Nelson, and Makayla Smeenk. These students recently traveled to Paragould, Arkansas where they competed with over eight hundred 7th, 8th and the 9th graders in the Junior High All Region Choir tryouts in late October. They scored high enough to participate in the All-Region Clinic at ASU Jonesboro on Saturday, November 5, 2011.

Mr. Bergman congratulated Ms. Louise Hickey's eighth and ninth grade drama classes for their outstanding performance of the Sound of Music this past week. The amount of performance that Ms. Hickey is able to pull from those junior high students is awesome.

Financial Reports– Ann Harned

Ms. Ann Harned, Business Manager, referred Board members to page IIA for the Statement of Changes in Fund Balance ending October 31, 2011. We ended the month with total fund balances of \$8,088,370.88 as reflected at the bottom of the page and in the Distribution of Funds box to the right of the spreadsheet.

Ms. Harned went over the page on Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for the month ended October 31, 2011. Current revenues and incoming transfers are the Teacher Salary Fund \$1,159,307.30, Operating Fund \$3,828,612.30, Building Fund \$2,333.33, Federal Grants Fund \$956,503.98 and Food Service Fund \$120,968.05 for a total current revenues and incoming transfers of \$6,067,724.96. Expenditures and outgoing transfers in the current column are Teacher Salary Fund \$1,159,307.30 Operating Fund \$2,337,796.12, Building Fund \$321,560.33, Capital Outlay Fund \$21,756.93, Federal Grants Fund \$385,769.36 and Food Service Fund \$174,257.71 for a total current expenditures and outgoing transfers of \$4,400,447.75.

Ms. Harned stated there was a 10% increase from the check they received from the Baxter County Treasurer this year over last year.

Other reports that were reviewed by the Board included the Statement of Changes in Activity Funds, Summary of Bond Issue Activity, Summary of Building Projects and Summary of QSCB Building Projects and Activity.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

ACSIP Approval – Dorothy Cook

Ms. Cook stated that the law requires Board approval for ACSIP (Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan) for all campuses housed in the District. She expressed her thankfulness to all building representatives who helped in the process. The information had been submitted to the Board electronically for review. Ms. Cook requested that the Board approve the plan as submitted.

Motion to Accept ACSIP

Mr. Bergman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson to accept the ACSIP as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Pendergrass expressed his appreciation for all who worked on the plan. Mr. Bergman stated he was very impressed with how the dollars were being spent and congratulated Ms. Cook on a job well done.

Desktop Computers – Keith Alman

Mr. Alman stated that the technology plan provides for the replacement of 100 teacher/staff computers each year which provides for a four year rotation. Bids were collected according to policy and he recommended that the Board accept Bidder #4, the low bidder, in the total amount of \$73,306.16.

Motion to Purchase Desktop Computers

Mr. Pendergrass made a motion to purchase 100 desktop computers as provided for by technology plan and accept Bidder #4 for total amount of \$73,332.00. Mr. Strider seconded the motion. Some discussion followed.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Proposed Change to Policy Change 6.13 – Dr. Myers

Dr. Myers stated the Board currently has a policy that addresses rental and use of facilities. In the recent past, several parties have requested the use of our facilities for an extended period of time as well as an extended area of the building. In order to alleviate possible problems for long term rental, the administration looked over current policy to ensure that the facilities are maintained properly and our students will have the facilities available for extra-curricular activities. The Arkansas School Board Association attorney was consulted and a proposed change in the policy has been submitted for approval.

Dr. Myers recommended that the Board adopt changes to policy 6.13 to give principals leeway in the rental of their facilities. The form for use of facilities has already been updated to include the superintendent signature.

Motion to Approve Policy 6.13

Mr. Bergman made a motion to approve Policy 6.13 as presented. Mr. Pendergrass seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Classworks Remediation Program – Dorothy Cook

Ms. Cook addressed the Board concerning a software program that provides point-in-time remediation. It is meant for all students having difficulty mastering skills. The program is 100% web-based and has the ability to be used as enrichment and supplemental instruction due to the diversity of a group. Reports from the student progress can come directly to a teacher by smart phone with minute to minute updates.

The Board heard reports from six teachers who had researched the software and viewed a demonstration from a high school student. It was recommended that the Board approve a pilot program in one or all of the three schools represented (MHHS, MHJHS and GBCCA) with annual cost ranging from \$21,000.00 to \$38,000.00.

Motion to Approve Purchase of Classworks Remediation Program

Ms. House made a motion to purchase the software as presented for Guy Berry College and Career Academy, the High School and the Junior High School in the total annual amount of \$38,000.00. Mr. VanDolah seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of MHPS Strategy Map – Dr. Myers

Dr. Myers said the Strategic Council committee was formed at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year for the purpose of developing the mission, vision and belief system. The committee has continued to move forward by preparing a working strategy map to implement the district belief system. Dr. Myers recommended that the Board approve the strategy map as proposed.

Motion to Approve Strategy Map

Ms. House made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bergman, to approve the strategy map as recommended.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Update and Board Discussion– Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers congratulated the Cross Country Girls' team for placing second in the State. Mr. Strider praised Hackler Intermediate School on the tree planting ceremony that took place on November 2nd. The day included a well thought through skit presented on trees and recycling that was performed by GT students.

A break was taken at 7:32 p.m.

Executive Session Results – 8:17 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 Retirement

Mr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bergman, to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the retirement as listed.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Recommendation on Stipend – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers recommended that the Board approve the stipend as listed on the Stipend Activity sheet.

Motion on Stipend

Mr. Strider made a motion, seconded by Ms House, to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation of stipend.

The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Strider made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jason Schmeski, President

Lisa House, Secretary