

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LOCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT #26
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, BILLINGS, MT
REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Chair Susanne Vinton opened the regular meeting and called it to order at 7:00 p.m. The flags were presented and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

The following trustees and officers were present: Trustees Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Greg Bochy, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum, Superintendent Eileen Johnson and District Clerk Diane Brook.

Staff members present were Mike Bowman, Don Christman, Art Anderson, Mike Sullivan, and Pam Richau.

There were no registered guests.

Others present were Evelyn Pyburn, Beth Shumate, Leonard Orth, and Pam Malek.

Mrs. Vinton welcomed visitors and advised the following:

Any person present who wishes to address the board or raise any question about public school district matters or governing policies may do so under public participation. **No discussion of personnel or individual students is permitted at this time.** A limit of three minutes is placed on each speaker. Persons who want more time may make arrangements to be placed on a future agenda. The public is also reminded that they may provide input on all motions being considered by the board at this meeting.

INDIVIDUALS, DELEGATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE

A. Leonard Orth, Special Education Director for the Eastern Yellowstone Special Services Cooperative, was present to share information and answer questions about how the Special Education Co-op operates.

Leonard provided a PowerPoint presentation. He reported that over 90% of students served are within a 20 mile radius. He gave a five-year history of special education funding. The Co-op is one of the few in the state that flows monies back to member districts. One reason they are able to do that is because this Co-op has less travel than many Co-ops. It was also noted that it is very difficult to hire staff for the physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy positions. There is a real shortage of qualified people in these areas. Leonard also provided a brief explanation of the Surrogate Parent Law.

B. Shirley Pekovich, Emily Luebbe, and Sabrina Janzen (added after the agenda had been sent out) submitted letters of resignation effective at the end of this school year.

Copies of Shirley Pekovich's letter and that of Emily Luebbe were attached to the agenda. It was noted that Sabrina Janzen's letter had been received this morning. A copy was provided at the board meeting. The Board wished each of them well.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Facilities Director Art Anderson provided the update. He noted that the compressed building schedule may have caused some of the start-up problems. The sub contractors were stretched quite thin; thus they had some problems with delivery of their work. The general contractor is responding well to the problems. The design team is also very involved. The sub-contractors and suppliers have been responsive.

Art advised that they are moving forward with Bid Pack IV. Soon, there will be a walk-through to develop a mechanical punch list. They plan to load and stage the chiller during hot weather to see how it performs.

He noted that we have actually been fortunate to have occupied the building during this cold winter; we have been able to test all the systems very well.

Eileen advised that the problems had nothing to do with using the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) model for the project.

Art feels we ended up with a better building by using a CMAR for the project. The CMAR delivery is very beneficial in building out a project of this size. The contractor and architect have been able to work well together.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Approval of Minutes

Chair Vinton asked if there was any objection to the minutes as presented. Hearing none, the minutes of the January 13, 2009 regular board meeting were approved.

B. Approval of Bills for January

Chair Susanne Vinton asked if there was any objection to the bills and wages as presented. Hearing no objection, the bills and wages were approved. Becky asked about the First Student camera charges. Eileen advised that we are paying a portion of the total each month; they will be paid in full by the end of the year.

C. Approval of the Draft FWLP Grant, Resolution Authorizing Application for Land and Water Conservation Fund Assistance, Interlocal Agreement and Trails Grant

The Resolution Authorizing Application for Land and Water Conservation Fund Assistance was attached to the agenda. This resolution is needed so Beth Shumate can complete the final draft of the grant to develop part of the 15 acres on our east side.

Beth is also requesting approval to proceed with the Trails Grant. It is her intention to link them together to help with funding. It has a 20% match, which is pretty small. The grant ceiling on the Trails Grant is \$35,000.

Beth will meet with the personnel in the Yellowstone County Extension office again Friday to get further information about "in-kind" contributions from them for weed control and herbicide.

The possibility of involving student groups in clean-up activities for the area for more in-kind contributions was discussed. The proposed table of use was reviewed by those present. The trustees requested that the table be more detailed in showing the hours of public use.

Eileen advised that we actually have 15.6 acres not ten acres as thought previously.

There was discussion about additional fencing. It was noted that lighting would not be possible at this time. It may be possible for Phase II. Those present were unsure at this time about the possibility of including bathrooms in the Trails Grant. Continued maintenance was an item of concern.

Trustee Peter Freivalds moved to approve the Resolution Authorizing Application for Land and Water Conservation Fund Assistance and approval to pursue the Trails Grant. Trustee Greg Bochy seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Greg Bochy, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum voted affirmatively. The motion passed seven to zero.

Jason Hamrick moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement. Holly Sather seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Greg Bochy, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum voted affirmatively. The motion passed seven to zero.

Peter asked if the grant precludes the school from charging fees for use in the future. It does not; fees can be charged in the future.

D. Approval of Calendar for 2009-2010 School Year

The recommended calendar was attached to the agenda. Staff had input in its development.

Becky Malenowsky moved to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar as presented. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Greg Bochy, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum voted yes. The motion passed seven to zero.

E. Approval of Mail Ballot for the School Election

Duane Winslow, Yellowstone County Election Administrator, is recommending that the district initiate a mail ballot election which his office will conduct for the May 5, 2009 School Election. A copy of his letter was attached to the agenda.

Becky Malenowsky moved to approve initiating a mail ballot election for the May 5, 2009, School Election per the recommendation of Duane Winslow Yellowstone County Election Administrator, Diane Brook, and Eileen Johnson. Peter Freivalds seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Greg Bochy, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum voted aye. The motion passed seven to zero.

There was some general discussion about the elections and dates to call for a possible levy election.

F. Approval of New Policy in the Middle School Handbook Regarding Gang Activity

Jason Hamrick moved to approve the new policy regarding gang activity per the attachment to the agenda and to have such policy become a part of all district handbooks. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion.

Trustees Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Greg Bochy, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum voted affirmatively. The motion passed seven to zero.

G. Approval of Tuition Payment for Student Placed at Yellowstone Academy School District No. 58

Supt. Johnson recommended approval of the tuition payment for student T.B. to be placed at Yellowstone Academy District No. 58 (Boys and Girls Ranch). Funding for this comes from the Tuition Fund, which is a non-voted levy.

Greg Bochy moved to approve the tuition agreement to place student T.B. at Yellowstone Academy School District No. 58. Jason Hamrick seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Greg Bochy, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum voted aye. The motion passed seven to zero.

H. Request to Hire Substitutes

Peter Freivalds moved to hire substitute teachers Timothy Bastian, Jessica Billinger, Megan Jones, Julie Methot, Nick Ottoy, and Sara Roe, and support staff substitute Melanie Dart. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Greg Bochy, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum voted aye. The motion passed seven to zero.

DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Primary – Mr. Bowman had nothing to add to his written report.
- B. Intermediate - Mr. DeBoer was not present. It was noted that ExxonMobil is going to support three teachers in Grades 3-5 to go to the Math and Science Seminar in Houston.
- C. Middle School – The Middle School will be part of a two-year national study for secondary schools in RTI (Response to Education). With this participation, they will get guidance and access to research.
- D. Technology - Pam Richau reported they had successfully updated the PowerSchool Server over the weekend.
- E. Curriculum – Don Christman said that Lockwood Schools received a Kellogg's Grant for playground equipment, maps, and activity kits. He is also applying for the Healthy Habits Grant.
- F. Superintendent – Eileen reviewed her report with the board. She advised that the Yellowstone County Commissioners will hold their regular meeting in the Lockwood Board Room at 9:00 a.m. on March 3, 2009.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Chair Vinton thanked employee Becky Conner for spearheading the gathering of items for the Helland family that had the house fire.

Sue went to Helena to testify before the Senate Education Committee in support of SB 69 and SB 70; which included Superintendent of Schools Denise Juneau's budget proposals. She said it was very interesting and very worthwhile. They met at the Montana School Board Association's offices on Wednesday to learn about the lobbying process.

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Regular Board Meeting
February 10, 2009

ADJOURN

The next regular meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Jason Hamrick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Becky Malenowsky seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Holly Sather, Tamara Spillum, Becky Malenowsky, Peter Freivalds, Greg Bochy, and Jason Hamrick voted aye. The motion passed seven to zero.

Susanne Vinton, Chairperson

Diane M. Brook, District Clerk