

**LOCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT #26
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, BILLINGS, MT
REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

OCTOBER 13, 2009

Chair Susanne Vinton opened the regular meeting and called it to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following trustees and officers were present: Trustees Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Peter Freivalds, Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Greg Bochy, and Superintendent Eileen Johnson. District Clerk Diane Brook was absent. Assistant Business Manager Laurie Noonkester took minutes in her absence.

Staff members present were Dave DeBoer, Don Christman, Mike Sullivan, Mike Bowman, Laurie Noonkester, Sharon Harris, Nancy Eby, Darlene Hess, Charles Harvey, Jane Carlson, Sue Robertson and Patti Doble.

There were no other registered guests.

Evelyn Pyburn from the Yellowstone County News was present.

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

None

ITEMS FOR ACTION

- A. Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings

Chair Susanne Vinton asked if there was any objection to the minutes as presented. Hearing none, the minutes of the September 8, 2009 regular board meeting were approved.

- B. Approve Bills and Wages for September

Chair Vinton asked if there was any objection to the bills and wages as presented. Hearing no objection, the bills and wages were approved.

C. Establish Two Board Committees

Superintendent Johnson advised the following: As previously discussed in the spring, the Board and the Lockwood Unit of MEA/MFT would like to form two committees. One committee will explore possible alternatives in health insurance to meet the challenge of rising costs. The second committee will investigate possible scenarios for an Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) for teachers. Two Trustees should serve on each of the two committees. Chair Sue Vinton will take volunteers or appoint such if necessary. The Health Insurance Committee will need some representation from classified staff who are also eligible for this benefit. Email groups will be established and communication can begin on setting up meetings.

Chair Vinton advised those volunteering of what the committees' goals will be and expectations of their fact finding sessions. She noted that these committees would be expected to report to the Board and she requested that at least two trustees serve on each committee. Superintendent Eileen Johnson and Laurie Noonkester will also be assigned to both committees.

Trustees Jason Hamrick and Peter Freivalds volunteered for the Health Insurance Committee. Trustees Greg Bochy and Tim Sather volunteered for the ERIP Committee. Meeting dates and times were discussed. The first meeting of the ERIP Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 28th at 3:30 in the Board Room. The first meeting of the Health Insurance Committee will be held on Thursday November 5, at 3:30 in the Board Room. Notices for both meetings will be posted.

The following are teacher volunteers for the ERIP Committee:

Vicki Balgua, Jane Carlson, Nancy Eby, Patti Doble, Sue Robertson, Hank Yasenak.

Health Insurance Committee:

Cindy Gopp, Sharon Harris, Darlene Hess, Marcia Meyer, Stephanie-Smith Miller, Mary Kay Rottrup, Karla Shaw.

Tim Sather moved to establish the above-mentioned committees. Greg Bochy seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Peter Freivalds, Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, and Greg Bochy voted affirmatively; the motion passed seven to zero.

D. Approve Placement of a Student at Yellowstone Academy at YGBR

This is a request for out of district placement of JM to Yellowstone Academy. The cost will be paid out of the Tuition Fund, which is a non-voted levy.

Becky Malenowsky moved to allow placement of JM to the Yellowstone Academy. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Peter Freivalds, Becky Malenowsky, Tamara Spillum, Jason Hamrick, and Greg Bochy voted affirmatively; the motion passed seven to zero.

Chair Vinton asked if anyone would oppose considering Item G at this time, as it is an issue of transportation related to the placement of a student at the YGBR. Hearing no objections the Board heard item G.

G. Add a Route to the Bus Transportation

A request to add a bus route from Greenwood Drive to Yellowstone Academy is presented for action.

Greg Bochy moved to add a bus route from Greenwood Drive to Yellowstone Academy. Jason Hamrick seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Peter Freivalds, Becky Malenowsky, Tamara Spillum, Jason Hamrick, and Greg Bochy voted yes. The motion passed seven to zero.

E. Hiring: Substitutes, Coach, and Paraprofessional

Tim Bastian is recommended as the sixth grade boys' basketball coach. Matthew Brown is recommended as a paraprofessional to work this year in the Middle School. A list of recommended substitutes is attached to the agenda. All of the recommended persons have passed the background check.

Peter Freivalds moved to hire Tim Bastian and Matthew Brown for the above-mentioned positions and the following people as substitutes: Mary Berg, Mark Kane, and Kristina Price. Tim Sather seconded the motion.

Trustees Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Peter Freivalds, Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum and Greg Bochy voted aye; the motion passed seven to zero.

F. Board Goals

The board will continue to discuss this item at each regular meeting.

A continued discussion and final decision was on the agenda concerning dress for graduation.

Peter Freivalds moved to establish dress for graduation as follows: Middle School is to create a self funding and on-going program to provide/supply graduation gowns for the 8th grade graduating class at no cost to either the school or parents. Tim Sather seconded the motion.

Trustees Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Peter Freivalds, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum and Greg Bochy voted aye, with Becky Malenowsky voting against the motion. The motion passed six to one.

Fund raising for the graduation gowns should be in addition to and separate from current activities raising funds for such things as Student Council and the eighth grade graduation party.

H. Request for a Special Meeting on Friday, October 23, 2009 for Hiring.

The application for Assistant Business Manager closes on October 16. The interview committee will review applications and interview early the week after that. In order to get someone on board early in November, Superintendent Johnson is requesting a special meeting on Friday, October 23 at 12:00 p.m. to hire.

Tim Sather moved to set a special board meeting on Friday, October 23, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of hiring an assistant business manager. Jason Hamrick seconded the motion. Trustees Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Peter Freivalds, Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum and Greg Bochy voted aye; the motion passed unanimously.

I. Request for Out of District Enrollment at Lockwood

The following students are recommended for out of district placement at Lockwood. Pre-School: Tucker Aanstad; Kindergarten: Zach Brown, Carson Jodrey; Grade 5: Jakob Staudenmaier.

Jason Hamrick moved to approve attendance of the listed out-of-district students. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Peter Freivalds, Jason Hamrick, Becky Malenowsky, Tamara Spillum, and Greg Bochy voted aye; the motion passed seven to zero.

DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Primary School

Principal Mike Bowman reported on a meeting of parents that netted wonderful accolades of the summer school program. A detailed report was previously presented.

B. Intermediate School

Principal Dave DeBoer did not have anything further to add to his report. Discussion was held regarding a false fire alarm that was experienced by the Intermediate building last week and fire evacuation procedures were reviewed.

C. Middle School

Principal Mike Sullivan had nothing further to add to his report. Discussion was held regarding data collected by new software installed that tracks discipline issues and referrals.

D. Curriculum/Assessment

Director of Curriculum Don Christman reported on the history of assessment tests and the Native Waters exhibit attendance.

October 13, 2009

E. Technology

None was presented for this department.

F. Facilities

Art Anderson provided a written report to the board detailing the progress of ongoing projects. The report is attached.

G. Athletics

None was presented for this department.

H. Superintendent

Superintendent Johnson noted there are traffic issues at the corner of Johnson Lane and Hwy 87 E. The concern is for busses that are merging from Johnson Lane into fast moving traffic on Hwy 87 E. Sue Vinton would like to draft a letter of concern on the board's behalf that will be sent to the local newspapers and media. Peter Frievalds noted he would like both the Governor's Office and State Legislature to be recipients of this letter as well. Evelyn Pyburn suggested that the letter also be sent to the State Transportation Committee.

There were no objections to Chair Vinton's proposal and the letter will be presented at the next regular meeting.

Superintendent Johnson further noted that a meeting of the Lockwood Steering Committee is to be held on October 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. The Census Bureau has been invited to discuss current Census boundaries that will be used in conducting the upcoming population count. Concerns are that many of the areas within the Lockwood community will not be counted as such.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

The next meeting will be November 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Jason Hamrick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Greg Bochy seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Peter Frievalds, Becky Malenowsky, Tamara Spillum, Greg Bochy, and Jason Hamrick voted aye; the motion passed seven to zero.

Susanne Vinton, Chairperson

Laurie Noonkester, Asst. Bus. Manager
For Diane M. Brook, District Clerk