

SHERIDAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

April 14, 2009 9:00 a.m.
Central Office Board Room
Ranchester, Wyoming

REGULAR MEETING

Johann Nield called the regular meeting of the Sheridan County School District Board of Trustees to order at 9:02 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Johann Nield, Chairman
Sean Carroll, Treasurer
C.T. Bailey, Trustee

Suzie Dow, Vice Chairman
Kristi Von Krosigk, Clerk

STAFF PRESENT:

Sue Belish, Superintendent
Cara Reichert, Executive Secretary
Sara McGinnis, Curriculum Coordinator
Brent Caldwell, BHE Principal
Terry Myers, TRMS Principal
Don White, TRHS Principal
Nancy Merrill

Jeremy Smith, Business Manager
Bob Heimbaugh, Special Education Director
Judy Steingass, Technology Coordinator
Deb Hofmeier, TRE Principal
George Mirich, BHMS/HS Principal
Pat Mischke, TRHS

VISITORS:

Kurt Layher, Sheridan Media
Kristen Nielsen
Fallon Lewis
Karen Walters
Michael Pearlman, Sheridan Press

David Hannahs
Meghan Johnson
Walon Esters
Sandy Perkins

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Johann Nield asked if there were any changes or additions to the amended agenda of the April 14, 2009 Board meeting.

No corrections or additions were made.

KRISTI VON KROSIGK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 14, 2009 AMENDED AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SUZIE DOW SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC HEARING – COMMENTS FROM TONGUE RIVER PATRONS

C.T. BAILEY MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:05 P.M. SUZIE DOW SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Karen Walters is relatively new to the community. She lives here with her family. They like the schedule because it allows for more family time, appointments, and the kids are more relaxed and there is less stress on the family. The kids enjoy the activities offered on Fridays.

Sue explained the reason behind the hearing is not because we are considering going back to a five day week. It is because we have to hold two public hearings every other year when we request permission to continue the alternative schedule.

Kristen Nielsen, TRHS student, mainly enjoys the four-day week because of sports activities. Other than the days being longer, she could find nothing negative about it.

Fallon Lewis, TRHS student, comes from a five-day week, likes this schedule much better. Meghan Johnson, another TRHS student, also felt like there is more family time and it's less stressful.

Kristi Von Krosigk read letters from two TRMS students – McKyla Borzenski and Shaylinn Hovey – who are very much in favor of the alternative schedule.

Walon Esters, parent, stated that he was told to come to the meeting by his daughters to express favoritism towards the four-day week!

Sandy Perkins, parent who moved from Sheridan, doesn't feel the alternative schedule compromises her kid's education. It's easier for medical appointments and they love the schedule. Her kids have gotten used to having the three days off and they would hate to see it go back to five days.

Sue explained the application process that she goes through every year. Our request could be denied, as there are many on the panel that are against the four-day week, but we present evidence that our kids continue to do very well. This year Sue will solicit the State Department to try not to have to do this on a yearly basis.

KRISTI VON KROSIGK MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:17 P.M. SUZIE DOW SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Suzie Dow presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Wyoming School Board Association to Johann Nield.
- B. Kristen Nielsen, Meghan Johnson and Fallon Lewis, presented their Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) project – Alumni Night – which was a community project that they are going to compete with at Nationals in Tennessee. They presented a sheet of their estimated expenses for their trip and asked for any assistance that the Board can offer.
- C. George, on behalf of Kathy Hecker, reported on the success of FBLA students who qualified to go to Nationals. They are also requesting help on funding for their trip, if possible.

Sue explained to the Board that they could use \$10,000 to help for competitions such as these. She recommended that the amount be divided equally between the number of people that are going. C.T. suggested that we pay for 80% of their trips and they pay 20%.

KRISTI VON KROSIGK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT FOR 80% OF THE EXPENSES FOR FCCLA AND FBLA TRIPS AS PRESENTED. SUZIE DOW SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VISITORS

STUDENT AMBASSADOR REPORT

WSCEA REPORT

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

The administrators' written reports were distributed prior to the meeting. Kristi is excited about the induction program and the consistency of it. It's a good step forward.

Suzie thought the TRHS open house was great! Don was pleased with the turnout.

Upcoming transition activities for 5th and 8th graders was explained and briefly discussed.

Don discussed the use of breathalyzers before the prom as other schools have been doing. Although he doesn't feel the big issue is with kids coming to dances under the influence, it's more so after the prom. He and Pete are holding a meeting with high school parents tomorrow night to address teen alcohol and drug use. He's hoping some good ideas will be brainstormed and he will bring them back next month.

C.T. congratulated Deb on her team's placing at D.I.! TRMS and BHE also had teams who placed and are going to Globals. Deb commended the parent coaches.

Sean expressed concern about the teenage drinking problems and attributes much of it to today's technology – internet, texting and cell phones. He said much of it is spreading from high school down to the middle schoolers. A brief discussion followed.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeremy Smith presented his written report. He reported on how well the move at Tongue River High School went. The amount of help was amazing! And, not enough can be said about the technology staff. He will provide information about the food service program next month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Sue Belish's written report was distributed prior to the meeting. She added that our District is one of four who will be visited in May by the authors of the Wyoming Funding Model so that we can report on what's working and not working with the model. They'll be in every school for a day and will spend a couple of hours with Sara and Sue. We were chosen because we are an exemplary District.

Sue asked for one to two Board volunteers who are willing to read the Teacher of the Year forms. Suzie and Kristi volunteered. Sue said that they will be sent out very soon.

Sue reported on the status of the applicants for Music, Math and English positions. Filling the core area positions was briefly discussed.

May 15th will be the second make-up day (due to snow). Suzie read Sue's paragraph giving kudos to the transportation and maintenance departments during the snow days.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Open and Executive Session Minutes – March 17 and 23, 2009**
- B. Approval of Bills and Salaries**
- C. Classified Resignation**
- D. School Risk Retention Program Appointment**
- E. Golf Coach Recommendation**
- F. Maternity Leave Request**

KRISTI VON KROSIGK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SUZIE DOW SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Facilities Update. We are a solid month behind on the Big Horn campus due to Mather Nature. Groathouse anticipates catching up on some of those days by being creative in scheduling of sub-contractors. Sue and Jeremy will be attending the SFC meeting and plan to ask for tracks at both high schools and artificial turf for the Big Horn field.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Alternative Schedule. Approval is needed to continue on the four-day week for next year. We must submit our request every other year in the odd-numbered years. The schedule has worked well for us these past 27 years. Our schedule will include 148 student contact days and 16 Education Days.

SUZIE DOW MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ALTERNATIVE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED. SEAN CARROLL SECONDED THE MOTION.

C.T. pointed out that the current philosophy is that we should be going to school six days a week year round. The principals are the people who make the alternative schedule work.

ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED.

B. TRHS Booster Club. David Hannahs, member of the TRHS Booster Club, briefly explained the purpose of the Booster Club and how they raise their money. He stated that their sole purpose is to support the students at TRHS and listed some of the numerous items that they spend their money on including warm-up suits, food, decorating busses, etc. Most recently, they have been actively raising funds for the new football/track and volleyball/basketball scoreboards at TRHS. They are very close to meeting their goal. The deadline is fast approaching and in the event that they have not reached that goal by the time the scoreboards need to be ordered, they are asking for monetary help from the Board on a temporary basis.

If the Board does have to assist the purchase of the scoreboards, Sue believes that the Board should require that a portion of the money generated by yearly advertisement on the scoreboards be given back to TRHS to use for student activities. She did acknowledge that the Booster Club has been nothing but generous already. David pointed out that we may not need their assistance, but we are erring on the side of caution. He just wanted to be sure that we do have the money when it comes time to order in the event that we don't have enough. The Board agreed to help out with the understanding that the details will be worked out, if needed. Suzie thanked David, Cara, Don and Rissa for all of the work they have put into this project.

C. Resolution for Disposal of Old Tongue River High School Facility. This resolution transfers to the Town of Dayton, the title to the portions of the Tongue River High School building that are not being used by the District and will not be used in the future. It includes a Right of Way Easement and a provision that the facility would revert back to the District in the event it was no longer being used for the public. Sue explained a few changes that were made.

KRISTI VON KROSIGK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER TO THE TOWN OF DAYTON THE TITLE TO THE PORTIONS OF THE TONGUE RIVER HIGH SCHOOL NOT BEING USED BY THE DISTRICT. SUZIE DOW SECONDED THE MOTION.

Sean asked if there was any way to make the wording any tighter. Since it's for public use, he thought it was much too broad. Sue said that that had been changed and there was no better terminology to use.

ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

D. School Facility Commission Vision Statement. The Board was provided with the vision document required by the SFC as part of our Five Year Facility Plan. There were no questions at this time.

E. Budget Proposal. Based on information from the Board Work Session and the A-Team meeting Sue has developed a budget and staffing proposal, in which she presented and reviewed with the Board. Declining enrollment is a real concern and if it continues we will see decreased funding next year. Johann agreed that we do not want to cut staff now but we need to begin looking at things for the future. Suzie feels that we need to keep good leadership at BHMS/HS. She commended George for the great job that he's been doing, but middle school kids get lost in the shuffle when there is so much going on with high school kids. Therefore, she is in favor of a separate middle school principal. Suzie also feels that our staff is very professional and she doesn't think they abuse their sick leave. But, she was astonished at the amount of substitutes that are used. Jeremy said that many are used during the summer. He said that we've looked at the leave policy in the past, as soon as four months ago, and it's not being misused. Brent feels that the maternity leave request that we offer is great. Kristi asked if we could do a comparison of other districts' sub rate pays. Suzie would like for our staff to know that we do not feel they are abusing their leave.

The Board feels good with where we are heading – closer to the model. Kristi asked about looking at creative ways to keep “our basket of goods” by looking at the high school schedules that have classes with very few students in them. Sean thinks an area to look at is the overall length of our calendar schedule, such as condensing the school year by shortening vacations. Kristi suggested principals have conversations with potential staff who are thinking of retiring in the next couple of years so that maybe they will retire earlier. C.T. asked about the teacher assignments and scheduling. In core classes, they shouldn't have more than three preps and he knows that some of ours do. Don agrees that we have to get something more equitable.

F. Renewal of Certified Staff. The Board was provided with the list of the certified staff that are being recommended for renewal for the 2009-2010 school year.

C.T. BAILEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CERTIFIED STAFF RENEWALS FOR 2009-2010 AS RECOMMENDED. KRISTI VON KROSIGK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Correspondence. No correspondence received.

H. Certified Resignation. We received a resignation from Beth Harman, TRMS 6th grade teacher, as of the end of the 2008-09 school year.

KRISTI VON KROSIGK MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CERTIFIED RESIGNATION WITH REGRET AS PRESENTED. SUZIE DOW SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BOARD MEMBER’S REPORTS

Kristi expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend the NSBA conference in San Diego. She received great resources and commended one of the speakers – Arnie Duncan. She will forward the information to the other Board members and A-team and if they want further details or have questions, she encouraged them to email or call her.

Johann also attended the NSBA Conference. He reported on the assemblies that he attended. He stated that everyone is experiencing a budget crunch and we’re actually still doing well considering many other places.

BOARD SIGNATURES

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman announced that there will be no need for an executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Board Clerk

Board Chairman

Board Secretary