

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – January 13, 2014

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a Regular meeting on January 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library Room. Board members present were Justin Oswald, Dawn Blain, Corie Mydland, Clinton Kramer, Melvin Stene, and Sharon Songstad. Brad Stephenson was absent. Also present were Jeff Bermes, Superintendent, Jeanne Carroll, District Clerk/Business Manager, and Marilyn Vukonich, High School Principal.

Melvin Stene, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Corie Mydland made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Melvin Stene explained and asked for public comment. There was none.

Reports

Item #1 Buildings and Grounds Update

Mr. Bermes said there have been no issues with the pole barn. He said we are waiting on the weather to pour the cement. He talked about the elementary playground and parking lots and the tractor repair issues. The MS boys bathroom doors were repainted. Mr. Bermes asked the Board to take a look at it and see what they think. If they like it, then possibly the girls bathroom will be done this summer. He said Russ will be coming in at a later date to talk to the Board about the band and music room breakers popping and then there is no heat. This will probably need to be hooked up to Johnson Controls like the rest of the new building.

Correspondence

Item #1 Thank You's

There were thank you's to the Board.

Item #2 Bus Route Change Parent's Letter

Mr. Bermes read the letter from Melinda Jeffrey aloud to the Board. She is unhappy about the bus route changes even before they have been put in effect. He said this is the family that is at the end of the route. Bus route changes and the letter were discussed. Mr. Bermes will call Ms. Jeffrey.

Executive Session #1 Student Issues

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss student issues. Personal privacy outweighs the public's right to know. They came back into Regular Session at 7:55 p.m. Sharon Songstad made a motion to allow Student 001 to makeup of credits. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Clinton Kramer made a motion to allow Student 002, the excessive absences over 15 to be excused and receive credit for grades and the student is to attend 9th period for four nights a week. If there are 2 absences in a row, then Student 002 must go to the Principal's office. Receiving credit for the first semester is contingent on the second semester grades and attendance. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Justin Oswald made a motion to allow Student 003, the excessive absences over 15 to be excused and receive credit for grades and the student is to attend 9th period for four nights a week. If there are 2 absences in a row, then Student 003 must go to the Principal's office. Receiving credit for the first semester is contingent on the second semester grades and attendance. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

As per Mr. Bermes, these stipulations granted by the Board will be typed on letterhead by Mrs. Vukonich and signed off on by both parties so it is very clear.

Unfinished Business

Item #1 District Cell Phones

Mr. Bermes said the issue is personal cell phones being used for business. There are some concerns. He reviewed the different cell phone plan options for four business phones for himself, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Vukonich and Mr. Salo. He recommended providing an offset cost of \$20/month on existing phones. The stipends were discussed versus reimbursement, etc. This was tabled until next month.

Item #2 Superintendent and District Clerk/Business Manager Evaluations

Mr. Stene said he has all but one back from Board members. There will be a special meeting on January 27 at 6 p.m.

New Business

Item #2 Student Handbook Clarifications

Mr. Bermes said these handbook clarifications are required from the OPI Title I review to correct 12 of the 16 findings. The new language will go in all three handbooks: elementary, middle school and high school. These talk about the availability of the Title programs and includes language for homeless students. Also, Mrs. Vukonich has changed language for the middle school handbook for excessive absences. The Board would like the middle school to have the same requirements as the high school. This would become effective for the start of the second semester. The Board likes the language and the first readings are complete.

Item #3 MHSA Proposals

The proposed MHSA changes that affect the Joliet Schools were presented by Mr. Bermes. One is to change the date of the annual dues from August 1st to July 15th. Everyone is ok with that. Another one is all class votes to amend the rules that 8th graders may participate in all varsity sports. The Board and Mr. Bermes are opposed to that. A classification for foreign exchange students for an approved program are to be changed. The Board is okay with that. The MHSA wants to delete the portion of their handbook that talks about prohibition of Sunday activities. The Board and Mr. Bermes are opposed to that and want to maintain that prohibition. The last one is to promote each district's own event scheduling, not assigned. The Board and Mr. Bermes are opposed to that also. Mr. Bermes will attend the MHSA meeting on January 19th in Great Falls.

Item #4 Hirings/Resignations

Mr. Bermes said he is still looking for a track coach and he is opening the positions for football coaches.

Item #5 Minimum Wage Increase

There is a letter in the packet to notify the Board of minimum wage increasing from \$7.80 per hour to \$7.90 per hour effective with January 1 hours worked.

Item #6 Teacher Negotiations Opening

The Joliet Teacher's Association has written a letter to the Board asking to open negotiations for the upcoming year. Clinton Kramer made a motion to accept the JTA's request. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Superintendent's/Principal's/AD's/Business Manager's Reports

Mr. Bermes said the December enrollments were up 5 students in the elementary, the middle school enrollment stayed the same, and the high school gained one and lost one. The elementary will be attending the Flat Stanley Billings Symphony at 10:30 on the 27th at Columbus. On the 29th, Joni Bell, of the Beartooth Humane Alliance, will be doing a couple of classes for the elementary. Walk to Math is going well. MAPS testing will be the last week of January. Columbus wants to coop in football, with 350 students jointly. The Board discussed the idea.

Mrs. Vukonich handed out her principal's report with a listing of calendar events, which she briefly reviewed. She said speech and drama is doing well. Divisionals will be at Ennis and Columbus has made reservations. The quarter ends Thursday. Semester tests will be tomorrow and Wednesday. She said she and Mr. Bermes talked at the beginning of the year about giving awards for students on the honor roll. They have ordered backpacks for the high school and cups for the middle school. They will have an assembly and raffle off three Kindle Fires paid for from the J-Club. They got the idea from Hardin Schools to rewards kids who are doing well.

Mrs. Carroll spoke to the Board about the letter she placed in the packet regarding Blue Cross/Blue Shield merging with more health care companies. This is just for informational purposes.

Items for the Next Agenda – January 27 , 2014 at 6 PM—Special Meeting--Library

- Item #1 Superintendent and District Clerk/Business Manager Evaluations
- Item #2 Superintendent Contract

Items for the Next Agenda – February 10, 2014 at 7 PM—Regular Meeting

- Item #1 Expedition Yellowstone
- Item #2 Cell Phones
- Item #3 Early Retirement Incentives

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on February 10, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Library.

Dawn Blain made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Approved _____

Clerk _____

Chairman _____

