

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – June 9, 2014

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a Regular meeting on June 9, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library Room. Board members present were Dawn Blain, Justin Oswald, Sharon Songstad, Corie Mydland, Melvin Stene, and Clinton Kramer. 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. Justin Oswald made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

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

Correspondence

Item #1 Thank You's

The Board passed several thank you notes around.

Reports

Item #1 Negotiations Report

Mr. Bermes and Mr. Stene told the Board that the Negotiations Committee and the Teacher's Committee had come to an agreement for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years, adding \$300 on the base for the first year for a base of \$26,150 and another \$300 for the base for the 2015-16 year for a base of \$26450. Also the High School Assistant coaching positions stipend percentages were agreed upon to raise them from 9% to 10%. The health insurance contribution from the District will remain the same as current, with it to be renegotiated in the spring of 2015 for the 2015-16 school year. Also, changes in language were approved where if a teacher is hired with a BA and then earns their Master's, they will be moved to the Master's Lane with steps according to experience, given that the teacher notifies the Superintendent of the move by March 1st. This is the only opportunity for a teacher to move more than one lane. Mr. Bermes recommended that the Board approve these changes in the Collective Bargaining Agreement for certified staff under Unfinished Business a little later on the agenda.

Item #2 Building Report

Mr. Bermes said the football field lights and the new office we will be talking about in Business items.

Unfinished Business

Item #1 Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2014-15 and 2015-16

Mr. Bermes said a \$300 increase in base for the next two years with health insurance to stay the same the first year and be negotiated the second year for 2015-16. There were wording changes and MUST is now our health insurance company. Justin Oswald made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the changes as stated. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #2 Elementary Assignments for 2014-15

Mr. Bermes reviewed his proposed class teaching assignments for the elementary. They are subject to changes with enrollments, etc.

Item #3 Building Updates

Mr. Bermes said he feels it would be most cost-effective to use the old poles for the football field lights, with new foundations and use the old lights. He said that way the cost would be minimal. Northwestern Energy will help set the poles back up. The whole project would be in the \$20,000 range. Verizon called asking about putting a tower on the field on the lights and they'd pay us \$1000/month. He said they only need one really tall pole. Verizon is to get back to Mr. Bermes. The Board gave their okay on going forward with this plan. With using the old poles and old lights, Russ Salo suggests using 8' concrete underneath them. The newest pole is currently 7' deep. Clinton asked about including flexing. Mr. Bermes said he gave the go ahead on the parking lots to be crack sealed. They will be back for sealing the whole parking lots. He would like to abandon the bathroom in the high school office area. The gutters have been put on the shed. Sidewalks should be poured soon. The bid for the central office is in. It is \$8,207.80. Mr. Bermes said this is being done for safety and ease. He will be looking into grants to help with the cost. Sharon Songstad made a motion to approve the changes to re-design the school secretary space. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

New Business

Item #1 Gym Floor Refinish

There is a new company, Western Sports Floors, LLC, to do the gym floors refinishing the end of July at \$4,804.80, with oil base instead of water. They are the only company that submitted a bid. References have been checked with Red Lodge, Columbus and Shepherd and all are happy. The floors need to seal for 14 days after the new coats are applied. Both gyms will be sanded down and to re-do the paint for both gyms will be \$20,000. Mr. Bermes said he feels it would last about another 5 years. Corie Mydland made a motion to approve using Western Sports Floors, LLC to refinish the gym floors. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #2 Approve Property and Liability Insurance

PayneWest has given us a quote on the property insurance for the 2014-15 year. It has gone down \$294. Dawn Blain made a motion to approve renewing the property and liability insurance with PayneWest for the 2014-15 year. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #3 Approve Lawn Mower Purchase

Mr. Bermes said the mowers are worn out. We need to update our fleet and need one that can be used for the hillsides and play ground areas. Our walker is not made for the hillsides. We can get a zero-turn commercial John Deere for \$5,400. It has a 54" cut with 24 horsepower and a 4 year warranty. There was some discussion. Justin Oswald made a motion to give approval to purchase a lawn mower under \$5,400. Sharon Songstad seconded it. It was unanimously carried.

Item #4 Approve New Math Textbooks for K-2

It was recommended by Mr. Bermes that the Board authorize the purchase of about 100 hardback books at \$80 each for a new math series for the K-2 grades at a total cost of \$9824.50. He said this series will help us maintain consistency throughout our elementary as we keep to the Common Core Standards. He said also we will be supplementing our 3-6 current math curriculums with Engage New York which is a scripted program tailored to the common core standards and multiple instructional practices. He said this program was piloted in the sixth grade this year with very promising results. He said the growth seen in the sixth graders was very encouraging and on task with the objectives they are trying to accomplish in our Math program at the elementary level. The current series is from 1994. Reading is the

same year, but he is trying to do one series at a time. Mr. Bermes said it will run about \$20,000 for a reading series. He said the standards aren't going to go away but the name may change. Clinton Kramer made a motion to approve the purchase of the new math textbooks. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #5 Approve Kitchen Stove Purchase

Mr. Bermes recommended replacing our current kitchen stove in the kitchen, with a newer larger model to help handle our current cooking levels. Our current stove is approximately 40 plus years old and undersized for our current lunch program. A new stove would run about \$6500. It would be similar to the one we have with 8 burners. Mr. Bermes said he would then try to sell the old one. There was Board discussion and the item was tabled, with instructions to Mr. Bermes to look around and then come back.

Item #6 Review of Board Policies

Mr. Bermes presented modifications to the district's board policies as presented by the MTSBA. This is the first reading of these policies. This also includes the first reading of the new job descriptions for the district secretary and administrative assistant. Mr. Bermes commented that both he and Mrs. Carroll had noted the one on the "official action must be at a meeting that has been called" was struck, but later on in the policy it clarifies that the item must be on the agenda for official action to be taken at a meeting. These are changes of state statues with the Legislature. He said any questions can be addressed at the meeting in July and also provide input on the job descriptions. The first readings are completed.

Item #7 Approval of School Nurse Contract

Mr. Bermes recommended that the Joliet School continue to use the services of the Beartooth Billings Clinic. The cost of this service will remain at \$34.48 per hour and \$.55 per mile for travel again this year. Services are only used when needed. Sharon Songstad made a motion to approve the school nurse contract for 2014-15. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #8 Year-end Projections

This item was tabled for now to allow Mrs. Carroll to finish running payrolls and bills to get a better estimate. Mr. Bermes said we are sitting well. He recommends that we move our year-end fund balances from our general funds of the high school and elementary to our multi-district fund. This allows us to make purchases that we need without the requirement of other meetings to spend out those accounts.

Item #9 Substitute Teacher Pay

Mr. Bermes recommends increasing our substitute teacher rate to \$70/day from \$65/day. Justin Oswald made a motion to approve increasing the substitute teacher wage to \$70/day. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #10 Approve Classified Wage Increase for 2014-15

Mr. Bermes recommends that the classified wages be increased 3% from last year's rates. He said this will increase our current school year employee's overall wages total by \$9689 from last year. Corie Mydland made a motion to approve increasing the classified wages by 3% for the 2014-15 year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #11 Approve Hirings/Resignations

Mr. Bermes recommended hiring Tanner White and Nathan Kirtley as summer workers. Dawn Blain made a motion to hire them. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

He recommended hiring M'Kenzie Frickel with one year experience as the high school history teacher. Corie Mydland made a motion to hire M'Kenzie Frickel. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

For the elementary Special Education teacher, Mr. Bermes recommended hiring Samatha Antilla. Dawn Blain made a motion to hire Samantha Antilla. Mr. Bermes said she is Linda Mickle's daughter and has good references. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Mr. Bermes recommended Paula Priest be re-hired as Librarian. Corie Mydland made a motion to re-hire Paul Priest as Librarian. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Mr. Bermes said the librarian position needs to be discussed for the future. He said Miss Koon has expressed interest in the position but is not currently certified in that position. She came to the Board meeting in May and expressed her interest and her willingness to go back to school to get the proper endorsements. He said Mrs. Priest has said she will stay only one more year. Mr. Bermes feels the Board needs to give Miss Koon some commitment that if she completes the first year of schooling toward the librarian endorsement and is still wanting the position, that she be given preference for that position. Miss Koon is willing to maintain her current teaching assignment for this upcoming school year while attending classes.

Mr. Bermes recommends hiring Alberta Preshinger as bus driver. Justin Oswald made a motion to re-hire Alberta Preshinger. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried, with an plan of improvement and a change of bus routes.

Corie Mydland made a motion to hire Jeromey Burke as Head Middle School Football Coach, Jeff Bermes as Assistant Middle School Football Coach, Karen McKay as Pep Band, Marcie Peters as Student Council and Patty Bergum as the Athletic Director (Organizer), with a stipend of \$3000. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #12 School Lunch Prices and Other School Fees

Mr. Bermes recommends the school lunch prices remain the same for the upcoming year. He also recommends that the fees for instrument rental, student fees, participation fees for student activities and adult and family fees remain the same for the upcoming year.

Item #13 First Reading of Student Handbooks for 2014-15

Mrs. Vukonich reviewed the changes needed in the handbooks for high school and middle school that the committee recommended. The first reading is complete.

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

Mr. Bermes said the usual July Board meeting is the 4th Monday of the month so that he and Mrs. Carroll can get final year end budget information to them. It was decided that this year, it would be July 21, 2014. Mr. Bermes will be gone on vacation June 16th-20th and then again on July 14th-July 18th. He said interviews of all positions will be held before he leaves on June 16th. He hope to have recommendations for the fall and winter sports coaches in July.

The Board gave the Policy Committee the okay to go ahead and offer positions. The new administrative assistant will start the 1st of August. Interviews for that position will be on June 23rd for the six applicants.

The all-class reunion is July 5th at noon for a tour in the school with Melvin Stene and Mr. Bermes.

Items for the Next Agenda – July 21, 2014 at 7 PM—Regular Meeting

- Item #1 Extra-Curricular Bus Wage
- Item #2 Resolution to Dispose of School Property
- Item #3
- Item #4

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on July 21, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Library.

Corie Mydland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Approved_____

Clerk_____

Chairman_____