

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Big Horn County School District No. 3
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2015

I. The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Big Horn County School District No. 3, was called to order at 7:00 p.m., September 8, 2015, by the chairman, Jamie Flitner.

II. Roll Call: Jamie Flitner, Dale Nuttall, Michael Wirtzberger, Selena Brown, Eddie Johnson, Cheri Edeler, Steve Hoblit, Barry Bryant, Paula Scott

Absent: None

Guests: Ty Flock, Scott McBride, Dee Robertson, Mike Meredith, Lee Clucas, Brett Suiter, Joe and Karen Sylvester, Nathan Oster, Sara Schlattmann

III. Approval of Consent Agenda (*Items)

It was moved by Eddie Johnson and seconded by Jamie Flitner to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. *Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved regular board minutes of August 11, 2015 and the special board minutes of August 26, 2015 as presented.

V. Agenda Additions/Deletions/Adoption

None

VI. Audience and Communication

1. Student Government Update

None

2. Community Remarks

Mike Meredith stated that he was present to witness the first Board meeting in the new Central Office Board Room.

3. Graduation Requirement Modification Request – Executive Session (parent requested)

It was moved by Dale Nuttall and seconded by Cheri Edeler to move into executive session to discuss Graduation Requirement Modification Request at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed into executive session at 7:02 p.m. to discuss matters considered confidential by law (Graduation Requirement Modification Request – Parent Requested Student Confidentiality) and reconvened in regular session at 7:25 p.m. Note that no action was taken and minutes were sealed in a secure location.

a. Graduation Requirement Modification Request

It was moved by Eddie Johnson and seconded by Michael Wirtzberger to waive the graduation requirement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Other Items

1. State Assessment Data Presentation (PAWS, PLAN, EXPLORE, ACT)

Superintendent Bryant advised the Board that the administrators would present their data on PAWS, ACT, PLAN and EXPLORE. State Accountability Scores were released today, and are included in the Board Dropbox.

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Brett Suiter, elementary principal, provided data information for grades 3-5. The 5th grade scores were good. Low scores may have been due to new students moving in and some higher scoring students moving out during PAWS testing. The 3rd grade was 20% lower in reading. There is significant growth, but not the proficiency data they wanted to see. This may have been due to the new reading curriculum. Kindergarten, which included developmental kindergarten, did not make any benchmarks in early literacy. We are not proficient in literacy or math, and below the state average. Mr. Suiter and teachers are continuing to look at the Early Literacy Plan. The elementary staff have been having collaborative discussions targeting our after school program and how to help specific students. The new schedule includes longer sustained reading blocks as well as math blocks.

Scott McBride, middle school principal, presented the middle school PAWS data. The low scores were disappointing. There was a small amount of growth in 7th grade reading. Students moving in and out could have an effect on the scores. The middle school students are meeting the accountability expectation. Students are meeting growth targets, as well as exceeding equity targets. RTI is being very effective, however, core classes are not sufficient to meet student needs in order to pass the new state assessment. The new standards are a more challenging and rigorous assessment. Changes will have to be made in the regular core classrooms for all of our students to reach where they need to be. During the summer, teachers created a priority standards document. Mr. McBride reported that if every student was to master every standard, it would take 21 years. It is not feasible for students to accomplish that in 13 years of school. The middle school is working with the high school for vertical alignment for transition from the middle school to the high school. They will refine their assessments this year, which leads into our curriculum. The middle school is requiring more accountability for Buff Time. The majority of parents are supportive. Should students fail to show up for Friday school, their activities may be affected.

Ty Flock, high school principal, provided an overview of EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT data. Mr. Flock reviewed all the factors taken into consideration for accountability. Sophomores and freshmen were well above national results last year. We would have liked to have seen our ACT scores higher last year, however there was a considerable number of students who scored high. Mr. Flock provided an explanation of the Five Year Trends for ACT scores. The state accountability achievement is based on ACT scores. Equity is based on a small group of juniors last year, who were the lowest readers and lowest math students, to determine how much they grew from their sophomore to junior year. Mr. Flock provided a brief overview of growth, graduation rate, additional readiness and participation rate. The high school will incorporate more literacy within all content areas. There will be more reading and writing and trying to get the emphasis on teaching students to use abstract thinking and to challenge their thinking by reading, writing and discussing the topic.

Mr. Bryant listed how other districts in the state did according to a WDE report. Wyoming Department of Education is not going to apply for a waiver. They are saying that the waiver has nothing to do with how well our students perform. Our perspective is that this is a district that has all Title I schools, and falls under federal sanctions. As of last year the AYP rate is 100%, so if you have one student who doesn't make it, the district is failing. This is our concern as a district. Cut scores were moved last year, and was the state department's way of making the assessment more rigorous. The scores are not a true indication of what our kids can do. Mr. Bryant stated that the district has a lot of work to do and will focus on literacy this year. We will work on math, science and social studies as well. We will have to do more with less. We will do our best to make sure the kids are learning. The elementary and middle school are meeting expectations; high school is partially meeting expectations. Greybull Schools are in the middle with the 212 schools out of 300 in the state.

2. Clerk's Report

None

3. PAWS / ACT Review

4. Administration Reports

Chairman Flitner asked whether the administrators had information to add to their board reports.

Ty Flock, high school principal, reported that the high school is offering college English and college Spanish. 20 students qualify for college English based on their ACT English score. 20 students will be taking college Spanish as well.

Lee Clucas, special education director, stated that the beginning of the school year has been hectic and the staff is finalizing IEPs.

Sara Schlattmann, curriculum and grants facilitator, asked if the Board wanted to set a date for helping with the Backpack Program. The Board will help with the program on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. Federal accountability letters have been mailed to the elementary and middle school parents. The middle school is in Year 1 of School Improvement for language arts. The elementary school is in Year 4 of Corrective Action for language arts for low SES and Year 3 for all language arts. Mrs. Schlattmann explained that supplemental educational services are being offered again and parents have an option for their students to attend a school of their choice, providing we had another school in our district. The district would have to offer them the opportunity and transport their student as well. We are required to submit a School Improvement Plan to the state which is part of the process. We have to offer School Choice Supplemental Education Services, which would potentially be online tutoring of some kind, and would be offered to any student who meets free and reduced lunch requirements. Mrs. Schlattmann provided an overview of Corrective Action options and requirements.

Superintendent Bryant reported that we are preparing for Accreditation. The Accreditation packet is available in Dropbox. This is a self-evaluation of the district and how we rated ourselves. The summaries discuss where we are and what we need to work on.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

1. Personnel

a. Resignations(s)
None

b. Hires

Superintendent Bryant stated that he asked Cathy Kunkel to come back to temporarily help with a specific high needs student, not to exceed 20 hours per week. It was moved by Steve Hoblit and seconded by Cheri Edeler to hire Cathy Kunkel as presented. There was a brief discussion regarding the estimated length of time needed for this position. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Out of District Request

Barry Bryant reported that there are Out of District requests for 14 students, all of whom have attended Greybull Schools previously. It was moved by Eddie Johnson and seconded by Michael Wirtzberger to accept the superintendent's recommendation to approve the 14 listed students for Out of District attendance for the 2015-2016 school year as presented. Mr. Bryant stated that we will try to get the letters of request from parents in May. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Leadership Governance Policy 1.8 Review & Confirm (Development and Adoption of Policies)

It was moved by Dale Nuttall and seconded by Cheri Edeler to reaffirm their commitment for Leadership Governance Policy 1.8 (Development and Adoption of Policies) as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Final Payment – New Middle School Project

Superintendent Bryant advised that he would not release the final payment for the New Middle School Project until all punch items are 100% completed and inspected by the district and architect. It was moved by Cheri Edeler and seconded by Eddie Johnson to approve final payment to Sletten Construction for the Greybull Middle School Project – to be paid no earlier than September 23rd and after all punch items have been completed. There was a brief discussion regarding the remaining items on the punch list. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Final Payment – GES Playground Project

Mr. Bryant stated that the GES Playground Project is complete. It was moved by Michael Wirtzberger and seconded by Dale Nuttall to approve the final payment to Great Western Park & Playground for the Greybull Elementary School project, to be paid no earlier than October 7, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Designate WSBA Delegate

It was moved by Dale Nuttall and seconded by Selena Brown to appoint Eddie Johnson as the district WSBA Delegate. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Set Town Hall Meeting Date

A Town Hall meeting will be held Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room to discuss Accreditation, PAWS results, School Improvement and an open forum for questions or concerns.

8. Set Board School Visit Date

A Board / School visit date is scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. The Board will break up into 3 teams and will hear concerns and listen to staff in each building.

9. *Home School Registration

Recognized Home School Registrations as presented.

10. Graduation Requirement Modification

Recommendation was accepted during executive session. Refer to VI. 3.

X. *Approval of Bills

Approved General Fund checks #27939 through #28103 inclusive, totaling \$768,910.18; Payroll Fund Checks #29080 through #29136 inclusive, totaling \$390,936.51; High School Activity ACH Transfer, totaling \$5,427.92; Major Maintenance Fund ACH Transfer, totaling \$54,740.18; Lunch Fund ACH Transfer, totaling \$34,502.45, and Capital Projects ACH Transfer, totaling \$258,012.73.

XI. Board Discussion

Dale Nuttall reported that he and Mr. Bryant attended the WSBA Regional meeting in Worland. The focus was on recalibration and teacher pay. The big push was to help make a case to our legislators for funding. Chairman Flitner recommended sending a "thank you" on behalf of the Board, to the governor, the mineral committee and school facilities commission for our new middle school. The school facilities staff was good to work with. Mr. Bryant stated that the elementary addition is estimated to be scheduled for the 2017-2018 school year if approved. Funding for the Quigg Building update will be available as soon as the governor signs; possibly in March. The auction for excess items was briefly discussed. Mr. Bryant stated that the idea was to repurpose the sale items.

XII. Executive Session

1. Litigation

No action taken.

2. Real Estate

No action taken.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Jamie Flitner, Chairman

Cheri Edeler, Clerk