

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – April 14, 2014

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a Regular meeting on April 14, 2014, at 6:45 p.m. in the Joliet School Library Room. Board members present were Dawn Blain, Sharon Songstad, Corie Mydland, Melvin Stene, and Clinton Kramer. Brad Stephenson and Justin Oswald were 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 6:45 p.m. The Board immediately went into Executive Session for litigation strategies. They came back into Open Session at 7 p.m. Sharon Songstad made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

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

Reports

Item #1 Negotiations Report

Mr. Bermes said there is nothing to report as we have been waiting for four health insurance quotes to come back.

Item #2 Building Report

Mr. Bermes said he would like to set up a meeting soon for summer projects. He said he would like to have the parking lot sealing bids on our calendar as soon as possible. For the football field lights, he is working on a quote from Border States and Northwestern Energy. Northwestern Energy may help us monetarily. Mr. Bermes said the Board needs to consider the expense and possibility of moving the location of them. He said it is very costly with the old lights to use them.

Correspondence

Item #1 Thank You's

There were thank you's to the Board.

Unfinished Business

Item #1 District Lawsuit

The Board went into Executive Session at the start of this meeting to discuss litigation. It is currently in a holding pattern.

Item #3 Superintendent's Contract (Compensation)

Melvin Stene said as per the discussion with the superintendent with his evaluation, he needed a motion. Corie Mydland made a motion to give Mr. Bermes an annual wage of \$86,000 with four personal days for the 2014-15 school year. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

New Business

Item #1 Election By Acclamation

Mrs. Carroll told the Board that trustees Corie Mydland and Dawn Blain were unopposed in their bid for re-election. They were elected by acclamation and the election has been cancelled due to no mill levy being requested. Mr. Bermes talked about the funds for next year. He said he and Mrs. Carroll have done a great job of keeping an eye on our funds. He said Mrs. Carroll keeps him updated regularly. Mr. Stene explained the Multi-District Agreement fund to the audience.

Item #2 Senior Class Trip

Katie Bertolino and Dru Kissler presented the itinerary for their proposed Senior Trip to Cody to the Buffalo Bill museum and then the Cody Rec Center. They are here asking for permission to go on the trip and also for a bus, driver and substitutes for three chaperones. The chaperones will be their class advisors. Mr. Bermes asked if they have a bus and driver and subs for the three chaperones already lined up. Mr. Bermes said he would drive the bus if Mrs. Vukonich stays home and takes care of the school. Mr. Bermes recommended Mrs. Evertz, if Mrs. Clement can't go, for a chaperone. Dawn Blain made a motion to approve the Senior Trip as presented with Mr. Bermes as bus driver. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. The Senior Class will be paying for all of the expenses.

Item #3 Scholarship Donation

This letter is the annual scholarship donation request that Mr. Turk sends out. Mr. Bermes said the Board usually gives \$1000 from each district. Corie Mydland made a motion to give \$1000 from each district to the Scholarship Fund. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #4 Middle School and High School Class Schedules

Mr. Bermes recommended approving the class schedules as presented, with permission for the administration to change them as needed. The empty boxes on the schedule are filled by the elementary. Dawn Blain asked if Ag II and Spanish II are always at the same time. The number of students controls the scheduling. The Board discussed the schedules. It was stated that a student can't be in FFA if they are not in Ag. Dawn Blain made a motion to approve the class schedules as presented, with permission for the administration to change the schedule as needed. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #5 Renew Western States Insurance

Mr. Bermes said Western States is again offering us a three year deal for our property insurance for rate stability. He recommends renewing that three year insurance package. He said we have done this in the past. Western States has always been good to us. Mr. Bermes said this will be a two year extension of our current agreement. Corie Mydland made a motion to approve the three year agreement with Western States for our property insurance. Sharon Songstad seconded that motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #6 Joliet Community Center Donation

This letter from the Community Center asks for a donation. Mr. Bermes said the District always pays to use it and he recommends no donation be given. Mrs. Fischer said Chad Massar got all his money back through the Community Center's grant process, when he has used it for FFA.

Item #7 Building Project

Mr. Bermes said he has a bid for the parking lots and they are estimates for work on the two main parking lots. The gym parking lot has a lot of cracks. It was the last one done and it was an overlay, not the whole process. This estimate includes cutting the cracks out, fill them in and rejuvenation for a quote of \$13,927.50. The main parking lot is \$5,909.75. Mr. Bermes said the gym parking lot is in great need of repair. He said if we don't seal it or overlay the parking lots, anything else will be a waste of money. Mr. Bermes wants to repaint the parking lines and change them for safety reasons. The contractor will let us use his painting equipment. Mr. Bermes said this company has very good references. The company comes from Wyoming. In answer to Mr. Bermes question, Mrs. Carroll said she felt the District could afford to go ahead.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to do both parking lots this summer. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #8 Football Co-op

Mr. Bermes said he was contacted by the Robert's superintendent last week about a football co-op. Mr. Bermes doesn't think we'll get very many kids. The Board discussed the idea. There was no interest in co-oping for a football program.

Item #9 Hirings/Resignations

Mr. Bermes recommends approving the resignations of Paula Priest, Mark Rupprecht, Nancy Monforton and Ruby Sanford. He would also recommend accepting Vicki Kenyon's letter of resignation handed to the Board Chairman. Mr. Bermes said he has nothing but praise for those resigning. Mr. Stene read Vicki Kenyon's letter of resignation aloud. Her last day will be June 30, 2014. Corie Mydland made a motion to accept all of the above resignations. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Mr. Bermes asked to advertise all positions immediately and he would like to do some re-assigning and hire an administrative assistant. He will work on job descriptions.

Mr. Bermes recommends hiring Michael Harris as the Driver's Ed teacher at a rate of \$22/hour. He has all the necessary endorsements and is the co-writer of the Drive Right books. Dawn Blain made a motion to hire Michael Harris as the Driver's Ed teacher at \$22/hour. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Driver's Ed begins the 27th of May.

Item #10 Teaching Recommendations

Mr. Bermes recommends the following non-tenure teachers for rehire: Jessica Arlian, Kerri Clement, Jeromey Burke, Karen McKay, Allison Evertz, Tesa Sironen and Lindsey Thompson. Clinton Kramer made a motion to rehire Jessica Arlian. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Sharon Songstad made a motion to rehire Kerri Clement. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Mr. Bermes said Mr. Burke will have his degree by this summer. Clinton Kramer made a motion to rehire Jeromey Burke. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Sharon Songstad made a motion to rehire Karen McKay. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Dawn Blain made a motion to rehire Allison Evertz. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Sharon Songstad made a motion to rehire Tesa Sironen. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Dawn Blain made a motion to rehire Lindsey Thompson. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Mr. Bermes recommends hiring and giving tenure to Mary Ekberg and Megan Bleile. Clinton Kramer made a motion to hire Mary Ekberg. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Clinton Kramer made a motion to hire Megan Bleile. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Tenure was given to both of the above teachers.

Mr. Bermes recommends hiring tenured teachers: Julie Avants, Patty Bergum-Nafts, Ann Conover, Ev Fischer, Gloria Hardy, Lucy Jensen, Mary Koon, Sean McAndrews, Chad Massar, Nicole Means, Alane O'Dore, Marcie Peters (Wilson), Hallie Spoklie-Luoma, Hallie Rowilson, Carol Sherman, Betsy Suckow, Brice Turk, Kayleen Torbert, George Warburton, Colette Webber and Carri White. Sharon Songstad made a motion to hire all the above listed tenured teachers. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Mr. Bermes recommends offering a contract for 205 days for 2014-15 to Marilyn Vukonich, High School Principal. He will recommend the amount of the contract at the May Board meeting. Corie Mydland made a motion to offer a contract to Mrs. Vukonich, High School Principal for 205 days for 2014-15, with the amount of the contract to be recommended at the May meeting. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Mr. Bermes recommends rehiring Mrs. Carroll as the district's business manager for the 2014-15 school year. The Board will decide Mrs. Carroll's district clerk appointment with the reorganization of the Board at the May meeting. Mr. Bermes will also have a recommendation for compensation at that meeting. Dawn Blain made a motion to rehire Mrs. Carroll as the district's business manager for the 2014-15 school year, with compensation to be recommended at the May meeting. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Mr. Bermes said he will recommend the Athletic Director positions at a later date. He presented his ideas on reorganizing the positions. The Board discussed his ideas and the positions.

Item #11 Elementary Classroom Assignments

Mr. Bermes gave his thoughts on classroom assignments and the final determination will be made at the May meeting. Right now, he said based on student numbers, it looks like there will be 1 teacher for Kindergarten, 2 teachers for 1st grade, 1 teacher for 2nd grade, 2 teachers for 3rd grade, 2 teachers for 4th grade, 2 teachers for 5th grade and 2 teachers for 6th grade. The variable classes are 3rd, 2nd, and 6th.

Also, he would like to recommend hiring summer workers again. He would like to hire Diane Manis as full time and open two other positions again for 32 hrs for student workers of age. Clinton Kramer made a motion to hire Diane Manis as full-time summer worker and then hire for two 32 hour/week student workers for the summer. Sharon Songstad seconded that motion. It was unanimously carried.

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

Mr. Bermes would like to offer summer school and would like to put it on the agenda in May. He had proposed details in the Board packet for them to review. This item is for Board information

Regarding graduation, he would like Mrs. Vukonich to give an update to the Board on the number of students in jeopardy of not graduating on time. He said also, that the seniors would like Mrs. Allison Evertz as their graduation speaker.

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8 pm to discuss matters where an individual's privacy exceeds the public's right to know. They came back into Regular Session at 8:05 p.m.

Mr. Bermes said the elementary is pilot testing the Smarter Balance. He said the mobile lab is awesome with touch screens. He may need a new cart. Mrs. Priest bought 6 I-Pads for lessons. The apps have been purchased with gift cards. He is impressed with Mrs. Priest's program for the kids.

The Board will need to make a decision as to which health care provider the district will be using this upcoming school year. We hope to have a recommendation by the insurance committee by the May meeting with rates.

Also, Mr. Bermes said 22 out of our 26 football helmets have been rejected as unsafe. He is currently getting a quote for their replacement. We are probably looking at about \$80 to \$90 apiece for a total cost of \$1760 to \$2160.

Winter Concessions cleared about \$8,400.

Mrs. Vukonich handed out her Principal's report and reviewed it briefly.

6 p.m. Building Committee Meeting May 12th and Negotiations Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Items for the Next Agenda – May 12, 2014 at 7 PM—Regular Meeting

- Item #1 Reorganization of Board
- Item #2 Trustee Certification
- Item #3 Appoint Clerk of the Board
- Item #4 Substitute Pay
- Item #5 9th Period
- Item #6 Classified Employee's Rehire and Compensation
- Item #7 Principal and District Clerk/Business Manager Compensation

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on May 12, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Library.

Corie Mydland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Approved _____

Clerk _____

Chairman _____