

PELLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Minutes

**Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board of Education Conference Room
7:00 p.m.**

Monday, June 14, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Pellston Public Schools was held in the Gerald E. Mallory Board of Education Conference Room on Monday, June 14, 2010. President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Kathy Smith, Chris Rybinski, Connie Dzedzie, Jim Milbrandt, Sheri Kindell and John Ritter.

Member(s) absent: None

The *Pledge of Allegiance* and prayer were led by Kathy Smith.

It was moved by Jim Milbrandt and supported by Connie Dzedzie to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 10, 2010. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by Chris Rybinski and supported by John Ritter to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on May 24, 2010. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by Connie Dzedzie and supported by Sheri Kindell to approve payment of the bills for the months of May and June, 2010 in the amount of \$98,743.89 with payment being made from the following funds: General Fund, \$86,426.16; Athletics, \$2,342.60; and Food Service, \$9,975.13. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by Connie Dzedzie and supported by John Ritter to approve the payrolls for the dates of June 18 and July 2, 2010 and of the benefits and utilities from June 15 through July 12, 2010 and electronic transfers. The motion carried 6-0.

Public Petitions

Mr. Chris Myers announced that he still has extra tickets for the “Beyond the Scoreboard” banquet for sale.

PTO Report – Written Report read by Kathy Smith from Tiffany Milbrandt (See attached)

Summer School Program

Mr. Joe Beasley reported on the progress of this year’s summer school program at the middle school. The program began June 6th and will go until July 1st and then start again in August. Twenty-four students are registered with an average attendance of 20. Char-Em feels this is a

very good number for middle school students. We have a very strong team in place to provide the best services for the students. Thanks to the food service, transportation, teacher, Mark Wagenschutz, Amanda Adams and to Mr. Basanese for his support. A range of activities and teaching methods are being utilized to meet everyone's needs and learning styles. There is an enrichment time each day with Crooked Tree Arts Center staff. Gym time is also a part of the day. Raven Hill Discovery Center is providing many activities and some field trips are coming up. Friday is field trip day. Students must attend Monday through Thursday in order to attend field trips. So far students are there consistently and behavior has been very good and morning sessions are great a learning time.

Principal's Reports

Tony Basanese reported:

- ✓ Graduation was very successful in spite of the heat. As the graduates entered the front row it was discovered that they were three chairs short due to someone in the audience taking chairs for their own use. Although this has never happened before, we will put the graduate's names on the chairs next year to avoid a repeat of the problem.
- ✓ The Master Schedule is being completed now that retirement decisions have been made and will be available soon.

Monique Dean reported (see attached)

- ✓ Dome Theater was very successful
- ✓ School Improvement Plan completed goals, objectives and activities for math, reading and writing and will work on District Plan
- ✓ MiBLSi grant has been approved and will be getting rolling. Sept. 20 is the first training.
- ✓ Sept. 14 will be date for anti bullying speaker to attend. Assemblies for K-2 and 3-5.
- ✓ MI Math Rural Initiative project survey has netted an invitation for teachers of mathematics to receive materials and stipends for participating. Data collection will be done and will help us to integrate information for testing and learning improvement goals. Only 50 allowed to participate
- ✓ Project First Step professional development was held on June 1st, with great participation.
- ✓ Interviewed applicant for Technology teaching position. Seven goals to focus on for 2010-11.
- ✓ Hornet Health Center will be doing friendship groups with some of students in summer school. Talked about services counselors want to see as well as what Principal Dean wants to see. They will strive to reach out and touch more students. Diane Burkhart also did culture of poverty and will work in circle of parents. This will be done off-set in Pellston so parents may feel more comfortable. Will participate in Title I evenings.
- ✓ Playground all set and approved by inspector. Thank you to Jerry Mallory, Bruce Ferris and custodians for all work to get this accomplished. Licensing for pre-school is required.
- ✓ Building is now licensed for K-6. Shari Saddison is very well organized and due to her efforts the licensing process ran smoothly.
- ✓ Aug. 24 & 25 will be Char-Em Summer Institute. Part of new reading initiative is to continue to use Dibels but will now be Dibels Next.

- ✓ Reading Street order of new books has arrived.

Freshman Volleyball

Chris Myers informed the Board that he would like to request a self-funded version of Freshman Volleyball for at least one year (and possibly two). There are 21 students dedicated and committed to playing volleyball. They have plans to attend summer camps. Coach Myers stated that it is very tough cutting enough kids to make J.V. and Varsity teams only. At least seven students would not be included and would not have the opportunity. Would the Board consider such a program, based on volunteers raising the funds? Mr. Tebbe noted that this program would compete for funds being raised to support the football program. Mr. Tebbe would like the Athletic Committee to look at the entire program. Chris Myers was asked to come to the committee meeting with more information. The committee will try to have a recommendation by the June 28th meeting.

Communications

Board member Ron Wolford notified the Board of his intention to resign and the process to fill the vacancy as soon as possible has begun. Two community members, Mr. Steve Rick and Mr. Mark Zink have expressed, in writing, their interest in filling this vacancy. They will be interviewed and a decision on an appointment will be made at the end of this meeting.

A letter of thanks has been received from Coach Randy Bricker for allowing the junior varsity baseball team to be reinstated, through fundraising. Money has been transferred to the general fund from the program's trust and agency account and the program is fully funded.

Recognitions & Remembrances

Taylor Friend – 3rd in High Jump at the State Meet in Class CD

Old Business

Instructional Plan Changes – Tabled Item from May 24th, 2010 Special Meeting
Recommendation for #3 – Departmentalized Instruction
GSRP Program – 2010-11

It was moved by Connie Dzedzie and supported by Jim Milbrandt to accept the following two recommendations of the Personnel Committee:

To allow the building principal to authorize and approve means and methods of instruction, as provided for in Policies and Procedures approved by the Board of Education.

To relocate the GSRP program to Pellston Elementary School effective for the 2010-11 fiscal year. Mrs. Monique Dean will supervise and coordinate licensing requirements and transition activities from Bear Cub Child Care to Pellston Elementary School. The motion carried 6-0.

New Business

It was moved by Chris Rybinski and supported by John Ritter to approve the MHSAA

Participation Resolution for the 2010-2011 school year. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by Connie Dzedzie and supported by Sheri Kindell to approve the bid submitted by Student Assurance Services for supplemental and catastrophic insurance coverage with a \$100 deductible paid by parents for athletes at a cost of \$3,825 for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by John Ritter and Chris Rybinski to set a special meeting date of June 28, 2010 for a Truth and Taxation and Budget Hearing on the 2010-11 budgets. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by John Ritter and supported by Jim Milbrandt to approve the bids for Midstate Security LLC at a total cost of \$7,958.00 for video and security equipment at the elementary building and for total carpet cleaning of all carpeted areas in both buildings from Stanley Steemer cleaners at a total cost of \$8,003.00, to be paid for from Building and Site funds. The motion carried 6-0.

Personnel

The Board acknowledged the letters of intent to retire from Pellston Public Schools by Mrs. Jane Farris and Mrs. Sue Hutchinson in 2011, with the State of Michigan Early Retirement Incentive extension.

It was moved by Connie Dzedzie and supported by Sheri Kindell to approve the administrator contracts for Mr. William Tebbe and Mr. Anthony Basanese for the 2010-11 fiscal year, beginning on July 1, 2010. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by Chris Rybinski and supported by Jim Milbrandt to approve the appointment of Mr. Chris Keene to the K-8 computer education position for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by Connie Dzedzie and supported by Chris Rybinski to approve the temporary employment of Mr. Bruce Ferris to perform maintenance services for the summer of 2010, from July 1 through August 30, at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by John Ritter and supported by Jim Milbrandt to approve the recommendation of Athletic Director Tom Litzner to appoint the following coaches for fall and winter coaching positions: Patti McNitt, 7th Grade Girls' Basketball; Steve Kirsch, 8th Grade Girls' Basketball; Larry Cassidy, 7th and 8th Grade Boys' Basketball; Brooke Groff, 7th and 8th Grade Girls' Volleyball; Chris Jurek, JV Football; Don Thorn, Assistant JV Football. The motion carried 6-0.

Curriculum Report

None

Information

Transportation Report— English/Mitchell

Athletic Report—Litzner

Food Service Program—Tippett

Trust & Agency Report – Ferris

Committee Reports/Assignments

Personnel committee will meet briefly following the meeting.

Interview of Board Vacancy Candidates

Why are you interested in being appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education?

Mark Zink: Has considered running for a long time and has extensive business background and long history of athletics. Feels he can be a asset.

Rick Steve: Three young children and vested interest. Would like to help out.

What do you see as the greatest challenges for schools in Michigan?

Steve Rick: Funding is the greatest challenge he sees right now. Foresees lots of tough decisions to be made.

Mark Zink: Financial and economic turndown. Loss of population and funding. Schools are getting smaller and tough decisions.

What is the role of the Board in solving problems that arise in the operation of the schools?

Mark Zink: Voice for the school with the public for care of students and even though these are not easy decisions they must be made.

Steve Rick: Board has final say and probably a great input on what the community hears and sees. The Board must take all of this in and make the best decisions for the whole.

What makes a good school board member?

Steve Rick: Need to be able to speak well with people and share opinions while being open to the opinions of others. One of the hardest parts may be getting in the mode of looking out for the best of the students.

Mark Zink: Dedicationheart and soul must be in it. Thick skin and ability to take shots.

What do you see as the high priority needs for this district? This year? 3-5 years?

Mark Zink: Funding on top of the list.

Steve Rick: Funding. Would like to dig into the issues and be part of the solution.

What is the most effective way to handle staff concerns or complaints?

Steve Rick: First of all – know the entire story and both sides to be objective and figure out what can be done.

Mark Zink: One-on-one to allow for open, honest exchange.

What is the most effective way to handle parent concerns or complaints?

Mark Zink: Same answer

Steve Rick: Same

What makes the process of change difficult? What is the Board's role in making change take place?

Steve Rick: Change is almost against human nature. We like routine and it easier. Change has to be made. Board has final say and taking input from all should be combined to determine what is best.

Mark Zink: No one likes change. People are set in their ways and like comfort zone. This can create problems. Research with education is the key.

If appointed as a member of the Board of Education would you consider running for the position in May 2011?

Mark Zink: Yes. Would like to be involved long-term.

Steve Rick: Yes. Here for the long haul and wants to be here for them.

What can be done to increase enrollment or stop the exodus of students?

Mark Zink: Focus on what we can do to draw children – computer labs, sports programs, voc ed, building trades, etc.

Steve Rick: Funding is out of our hands other than to voice opinion to legislature. Research what is drawing the students to other places through Schools of Choice.

Feeling of teacher to pupil ratio and making of AYP in order to not find ourselves in a correction mode on performance?

Steve Rick: Very important to get parents to involved and taking responsibility at home.

Mark Zink: Doing more with less is the world we are living in right now. Focus on people who are stepping up to the plate. Free teachers up to teach and get more parental involvement. PTO and workshops. Get creative to find ways of doing things that are outside of the box. Get ideas from other schools.

Secret Ballot was done for preference between the two excellent candidates. President Smith collected and ballots were opened by Superintendent Tebbe.

Steve Rick: 3

Mark Zink: 3

Discussion of candidate's qualities followed.

Mark Zink has 130 employees under his supervision and has worked as a grocery store manager for 18 years.

Steve Rick is responsible for 4 employees under his supervision as a project manager at a plumbing and heating business but had more in previous job in Saginaw. He moved north and has been in position his current position for seven years.

Both men have developed budgets and feel they have a firm grasp on finances.

Commitment to athletics – Mark said he is all for sports. Has coached and is behind because it keeps kids on track and teaches commitment and follow-through. Cutbacks may be necessary but there are ways around this to keep students involved.

Steve has been very involved in athletics, as have his children. Promotes discipline and sportsmanship. How to be a team player. Good life lessons. High priority and teaches things that books cannot.

Secret ballot done again.

Steve Rick: 2

Mark Zink: 4

It was moved by Connie Dzedzie and supported by Jim Milbrandt to appoint Mark Zink to fill the vacancy created by Ron Wolford until June, 2011. The motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment

It was moved by John Ritter and supported by Chris Rybinski to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 P.M. The motion carried 6-0.