

Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting

Monday, June 14, 2010

The monthly meeting of the Board of Education of District 5 of Plainview, NE, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the high school media center by Alden Zuhlke, president. Roll call was answered by Zuhlke, Krista Hanks, John Anderson and Jeremy Hampton. Dan Stelling and Kent Friedrich were absent. Also present were Superintendent Richard Alt, Principals Randy Kort and Randall Klooz and recording secretary, Imogene Wacker. Ronita Jacobsen, Cheryl Bailey and Cory Friedrich signed the visitor roster. Zuhlke indicated that the rules for open meetings were posted at the front of the room. Stelling arrived at 5:31 p.m. and Friedrich arrived at 5:32 p.m.

CONSENT ITEMS

Consent items included the minutes of the May 10, 2010 regular meeting, the financial reports, the June claims and approval of the agenda. It was noted that the date of the board meeting in the minutes of the May 10 meeting was incorrect.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$790,982.35 (120,506.87) in the General Fund. CDs total \$1,000,000.00 (1,000,000.00), Special Building Fund \$108,005.76 (74,735.68), Petty Cash \$2503.20 (2351.97), Activity Account \$59,850.55 (62,444.44), Lunch Account \$23,058.97 (29,496.64), Employee Benefit Fund \$52,576.29 (52,546.06), Depreciation Fund \$227,899.29 (227,724.60), Payroll Account \$1,133.29 (1,124.91), Custodial/Section 125 Account \$11,574.26 (13,989.69). Total assets were \$1,913,801.75, compared to \$1,534,128.50 a month ago and \$1,824,477.91 a year ago.

May receipts totaled \$1,019,181.73. That compares to \$447,907.84 in April. Disbursements totaled \$348,706.25, including \$50,792.36 for claims and \$297,913.89 for payroll. Building Fund receipts totaled \$33,270.08. There were no Building Fund expenditures.

Claims to the General Fund totaled \$363,782.21, including a loan repayment to the Depreciation Fund of \$240,000.00. There were no claims to the Building Fund. Hanks moved, Stelling seconded, to approve the consent items with the minutes corrected. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

ALUMNI BANQUET PLANS

Brook Curtiss updated the board on plans for the Plainview All-Class Alumni Reunion scheduled to be held at the school on Saturday, June 26, 2010.

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Cheryl Bailey had requested time on the agenda to discuss school policies and procedures. She read a prepared statement about a variety of concerns from ACT scores, student and grading issues, weighted classes, transcripts, a recent staff survey, hiring of substitute teachers and communication and transparency issues within the district. Discussion followed.

SECOND READING TO APPROVE CHANGES TO BOARD POLICY 502.04

At the May meeting the board approved offering a Transitional Kindergarten program and also approved on first reading language changes to the Early Childhood Education policy to alter enrollment restrictions for the preschool. To complete the changes, second reading approval of the policy changes is necessary. Friedrich moved, Anderson seconded, to change the enrollment restrictions for the preschool to provide one section of preschool with a maximum of twenty students. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICY 504.21

The school district is required by law to have a dating violence policy in place by July of 2010. According to the policy, dating violence education must be included in the curriculum and the policy must be included in the student handbook. Hanks moved, Friedrich seconded, to approve on first reading Board Policy 504.21 (Dating Violence Prevention). Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

FIRST READING OF WORDING CHANGES TO BOARD POLICY 407.02

Action is necessary to adjust wording in Board Policy 407.02 (Certificated Employee Negotiations) to match wording in the Negotiated Agreement, which currently states that the district accepts all years of experience when placing a newly hired teacher on the salary schedule. Stelling moved, Hampton seconded, to approve wording change in Board Policy 407.02 to read, "When hired, teachers shall be credited with all years teaching experience and placed on the schedule according to their degree level." Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE

It was not noted on the 2010-2011 school calendar adopted in April that the first three student days would be early dismissals. The early dismissals help students and staff adjust to portions of the buildings that may be warm and they allow staff meeting time to work through scheduling changes and adjustments that are a part of starting the school year. Hampton moved, Hanks seconded, to approve adjusting the school calendar for 2010-2011 to include early dismissals on August 18, August 19 and August 20. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

2010-2011 BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES

Superintendent Alt recommended adding 10 cents to the price of each breakfast/lunch meal for 2010-2011. That would set the prices for breakfast at \$1.00 for students and \$1.15 for adults. Lunch prices would be \$1.60 for grades preschool-third, \$1.80 for grades 4-12 and \$2.55 for adults. Milk prices will be determined after milk pricing quotes are received in July. Friedrich moved, Stelling seconded, to set the breakfast/lunch prices as recommended by the administration. Some concerns were expressed about the variety and quality of food served in the program. It was noted that more fruit was added to the menu during the past year following some complaints.

REVIEW 24/7 LEARNING INITIATIVE PROGRESS

An update was given on the board/administration/staff trip to Chicago for the Apple Executive Briefing. Apple staff presented a case for purchasing their product for the 24/7 Initiative which would provide a laptop computer for every student in grades 7-12.

Comments from those present who had traveled to Chicago, including Hanks, Hampton and the administrators, included the importance of staff and community support. An important question was "Is this program the best for our students?" It was noted that student test scores may not improve with the 24/7 Initiative, but it should make learning more interesting for students.

Principal Klooz commented that the program would be a timesaver for teachers and will develop collaboration between teachers. He also stressed that professional development would be an important component of the program. His goal is to get all classrooms ready for the change now. Switches are currently being updated and no new computers are being purchased under the previous update schedule. He plans to bring a completed proposal to the board of education in November 2010. Under the proposal, all teachers should have a new laptop by January 2011 and all students will have laptops by the 2011-2012 school year.

Anderson, Hanks and Hampton volunteered to visit schools using student laptops, to hear the pros and cons of the program from teachers, parents and students.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Elementary Principal/ Activities Director Kort gave an update on staff training for elementary teachers for the new Saxon mathematics curriculum and noted the Transitional Kindergarten program is also looking at Saxon for math and phonics. Bi-weekly, 30-minute workshops during the school year are planned to give teachers the opportunity to use and understand district technology. Several teachers are registered for summer L to J training, as part of the school improvement process. Mimeo training, including Zion staff, is set for August. The 2010-2011 sports calendar is being finalized and officials are being hired for 2011-2012. Sarah Wurdeman has been hired as the head volleyball coach and interviews are occurring for the assistant coach position. Paraeducator positions are being studied with a replacement needed for Anita Hampton, who has resigned, and possible hiring of an additional paraeducator. Monitoring Academic Progress (MAPS) training is planned for staff.

Secondary Principal Klooz announced that Ronita Jacobsen was recently named the Nebraska FCCLA Teacher of the Year and the Nebraska representative to the national convention. He reported on possible graduation requirement revisions. Under the revisions, beginning with the class of 2014, a class will be counted only one time for a student's overall grade point average. If a student elects to take the same class over again, the highest grade will be averaged in their overall GPA.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chairman Zuhlke thanked those involved with Plainview's Klown Festival for providing many activities for the youth of the community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Alt reported on the fuel oil tank removal process and commented on upcoming workshops for board members on public meetings laws and school finance. He also reported that the district's application for e-rate funding was approved (\$29,401.60). Superintendent Alt and the board congratulated Krista Hanks for being named Plainview's Citizen of the Year and expressed congratulations to Dan Stelling on his recent marriage.

A brief discussion occurred on how Plainview Schools compare with other schools in test scores. Several board members expressed a desire to discuss, at some time in depth, several of the concerns brought up in Cheryl Bailey's statement to the board.

A discussion also occurred on the proper use of closed sessions and it was decided to discuss teacher negotiations in open session.

NEGOTIATIONS

Stelling, Hampton and Hanks reported the results of the negotiation committee's work with the teacher negotiation committee. Base salary and the extra duty schedule were discussed. The board committee did not want to commit to a two-year settlement at this time and the proposal was for an approximate four and one-half percent total package increase based on returning staff only.

Anderson moved, Hanks seconded, to approve the negotiations settlement with the Plainview Professional Education Association for the 2010-2011 school year which sets the base salary at \$30,000, alters the extra duty schedule and makes some minor wording changes in the agreement. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried. The teacher group has already voted to accept the package.

CLOSED SESSION

Friedrich moved, Hampton seconded, to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing strategy on setting classified wages. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8:25 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 9:12 p.m.

Hampton moved, Stelling seconded, to accept the classified salary schedule proposed by Superintendent Alt, which included an approximate four percent raise in wages and an additional step on the schedule. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Friedrich moved, Stelling seconded, to entered closed session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:17 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 9:37 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

I, the undersigned, the duly appointed recording secretary of the Board of Education of District 5, Plainview, NE, hereby certify that the attached and foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of District 5 of Plainview, NE, held in open session on the 14th day of June 2010, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in the Plainview News.

Imogene Wacker, Recording Secretary