

Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting

Monday, March 8, 2010

The monthly meeting of the Board of Education of District 5 of Plainview, NE, was called to order at 5:44 p.m. in the high school media center by Alden Zuhlke, president. Roll call was answered by Zuhlke, Krista Hanks, Jeremy Hampton and John Anderson. Absent and excused were Kent Friedrich and Dan Stelling. Also present were Superintendent Richard Alt, Principals Randy Kort and Randall Klooz and recording secretary, Imogene Wacker. Ronita Jacobsen, Cory Friedrich, Elaine Hampton, Eileen Bramer, Michelle Bearinger, Wanda Retzlaff, Ranae Wacker and Karen Foster signed the visitor roster. Zuhlke indicated that the rules for open meetings were posted at the back of the room.

CONSENT ITEMS

Consent items included the minutes of the February 11, 2010 regular meeting, the minutes of the March 1, 2010 special board meeting (retreat), the financial reports, the March claims and approval of the agenda.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$258,243.83 (424,301.49) in the General Fund. CDs total \$1,000,000.00 (1,000,000.00), Special Building Fund \$66,197.26 (63,822.59), Petty Cash \$2,502.31 (2,417.02), Activity Account \$70,826.79 (69,969.85), Lunch Account \$26,774.04 (26,206.96), Employee Benefit Fund \$52,478.11 (9,803.86), Depreciation Fund \$467,029.92 (466,671.93), Payroll Account \$1,107.84 (1,102.48), Custodial/Section 125 Account \$13,787.68 (14,390.95). Total assets were \$1,914,554.33, compared to \$1,981,520.26 a month ago and \$1,685,910.51 a year ago.

February receipts totaled \$231,649.88. That compares to \$550,481.91 in January. Disbursements totaled \$397,707.54, including \$97,166.87 for claims and \$300,540.67 for payroll. Building Fund receipts totaled \$2,374.67. There were no Building Fund expenditures.

Claims to the General Fund totaled \$44,393.45. There were no claims to the Building Fund. Hampton moved, Anderson seconded, to approve the consent items. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich and Stelling absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS

Brook Curtiss had asked to address the board about incorporating community service hours into graduation requirements. The hours would not be a punishment, but a service, and a way to involve youth in planning and activities in the community. He used a similar program in the Creighton schools requiring 20 hours of community service over the four years of high school as an example. Principal Klooz suggested that the committee studying graduation requirements look at the proposal or that National Honor Society or Student Council membership requirements incorporate the proposal.

BOOK DONATIONS

Brook Curtiss also asked to address the board about the possibility of sending used school books (especially math books) to Africa to assist Pastor Dalem Leytanu from Tanzania who had visited Plainview earlier this year. Tanzanian schools operate with very few supplies. The administration will check into the possibility of sending otherwise discarded books for Pastor Leytanu through Pastor Metzger at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

DISCUSSION ON BOARD RETREAT

The main topics discussed at the March 1, 2010 Board retreat were reviewed. Included in the list of priorities were:

1. Change the culture of the school to promote a more positive environment.
2. Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment – Utilize technology across the curriculum to assist students in achieving personal goals as they prepare for an ever-changing society.
3. Staffing/Personnel – Needed reductions in staff shall occur through attrition with Reduction-In-Force as a last alternative. Efforts to share teachers and administrators will be encouraged. Teachers with multiple endorsements will be placed to meet student and district needs. Consideration for new hires will be given to those candidates who offer multiple endorsements.
4. Facilities and Grounds – Maintain and improve, when possible, all school facilities, grounds, equipment and infrastructure to present a positive image and increase the district's viability.
5. Be open to discussion with neighboring districts to share programs.

It was noted that all of the priorities are related due to finances and declining enrollment, that unfunded federal and state mandates present financial difficulties and that discussion with neighboring districts on sharing programs will be actively pursued. Also suggested was that coaches check out sports lockers to individual students in the same way that sports equipment is distributed to encourage personal accountability. Noted was that a staff survey was taken prior to setting the priorities and these surveys were discussed at the board retreat.

The board priorities will be adopted at the April board meeting.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

Declining elementary enrollments were discussed at the Board retreat. It is the administration's plan to combine this year's second- grade classes (currently two classes with 12 students and 8 students) into one third-grade class for next year. That teaching position would be absorbed by Kathleen Johansen's retirement. Since the 2009-2010 fourth-grade class currently has 22 students and began the year with 24 students, the plan is to combine this year's third-grade classes (currently two classes with 11 students and 13 students) into one fourth-grade class for next year. State law requires that teachers be notified by April 15 if their contract will not be renewed, however, Plainview's negotiated agreement states that the superintendent shall recommend to the board before March 15 those grades, areas or programs where fewer employees are needed or where programs should be discontinued. Superintendent Alt then recommended to the board that there be one classroom for each elementary grade level for 2010-2011, except for sixth grade (currently two classes of 15 students and 16 students in fifth grade) which will have two classroom sections and the exception of pre-school which would have a morning and an afternoon section. The current staff would be affected if the March 19 Kindergarten and Pre-School Round-Ups indicate only one teacher would be needed for each of those grade levels.

It was suggested that guidelines may be needed on when one or two classrooms are proposed, since not only numbers of students, but also special needs of the students should be considered.

Anderson moved, Hampton seconded, to approve Superintendent Alt's recommendation on the elementary 2010-2011 program. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich and Stelling absent. Motion carried.

SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY 508. 14

Board Policy 508.14 (Automated External Defibrillator) was discussed and approved on first reading at the February 11, 2010 regular board meeting. Hampton moved, Hanks seconded, to approve on second reading Board Policy 508.14 (Automated External Defibrillator) as presented. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich and Stelling absent. Motion carried.

2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGES

Superintendent Alt proposed that students attend school a full day on May 20 and May 21 to make up 1 ½ days of time missed due to the weather. This is a change from the original schedule that had classes concluding at 11:30 a.m. on May 20. The district has enough instructional hours to meet the 1,080 hours requirement, but the administration feels it important to have additional classroom time with students. Principal Klooz noted that seniors will also be held longer prior to graduation than previously planned. Hanks moved, Hampton seconded, to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar changes proposed by the administration. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich and Stelling absent. Motion carried.

2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Superintendent Alt presented an initial draft of the 2010-2011 school calendar with August 18 proposed as the first day of school and May 19 as the last day of school. The proposed calendar would allow one additional student day and one additional staff day than was set on the 2009-2010 calendar. If no snow days are taken, student dismissal would be one day earlier in the spring. The board will be asked to adopt the calendar at the April board meeting after the activity calendar has been coordinated and possible additional staff development days are added.

RESOLUTION ON 403(B) PLAN

The school's 403(b) plan administrator had notified the school of amendments made to the plan which do not change the intent of the plan but do have to be approved. Hampton moved, Hanks seconded, to adopt the resolution to amend the district's 403(b) plan. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich and Stelling absent. Motion carried.

SKID LOADER REPLACEMENT

There are about 500 hours of use on the district's current Bobcat skid loader. Superintendent Alt and head custodian Leon Miller had received a quote of about \$7,000 to trade for a new Bobcat. The district's current skid loader and snow blower are in good condition so trading is not a matter of necessity at this time, but discussion concerned if it may be time to consider a trade while the current units are worth something in trade or sale. It was suggested that prices be obtained from other dealers including any local businesses. It was also suggested that only the machine, not the snow blower or bucket be considered for replacement. Further discussion will occur at the April board meeting.

PRINCIPALS' CONTRACTS

Superintendent Alt recommended rehiring Elementary Principal/Activities Director Randall Kort and Secondary Principal Randall Klooz. Both rehires would be pending individual negotiations pertaining to their contracts.

Anderson moved, Hampton seconded, to rehire Mr. Kort as the Elementary Principal/ Activities Director for the 2010-2011 school year. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich and Stelling absent. Motion carried.

Hampton moved, Anderson seconded, to rehire Mr. Klooz as the Secondary Principal for the 2010-2011 school year. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich and Stelling absent. Motion carried.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Elementary Principal/ Activities Director Kort congratulated the seven qualifiers and five medalists on the wrestling team's third place finish at the state tournament. He also reported on other recent and coming activities. The track, currently snow-covered, still needs two to three days of resurfacing and striping work before it can be used.

Secondary Principal Klooz's report showed information on implementing the L to J school improvement process and the switch to Alert Now! for the emergency messenger system at a slightly lower cost, but with better service and options. He reported on the National Honor Society determination process and commended the speech team for earning NENAC runner-up honors, the vocal/instrumental department for the March 2 concert and FFA students qualifying for state competition. He distributed a list of local scholarships available to graduating seniors and commended the community for offering such a variety of financial aid.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chairman Zuhlke thanked board members for participating in the recent board retreat and commented on the large number of individuals filing for positions on the school board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Alt reported on the contract with ESU #1 for next year. He also commented on legislative issues. He distributed information requested by the board on the Plainview, Osmond and Creighton school districts pertaining to state aid, valuations, tax levies and enrollments. Also distributed were a breakdown of Plainview's state aid and a listing of 2010-2011 state aid for all Nebraska schools.

Interest has been expressed in a transitional kindergarten class for five-year-old students who are not ready to attend kindergarten. Discussion will occur at the April board meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Hampton moved, Anderson seconded, to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing principals' negotiations. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich and Stelling absent. Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:45 p.m. Kent Friedrich arrived for the executive session.

The board returned to open session at 9:25 p.m.

PRINCIPALS' SALARIES

Anderson moved, Hampton seconded, to offer Elementary Principal Randall Kort a one (1) percent raise in salary for the 2010-2011 school year. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Stelling absent. Motion carried.

Friedrich moved, Anderson seconded, to offer Secondary Principal Randall Klooz, in consideration of his years of service in the district, a two (2) percent increase in salary for the 2010-2011 school year. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Stelling absent. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 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 8TH day of March 2010, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in the Plainview News.

Imogene Wacker, Recording Secretary