

Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2009

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 of Plainview Public Schools by Alden Zuhlke, president. Roll call was answered by Zuhlke, Jeremy Hampton, Krista Hanks, John Anderson and Kent Friedrich. Dan Stelling was absent and excused. Also present were Supt. David Hamm and recording secretary, Imogene Wacker. Those who had signed the visitor roster were Stacy Ziems, Brian Ziems, Penny Davids, Elaine Hampton, Vickie Christiansen, Donna Hoffmann, Patty Knaak and Christy Anderson. Zuhlke indicated that the rules for open meetings were posted at the back of the room.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Several parents were present to again discuss the proposal to combine the past year's two third-grade classes into one fourth grade for 2009-2010. Board members Anderson and Hanks had previously met with the concerned parents and felt that a final decision on combining the class should be postponed until a later time.

CONSENT ITEMS

Consent items included the minutes of the May 11, 2009, regular meeting, the financial reports, the June claims and approval of the agenda.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$734,479.16 (123,567.39) in the General Fund. CDs total \$1,000,000.00 (1,005,317.73), Special Building Fund \$52,637.25 (9,424.66), Petty Cash \$1,119.05 (2,063.89), Activity Account \$36,059.53 (30,086.53), Lunch Account \$24,471.68 (29,258.80), Employee Benefit Fund \$52,114.01 (52,066.85), Depreciation Fund \$213,198.96 (212,989.12), Payroll Account \$1,239.97 (1,213.14), Custodial/Section 125 Account \$9,488.60 (12,303.38). Total assets were \$1,824,477.91, compared to \$1,368,114.32 a month ago and \$1,987,858.88 a year ago.

May receipts totaled \$992,275.17. That compares to \$360,828.25 in April. Disbursements totaled \$381,363.40, including \$110,177.17 for claims and \$271,186.23 for payroll. Building Fund receipts totaled \$43,212.59. There were no Building fund expenditures, leaving a balance of \$52,637.25, compared to \$9,424.66 a month ago. 75.27 percent of the General Fund budget had been spent, compared to 75.45 percent a year ago.

Claims to the General Fund totaled \$300,330.30. Claims to the Building Fund totaled \$35,000.00.

Hanks moved, Friedrich seconded, to approve the consent items. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Stelling absent. Motion carried.

PROCESS FOR SELECTING DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Anderson had requested a discussion of procedures used to hire new district employees. He was concerned that the board was not consulted before the official hiring of the technology coordinator, new paraeducators and the math instructor. He especially had concerns about the technology coordinator position since a contract was never offered by the board and the board was not asked to approve a specific salary and benefits. Anderson suggested that the superintendent should bring his top two applicant choices for all positions to the board with a hiring recommendation and then the board would make the final decision. Other board members expressed their feelings that the superintendent was hired to make such decisions.

Superintendent Hamm explained that the only official board policies currently in place relate to the hiring of administrators and certified personnel. No policy addresses the hiring of classified staff and those employees currently serve at the discretion of the superintendent.

Anderson moved, Hanks seconded, to change board policy on hiring procedures. Following discussion, Anderson withdrew the motion.

Anderson moved, Hampton seconded, to have a board committee review the district's hiring practices. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Stelling absent. Motion carried. Anderson, Hanks and Hampton will serve on the committee.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR MATH POSITION

Hanks asked that the approval of the contract for the mathematics instructor be tabled until Principal Klooz could be present to explain the position and his choice. Other board members felt it was important to fill the position immediately.

Friedrich moved, Anderson seconded, to approve the contract with Steven Porter for the secondary mathematics position. Upon roll call vote, Zuhlke, Friedrich, Hampton and Anderson voted aye, Hanks voted no. Stelling was absent. Motion carried.

SECURITY CAMERAS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL

The board agreed to again table a decision on the purchase of security cameras until the July meeting.

GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO DEPRECIATION FUND

It has been the practice during the past several years to transfer any unused budget authority at the end of the year from the General Fund to the Depreciation Fund. By moving unused money into the Depreciation Fund, the Board has greater flexibility to use the funds in the future for large capital outlays. Since the funds are legally spent in a previous budget year, there are no limitations under future expenditure lids.

Anderson moved, Friedrich seconded, to transfer \$150,000.00 from the General Fund to the Depreciation Fund for future capital outlays. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Stelling absent. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

All Nebraska public school districts must provide evidence to the Nebraska Department of Education that they have approved special education policies consistent with current state and federal requirements. The district's current policies are correct and sufficient, but administrative regulations to accompany those policies are necessary.

Hampton moved, Anderson seconded, that Plainview Public Schools adopts the proposed administrative regulations for our existing board policies with the intent that such will place the District in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws affecting special education services and programs. In the event of changes in the law or regulations, the school administration shall be authorized to implement modifications of practice to comply with such changes until such time as amended policies or regulations are adopted by the Board of Education. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Stelling absent. Motion carried.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Klooz was not present but his written report told of recommended changes to the student handbook, work on the 2009-2010 activity calendar and a possible policy on use of school facilities by individuals.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Zuhlke encouraged board member attendance at Nebraska School Board Association workshops on school law and budgeting and finance.

SUPERINTENDENT'S/ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Superintendent Hamm reported that Anita Hampton, Teri Sauser, Elaine Hampton, Jessica Eymann and Eileen Slack were selected from 15 applicants for the paraeducator positions in the elementary.

The District is eligible to receive \$81,753.00 in ARRA funds.

The official state aid for 2009-2010 will be \$163,644.95.

Bus Supervisor Bob McCabe will be looking at the possible replacement activity bus from Mid States School Bus and Transit Equipment.

Representatives from Goldenrod Hills Head Start recently noted that the classroom for use by the preschool has only room for 14 students in each section. Superintendent Hamm suggested two options to the Board. One would keep the 34 preschool students currently registered and make a separate lunch area for them, but also risk teacher burnout due to the large amount of paperwork and home visits required for that number of students. The second option would be to follow federal guidelines to cut off the number at 28 students. The board agreed to follow the recommendations of the Head Start representatives.

Hanks, also a member of the Klown Festival committee, thanked the school and Principal Klooz for opening school facilities for the weekend festival activities when inclement weather occurred.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 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 June, 2009, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in The Plainview News.

Imogene Wacker, Recording Secretary