

Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting Monday, March 10, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Board of Education of District 5 of Plainview, Neb., was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the media room of the Plainview Public Schools on Monday, March 10, 2008 by Alden Zuhlke, president. Roll call was answered by Zuhlke, Janyce Warneke, Krista Hanks, Dan Stelling, Tom Scranton and Kent Friedrich.

Also present were Supt. Dave Hamm, Principals Randy Klooz and Corey Dahl, Recording Secretary Lee Warneke, along with visitors, Stacy Ziems, Donna Hoffmann, David Hoffmann, Jeremy Hampton, Christy Anderson, Jill Gabriel, Eileen Bramer, Jessica Strobe, Jen Hodson, Kathleen Johansen, Karen Foster, Cory Friedrich, Debbie White, Toni Hart, Claudia Schultze, Shirley Bernecker, Celeste Anderson, Jan Krause and Tim Knaak.

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, 2008 meeting, the financial report and the March claims.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$220,706.49 (\$329,701.39) in the checking account; CDs \$994,000.00 (\$994,000.00); Special Building \$11,268.56 (\$9,842.19); Petty Cash Fund \$2,456.80 (\$2,378.76); Activity Account \$64,784.80 (\$77,846.30); Lunch Account \$35,058.45 (\$34,148.30); Employee Benefit Fund \$51,150.68 (\$18,777.81); Depreciation Fund \$227,478.23 (\$226,987.69); Payroll Account \$1,617.45 (\$1,517.02); Custodial/Section 125 Account \$9,575.76 (\$12,560.40). Total assets were \$1,564,825.06, compared to \$1,632,457.21 a month ago and \$1,727,023.94 a year ago.

February receipts were \$229,859.33, about half from taxes and half from state aid, compared to \$507,575.44 at the end of January. Disbursements totaled \$338,854.23, including \$75,302.65 for claims and \$263,551.58 for payroll. Building fund receipts were \$1,426.37 with no expenditures, leaving a balance of \$11,268.56, compared to \$9,842.19 a month ago. 50.28 percent of budget has been expended, compared to 47.95 percent a year ago.

Claims to the general fund totaled \$53,272.16 with none for the building fund. It was indicated that the heating fuel bill was \$2,000 less than a year ago.

Scranton moved, Hanks seconded, to approve the consent items. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

ENERGY AUDIT RESULTS

It was indicated that the costs to make some of the minimum recommended improvements to the elementary and high school proposed in a recent energy audit would approximate \$900,000 to \$1,000,000. Question was raised whether grants may be available for these improvements, however it was indicated that it was not likely to be available. The Board took no action.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Board members were presented three proposed calendars for the next school term. It was indicated that a staff survey resulted in no clear cut preference. One of the proposals called for seven days of no school and 17 days on which school would be dismissed at 1:45 p.m. The second called for 35 days of early outs, but only five days of no school. All of these events would be utilized by teachers for workshops or other educational projects. A third called for early outs on every other Friday. Much discussion followed. Warneke moved, Friedrich seconded, to use the calendar which called for 35 days of early outs, but only five days of no school. Upon roll call vote the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

The proposed calendar calls for classes to start on Thursday, Aug.14, and end on Tuesday, May 19. Christmas break will start on Tuesday, Dec.23, with an early out. Classes will resume for students on Tuesday, January 6, and continue through Tuesday, May 19, with an early out. Teachers, however, will come two days preceding student days in August and remain for two more days at the end of the school term.

RESIGNATIONS

The Board had received letters of resignation from two staff members.

Dorothy Lichty had submitted her resignation as an elementary instructor, indicating she planned to spend more time with her children and grandchildren and to pursue her own interests and activities.

Corey Dahl, elementary principal, submitted his resignation to accept a position at the Educational Service Unit No. 8 at Neligh to serve as an educational technology facilitator, working with technology in the schools that ESU No. 8 serves, including Plainview. He and his family plan to continue living here, however. His wife, Becky, is on the elementary teaching staff.

Scranton moved, Stelling seconded, to accept the resignations of Dorothy Lichty and Corey Dahl with regrets and appreciation for their dedicated years of service to Plainview Public Schools and its students. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2008-2009

There followed much discussion on whether to or how to fill the vacancies which occur as the result of the two resignations. Supt. Hamm indicated he wanted to know whether the Board would like to fill the elementary principal

position, and whether they want to fill Lichty's position and how the Board wanted to address the district's technology support service.

It appeared that a portion of the visitors were concerned on whether only one teacher would be utilized for the third grade, which Lichty was vacating, or whether they would engage another person.

Another segment of the visitors appeared to be interested on how the principal replacement or technology individual could be obtained. Much discussion followed. It was indicated that Principal Dahl did much of the technology work in the elementary department, while technology service was hired done in the secondary department.

The Board, at its retreat last year, established goals of reducing staff and administration when opportunities were presented. It was pointed out that K-1 can expect about 20 students, grades two and three may expect 22 each and the upper grades four through six might expect 24 each. It was pointed out that a class with sufficient free or reduced price lunches can qualify for additional state aid, however obtaining another teacher would cost more than the state aid would bring in. It was indicated, however, that a year from now, the enrollment would be even less and then such teacher would not be needed. A number of the visitors appeared to feel that an individual should be hired to fill Lichty's position.

It was eventually moved by Stelling, seconded by Hanks, to fill the position vacated by Lichty with a one-year replacement. Upon vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

With the school having purchased nearly 100 computers over the past two years, the need was expressed to possibly seek a person who might also teach one or two classes. It appeared that the Board had decided not to hire both – a technology-teacher combination or an elementary principal. The school's technology committee, with most members present, indicated that their number one priority was for a full-time technology person.

Warneke moved, Stelling seconded, to also advertise for a technology coordinator/teacher. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous.

The Board also directed Mr. Hamm to identify possible staffing scenarios utilizing existing staff to help with administrative functions for next year. He was directed to bring these to the April Board meeting.

There followed some discussion on obtaining cameras for security purposes but it was pointed out that it would require an enormous number of cameras and expense.

CERTIFIED CONTRACTS FOR 2008-2009

It was indicated that it was time to offer contracts to certified teachers and administrators for the next school year or to issue notices of the District's intention to reduce staff.

Hanks moved, Stelling seconded to go into executive session to talk about administrative contracts. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried. The Board moved to another office, since there were so many visitors in their meeting site, for their executive session at 7:19. They returned to open session at 8:15 p.m.

Warneke moved, Stelling seconded to offer equivalent FTE teaching contracts for the 2008-2009 school year to all certificated staff members currently holding teaching positions at Plainview Public Schools with the exception of those who have already resigned. Assignment of teaching duties will be determined by the Superintendent of Schools. Salaries, benefits and condition of employment will be established by the negotiated Master Contract. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

Scranton moved, Stelling seconded, to offer administrative contracts to Mr. Randall Klooz and Mr. David Hamm for the 2008-2009 school year. Salaries, benefits, job descriptions and conditions of employment will be established by the Board of Education. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

Supt. Hamm then rendered his resignation as superintendent of schools in Plainview effective at the end of June, 2009.

TEACHER PRESENTATION

The elementary Learning Web Team, consisting of Eileen Bramer, Jill Gabriel, Jessica Strobe, Jen Hodson and Dahl then provided a brief presentation on what they had used as a project under the title "A Patriotic America," with participation from second-, fourth- and sixth-graders.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Elementary principal, Corey Dahl, gave a brief report indicating that the school had been close to receiving a grant for Safe Routes to Schools, however were not in the first nine that were chosen. If any of these projects came below the expected cost, there still remains a possibility of Plainview's request being funded. He also said that elementary science textbooks are being previewed. He indicated that Kindergarten Round-Up would be April 11 with sessions at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. He also said consideration was being given to obtaining additional playground equipment from monies earned in last year's fund-raiser.

Secondary principal, Randy Klooz, had listed all the scholarships made available to graduating students and expressed thanks to those in the community who are providing them. He said that the Leadership Assembly is scheduled for April 10. The local group has chosen "Pirate Academy of Leadership" for their name and "Igniting a Legacy of Leadership" as their theme. Klooz felt there were many positive things occurring in the school system.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zuhlke then presented a gift of appreciation to Lee Warneke who has served as volunteer recording secretary for many years.

He also recognized both Dahl and Lichty, who had resigned, for their service to the school system.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Supt. Hamm then indicated he had applied for a grant to purchase a couple of AED's for the school system which would provide equipment for use in medical emergencies.

He showed photos of what the Distance Learning classroom will look like utilizing a grant. It would include a large screen and unit and probably be located in the elementary building. The system is portable and could be moved to any spot where there was a hookup.

He then reported on funds still available at the ESU unit for long distance education purposes which will be used to pay for various technology and other items. Plainview's balance at the ESU for this purpose is \$54,577.28.

He then discussed the state aid expected next year and felt that the legislature is headed for re-certification. However a new proposed formula showed that Plainview would receive even more in state aid than the previous estimate had been.

Chairman Zuhlke declared the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

I, the undersigned, the duly appointed recording secretary of the Board of Education of District 5, Plainview, Neb., 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, Neb., held in open session on the 10th day of March, 2008, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in the Plainview News.

Leonald Warneke, Recording Secretary