

## **Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting**

**Monday, April 12, 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, Kent Friedrich, and Dan Stelling. John Anderson and Jeremy Hampton were absent and excused. Also present were Superintendent Richard Alt, Principals Randy Kort and Randall Klooz and recording secretary, Imogene Wacker. Rhoda Bjelland, Jennie Leiting, Marilyn Elwood, Cory Friedrich, Thad Murren, Matt Fisher, Janyce Warneke, Elaine Hampton, Jen Hodson, Jess Horstmann, Jill Gabriel, Michelle Bearinger and Corey Dahl 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 March 8, 2010 regular meeting, the financial reports, the April claims and approval of the agenda.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$118,377.78 (258,243.83) in the General Fund. CDs total \$1,000,000.00 (1,000,000.00), Special Building Fund \$69,736.74 (66,197.26), Petty Cash \$2,197.63 (2,502.31), Activity Account \$65,945.85 (70,826.79), Lunch Account \$28,891.98 (26,774.04), Employee Benefit Fund \$52,513.69 (52,478.11), Depreciation Fund \$467,452.17 (467,029.92), Payroll Account \$1,114.94 (1,107.84), Custodial/Section 125 Account \$13,240.63 (13,787.68). Total assets were \$1,666,432.10, compared to \$1,914,554.33 a month ago and \$1,526,581.50 a year ago.

March receipts totaled \$194,203.88. That compares to \$231,649.88 in February. Disbursements totaled \$334,069.93, including \$44,393.45 for claims and \$289,676.48 for payroll. Building Fund receipts totaled \$3,539.48. There were no Building Fund expenditures.

Claims to the General Fund totaled \$153,039.31. There were no claims to the Building Fund. Stelling moved, Friedrich seconded, to approve the consent items. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no public comments.

### **TEAMMATES ANNUAL REPORT**

Janyce Warneke presented her annual report on the TeamMates program.

### **ROOF BIDS**

Bids for roof repair from Guarantee Roofing and Western Roofing, both of Norfolk, were opened on March 29, with specifications left open for different solutions to repair or replace roofs over a high school classroom area and the locker room area. Rhoda Bjelland and Matt Fisher from Guarantee Roofing and Thad Murren from Western Roofing attended the meeting to explain their bids. It was also noted that repair is needed on the Pirate Gym roof. Following discussion, it was decided to put the subject on the agenda for the May meeting to allow the full board to make the decision. The board asked Superintendent Alt to visit with both roofing companies for more clarification on their bids. It appeared to be the consensus of the board members present to consider roof replacement rather than repair.

### **SKID LOADER BIDS**

Bids for skid loader replacement were received from three businesses to replace the current 7-year-old machine, keeping the current loader bucket and snow blower. The bids included Nebraska Harvestore \$7000, Kayton International \$6,500, and Green Line Equipment \$8,500. Friedrich moved, Hanks seconded, to accept the bid from

Kayton International of Neligh for a Bobcat skid loader, adding a block heater and attachment kit, if needed. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

#### **DEPARTMENTALIZATION OF GRADES 4, 5 AND 6**

Fifth and sixth grades are currently utilizing partial departmentalization to allow teachers to spend more of their time teaching the discipline they are stronger or more interested in, rather than teaching all disciplines. It was proposed that fourth grade be included in this program. Teachers' strengths could be utilized in math, science, social studies and language arts. Teachers Jennifer Hodson, Jill Gabriel, Cory Friedrich and Jessica Horstmann were present to support the additional departmentalization. Board members supported the plan.

#### **VISUAL PHONICS**

Elementary Principal Kort recommended in his board report to set April 26 as a day for no classes in the elementary to allow for staff training in Visual Phonics and to evaluate curriculum for the coming year. Michelle Bearinger spoke in support of the multi-sensory phonics program for the lower grades. Training in the program would be done by an ESU #8 staff member. Stelling moved, Friedrich seconded, to change the school calendar to allow for the elementary staff training day on April 26. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

#### **SECURITY CAMERAS/LOCKS**

Board discussion on the purchase of high school security cameras has been ongoing for several months. Bids were reviewed from three companies, DSN EnviroSystems & Surveillance, Hartington, \$12,030, ADT, Omaha, \$8,027.00 and VTG Security Specialists, Omaha, \$12,860.20, with funding to come mainly from budgeted Title V funds. Superintendent Alt recommended consideration of the DSN system based on the 24-channel DVR and the location of the company in case of problems. Additional high school cameras and camera installation in the elementary school could be considered next year. It was decided to postpone a vote until the May meeting to allow all board members to be involved in the decision.

Two bids were also received on a card sweep door lock system for the high school building. Superintendent Alt recommended that the purchase of the lock system not be considered at this time.

#### **ADOPTION OF BOARD PRIORITIES**

Board priorities discussed at the recent board retreat were discussed at the March board meeting. Wording of the fifth priority was changed to "Be open to actively discuss with neighboring districts the option to share programs." Stelling moved, Hanks seconded, to adopt the board priorities as presented and amended. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

#### **2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Superintendent Alt presented the 2010-2011 school calendar with August 18 proposed as the first day of school and May 19 as the last day of school. Hanks moved, Stelling seconded, to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar as presented. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

#### **DISCUSSION OF TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN**

A transitional kindergarten for students not yet ready to attend regular kindergarten, but too old to attend preschool has been requested by some parents and the current preschool teacher, Mrs. Bernecker. This would be accomplished by operating only one session of preschool and a transitional kindergarten session instead of the

second preschool session. Changes to the current preschool policy would be needed to proceed. General consensus of the board was to pursue the transitional kindergarten program.

### **PLAINVIEW SCHOOL FOUNDATION**

Discussion continued on the proposed Plainview School Foundation. Stelling moved, Hanks seconded, to adopt the proposed articles of incorporation. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. The board's foundation committee will meet to appoint members to the proposed five-member foundation board of directors.

### **REDUCTION IN FORCE RESOLUTION**

At the March meeting the board gave approval to have only one classroom for each elementary grade with the exception of sixth grade and preschool. Double sections of this year's second and third grades will be combined into one section each for next year. Mrs. Johansen's resignation will allow for combining one grade level. The other grade level combination will be accomplished by reducing the elementary teaching staff by one person, with Lori Porter as the teacher to be affected through the Reduction-in-Force Policy. She was notified by letter of the action and signed a resignation statement waiving her right to a hearing on the reduction in force notice, subject to the reservation of all rights to recall. Mrs. Porter has a right of rehire for any position that may open up in the next two years that she is properly endorsed to teach. Stelling moved, Friedrich seconded, to adopt the Reduction-in-Force resolution pertaining to Mrs. Porter's contract. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

### **RESIGNATION OF TEACHERS**

Beth Cheyney, instrumental music instructor, had submitted a letter of resignation. She plans to pursue her master's degree. Hanks moved, Stelling seconded, to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Beth Cheyney as the instrumental music teacher at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

### **CERTIFIED CONTRACTS**

All current certificated staff members returned their signed contracts by the April 9 deadline except Kathleen Johansen, Beth Cheyney, Lori Porter and Steven Porter. Friedrich moved, Stelling seconded, to offer equivalent FTE teaching contracts for the 2010-2011 school year to all certificated staff members currently holding teaching positions at Plainview Public Schools with the exception of those who have already resigned, those who will be affected by a Reduction-in-Force due to the elimination of a teaching position and those who did not return their signed contract by the stipulated date. Assignment of teaching duties will be determined by the superintendent of schools. Salaries, benefits and conditions of employment will be established by the negotiated Master Contract. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

### **PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

Elementary Principal/ Activities Director Kort gave an update on his attendance at a recent national convention in Houston, TX, spoke about recent and upcoming spring activities and announced the date of the Athletic Banquet as Friday, April 23. He also reported on a Title I review and NSAA structure changes. The Activity Boosters have requested the purchase of a Shoot-a-Way to use in the basketball programs. Funding will come from the Boosters and donations, but the school activity fund will also pay part of the cost of the item.

Secondary Principal Klooz reported on many end-of-school-year activities. He also congratulated students placing at the state speech contest and those chosen to attend Class C All-State Band. He had given board members a handout about traditional versus block scheduling and commented on Nebraska reading assessments. Formal

teacher evaluations have been completed. The preschool through grade 12 math departments will be evaluating new textbooks for grades PK-6. The Apple computer representative has scheduled June 2-3 as the 24/7 briefing date in Chicago for local staff members.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Chairman Zuhlke shared information from visits with two Osmond board members about future sharing of programs and/or staff. He also proposed the possibility of sharing a band instructor with Creighton or Osmond.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A thank you was read from the Plainview Arts Council. Superintendent Alt reported on safety suggestions made by the school's insurance carrier, spoke about a RUS grant for distance learning and technology and briefly spoke about LB1014, the teacher performance pay bill in the Nebraska Legislature. He also reported more research into purchasing a mini van or mini bus for special education transportation and commented that state aid for 2010-2011 will be about \$3000 less than the current year.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Stelling moved, Friedrich seconded, to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and teacher negotiations. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:07 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 9:31 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

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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 12th day of April 2010, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in the Plainview News.

Imogene Wacker, Recording Secretary