

Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2011

The regular 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, Marilyn Elwood, Vicki Peterson and John Anderson. Jeremy Hampton was absent. Also present were Superintendent Richard Alt, Elementary Principal/Activities Director Randy Kort, Secondary Principal Randall Klooz and recording secretary, Imogene Wacker. Cory Friedrich, Jennifer Koepke, Larry Knaak, Jan Krause and Daniel Elwood signed the visitor roster. Chairman 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 November 14, 2011 regular meeting and the November 30, 2011 special meeting, the financial reports, the December claims and approval of the agenda.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$702,317.93 (1,021,211.97) in the General Fund. CDs total \$1,000,000.00 (1,000,000.00), Special Building Fund \$14,940.89 (45,107.01), Petty Cash \$2,430.85 (2,465.40), Activity Account \$79,669.69 (58,552.96), Lunch Account \$8,088.63 (6,840.92) Employee Benefit Fund \$52,956.08 (52,938.68), Depreciation Fund \$466,255.26 (466,063.73), Payroll Account \$1,028.38 (1,024.47), Custodial/Section 125 Account \$17,750.01 (18,746.77). Total assets were \$2,281,255.78 compared to \$2,611,378.41 a month ago and \$2,264,568.73 a year ago.

November receipts totaled \$48,173.80. That compares to \$350,702.93 in October. Disbursements totaled \$367,067.84, including \$61,573.50 for claims and \$305,494.34 for payroll. Building Fund receipts totaled \$214.42. Building Fund expenditures totaled \$30,380.54.

Claims to the General Fund totaled \$64,181.94. There were no claims to the Building Fund. Hanks moved, Elwood seconded, to approve the consent items. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Hampton absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

REPORT ON SAFETY DRILLS

Cory Friedrich, Safety Committee chairman, recently completed the annual medical emergency and lockdown drills. Friedrich reported on the drills completed and said that an alternative fire route drill will be done in the spring. Pierce County and local law enforcement officials toured the school facilities and conducted their own drills in October. Exterior entrances to the school buildings will be numbered as a result of those visits.

DISCUSS WORDING CHANGE TO BOARD POLICY 504.20 (BULLYING PREVENTION)

A change to the Bullying Prevention Policy was suggested at the November board meeting. The additional wording would be, "The board affirms the right of all students to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm and harassment." The additional wording is from Board Policy 103 (Equal Educational Opportunity). Wording changes to the Bullying Prevention Policy will be placed on the agenda at a later time.

Members of the board's bullying committee were asked to find dates that would work for another public meeting on the topic, either prior to the January or February meetings.

DISCUSS TECHNOLOGY/TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Hampton arrived at 5:55 p.m.

Administrators reported on how technology is being utilized by both students and staff since the purchase of laptops last year. Also, price estimates on updating the technology infrastructure were again reviewed. The month of February was set as the month to revisit the 1-to-1 computer initiative. Infrastructure updates will be needed even if the 1-to-1 initiative is not approved.

Peterson requested reports from some core class teachers on how they use technology in their classrooms. Anderson requested information from schools that have used a 1-to-1 system for several years on how their test scores have changed, etc. The administrators will arrange for those reports and information.

DISCUSS/APPROVE BOARD POLICY 502.031 (EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN)

Recent legislation required the new Early Admission to Kindergarten policy. The proposed policy was discussed and passed on first reading at the November meeting. Anderson moved, Hanks seconded, to approve Board Policy 502.031 (Early Admission to Kindergarten) on second reading. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

DISCUSS RESOLUTION ON COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP WITH CREIGHTON ON BOYS GOLF

Activities Director Kort and Superintendent Alt met with Creighton administrators recently and drew up a tentative agreement for a cooperative sharing program in boys golf for the next two years. The agreement and guidelines, included in board members' packets, described how the coaching expenses, team colors and mascot would be handled, with all expenses shared and each school responsible for its own transportation. The application must be submitted to the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) by January 1. Board members requested comments from current Plainview golf coach Larry Knaak.

After discussion, no motion was forthcoming, however board members requested that administrators set up a meeting between the Creighton and Plainview boards to discuss possible sharing options and a possible feasibility study.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Elementary Principal/Activities Director Kort reported on upcoming activities. The Elementary Book Fair was again a success. The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) activity moratorium will be from December 23 through December 27. No gym or weight room activity will occur during the moratorium for any ages. The sixth-grade class is using various ways to support a classmate hospitalized in Omaha with leukemia. The elementary principal, teachers and all of the elementary students were complimented on their recent activities in his support.

Secondary Principal Klooz also reported on upcoming activities. He reported the attendance of several Plainview teachers at work sessions to assist the Nebraska Department of Education in producing questions for tests and standards to be approved by the federal government for assessing students. He also reported the study of two new possible organizations for secondary students, a Future Educator Association and a Career and Technical National Honors Society. Plainview's school improvement process and website, set up by Jen Hodson and Ronita Jacobsen, are being used by other schools in the area. The new touch screen TV has not been put in use due to a problem with a computer component in the TV. It is hoped to have it ready for the start of the second semester.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chairman Zuhlke reported on his attendance at the Nebraska School Board Association (NASB) convention. The board requested that he and Superintendent Alt make arrangements for a feasibility study on sharing in all areas with Creighton and with other schools in the area.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Alt reminded incumbents of the February 15, 2012 reelection filing deadline and the March 1 deadline for all others interested in running for the board of education. He reported on his attendance at the NASB convention and NASB Level 1 awards were presented to Hanks, Anderson and Hampton. He also distributed a new Plainview School Foundation brochure.

As Crofton is leaving the Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference (NENAC) at the end of the 2011-2012 school year, and Randolph and Laurel-Concord have been approached about joining the Lewis and Clark Conference, local administrators may talk with Lewis and Clark representatives also. They wish to be proactive in this area.

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) has approved the superintendent and principal evaluation instruments.

The board had received a handout on the Nebraska Performance Accountability System (Ne-PAS). Superintendent Alt spoke about the system and how it will be used to rate and compare schools in the state.

Following the recent board workshop with Burma Kroger from NASB, it was decided to do a better job of looking ahead to discuss action items a month or two before an actual vote is taken by the board. Also it was suggested that board policies be reviewed on a regular basis.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

Each board member had submitted a completed superintendent evaluation instrument to board secretary, Vicki Peterson, so she could tabulate the results. Hanks moved, Anderson seconded, to go into closed session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation and/or to prevent possible damage to the superintendent's reputation. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

The board entered closed session at 7:32 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 8:04 p.m.

Following the closed session, the board asked that Superintendent Alt continue to work to ensure effective communication with the community, staff and board. The board expressed their appreciation of his work on the budget and the negotiations process.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 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 12th day of December, 2011, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in The Plainview News.

Imogene Wacker, Recording Secretary