

Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting

Monday, December 13, 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, Jeremy Hampton, Krista Hanks, John Anderson and Vicki Peterson. Kent Friedrich was absent. Also present were Superintendent Richard Alt, Secondary Principal Randall Klooz, Elementary Principal/Activities Director Randy Kort and recording secretary, Imogene Wacker. Lori Klooz, Adam Shepard, Ronita Jacobsen, Eileen Bramer, Michael Sauser, Cory Friedrich, Deb Jensen, Sarah Wurdeman, Jessica Horstmann, Samantha Hahn, Ranae Wacker, Marilyn Elwood, Tom Sauser and Corey Dahl 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 8, 2010 regular meeting and the November 29, 2010 special meeting, the financial reports, the December claims and approval of the amended agenda.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$494,761.98 (768,013.39) in the General Fund. CDs total \$1,000,000.00 (1,000,000.00), Special Building Fund \$168,611.81 (167,444.37), Petty Cash \$2,395.97 (2,475.56), Activity Account \$82,426.84 (62,398.49), Lunch Account \$19,641.91 (21,043.04), Employee Benefit Fund \$52,727.35 (52,704.25), Depreciation Fund \$469,729.38 (469,420.72), Payroll Account \$1,031.31 (1,024.32), Custodial/Section 125 Account \$14,644.43 (16,860.66). Total assets were \$2,264,568.73, compared to \$2,446,964.07 a month ago and \$2,152,123.46 a year ago.

November receipts totaled \$140,719.66. That compares to \$279,897.89 in October. Disbursements totaled \$413,971.07, including \$114,420.73 for claims and \$299,550.34 for payroll. Building Fund receipts totaled \$1,167.44. There were no Building Fund expenditures.

Claims to the General Fund totaled \$41,402.25. Claims to the Building Fund totaled \$97,112.00. Discussion occurred on the format of the financial report. Hanks moved, Peterson seconded, to approve the consent items. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

L-TO- J PRESENTATION

Teachers involved in the L-to-J pilot program, Ronita Jacobsen, Lori Klooz, Eileen Bramer, Sarah Wurdeman, Jessica Horstmann and Deb Jensen, gave a brief presentation to the board.

DISCUSSION OF SHARED SUPERINTENDENT POSITION

A board committee of Anderson, Hanks and Peterson, along with Superintendent Alt, met with a Pierce board of education committee on November 29 to discuss sharing a superintendent. Committee members updated the board on those discussions. Plainview committee members felt the agreement must be a 50 percent-50 percent sharing, Plainview should hold the contract, the agreement should be for only one year and commented that neither school is being forced to look at sharing. Neither school is interested in pursuing consolidation, only the sharing of a superintendent and some possible programs. Pierce also met with two other schools and following their board meeting would contact Superintendent Alt with their decision.

DISCUSSION OF NENAC ADMISSION PRICES

Superintendents of the Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference (NENAC) will discuss admission prices for future conference activities at their next meeting. Admission prices are currently \$4 for adults and \$3 for students

for regular conference games and \$5 for adults and \$3 for students for tournaments. NENAC currently assesses each conference school a \$500 membership fee to maintain conference financial solvency, so raising admission prices is not an issue for the conference. It is a concern for meeting increasing costs for individual schools and for maintaining equity with competing schools. Costs for officials continue to increase and crowds at games are not as large as in the past. Several other area conferences already have higher admission prices. Discussion followed. The consensus of the board appeared to be support of raising adult prices, but leaving student prices at current levels.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN

A change in Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules pertaining to flexible benefit plans necessitated an amendment to the district's plan. It specifically deals with the prohibition of reimbursement for over-the-counter medicines after December 31, 2010 and the IRS definition of a dependent, effective March 30, 2010. Hampton moved, Hanks seconded, to approve the resolution to update the flexible benefits plan so that it is in compliance with the Internal Revenue Code. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich absent. Motion carried. Board members present signed the resolution.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Elementary Principal/AD Kort reported on activities scheduled for the coming month and reported a successful elementary Christmas program on December 7. During the Nebraska School Activities Association moratorium, Dec. 22-26, the gym and weight room will be locked down, both for students and for community members. The postponed activities have been rescheduled.

Secondary Principal Klooz reported on upcoming events and the end of semester information. He also reported work on including weighted assessments in the class ranking system and continued study of the possibility of weighted classes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zuhlke told about his experiences at the Nebraska Association of School Boards convention and invited Principal Kort and Superintendent Alt, both who also attended, to report on the sessions they attended.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Alt reported that Elwood and Peterson plan to attend the New Board Member Workshop in Norfolk on Dec. 14. He distributed American Education Week certificates to board members. Natural gas prices have been locked in for the coming year at 74.4 cents per therm. Following the January 10 board meeting, a dinner will be held to honor the two board members who left or will leave the board at the end of the year, Dan Stelling and Kent Friedrich.

1:1 LAPTOP COMPUTER INITIATIVE

The administration had placed the 1:1 laptop computer initiative on the agenda as an action item following many months of discussion on the project. The initiative would furnish each student in grades 7-12 a laptop computer to use during the school day as well as outside of school. Discussion followed. Superintendent Alt had mailed pricing and lease information, both from Apple, to board members. Several board members felt they needed more information, particularly about personal computer (PC) laptops in comparison to Apple machines. Administrators expressed that they felt the Apple products and support were superior to other brands. Several members were concerned about the staff members who had not expressed support for the proposal.

Hampton moved, Anderson seconded to approve entering into the 1:1 computer initiative for students in grades 7-12. Upon roll call vote, Hampton and Zuhlke voted aye and Anderson, Hanks and Peterson voted nay. Friedrich was absent. Motion failed.

INITIAL PURCHASE/LEASE AGREEMENT FOR 1:1 COMPUTER INITIATIVE

Following the failure of the motion to approve the 1:1 laptop computer initiative, it was not necessary to vote on the proposed initial purchase/lease agreement.

In further discussion, board members asked that the initiative be placed on the agenda again for the January 10 meeting. They also asked to have teacher support evaluated, to have quotes on PCs included, to include information on the iPad as an alternative piece of technology in a 1:1 environment and to include an outline of a plan for who would be responsible for specific duties in implementing the initiative. A board committee, including Hanks, Anderson and Peterson, will meet prior to the January meeting to review available information on the 1:1 initiative.

Brook Curtiss had asked to be on the agenda to discuss computer information. He felt that since the initial motion was defeated, his information was unnecessary. He did, however, express concern about the choice of computer brands and when and how they would be used in the classrooms. Curtiss felt there were less expensive options available and had information from his personal research on the topic to share.

CLOSED SESSION FOR SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Anderson moved, Peterson seconded, to enter into closed session for the purpose of evaluating the superintendent. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Friedrich absent. Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 8 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 8:50 p.m. After returning to open session, the board discussed Superintendent Alt's evaluation with him.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 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 13th day of December 2010, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in the Plainview News.

Imogene Wacker, Recording Secretary