

Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting

Monday, November 14, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education of District 5 of Plainview, NE, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center by Alden Zuhlke, president. Roll call was answered by Zuhlke, Krista Hanks, Marilyn Elwood and Vicki Peterson. Jeremy Hampton and John Anderson were absent and excused. Also present were Superintendent Richard Alt, Elementary Principal/Activities Director Randy Kort, Secondary Principal Randall Klooz and recording secretary, Imogene Wacker. Cory Friedrich, Ronita Jacobsen, Christine Boone, Jason Boone, Samantha Hahn, Eileen Bramer, Jennifer Koepke, Dean Boyer, Christi Boyer, Steve White, Deb White, Kent Friedrich, Denise Friedrich, Elaine Hampton and Joan Alexander 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 October 10, 2011 regular meeting, the financial reports, the November claims and approval of the agenda.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$1,021,211.97 (1,065,367.04) in the General Fund. CDs total \$1,000,000.00 (1,000,000.00), Special Building Fund \$45,107.01 (42,500.18), Petty Cash \$2,465.40 (2,005.14), Activity Account \$58,552.96 (64,739.89), Lunch Account \$6,840.92 (8,436.12) Employee Benefit Fund \$52,938.68 (52,920.70), Depreciation Fund \$466,063.73 (465,865.90), Payroll Account \$1,024.47 (1,009.44), Custodial/Section 125 Account \$18,746.77 (18,296.80). Total assets were \$2,611,378.41 compared to \$2,636,431.83 a month ago and \$2,446,964.07 a year ago.

October receipts totaled \$350,702.93. That compares to \$1,121,174.56 in September. Disbursements totaled \$394,858.00, including \$84,709.38 for claims and \$310,148.62 for payroll. Building Fund receipts totaled \$2,606.83. There were no Building Fund expenditures.

Claims to the General Fund totaled \$61,573.50. Claims to the Building Fund totaled \$30,380.54. Peterson moved, Elwood seconded, to approve the consent items. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Hampton and Anderson absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments at this time.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT ON BULLYING

At the October regular board meeting, Elwood, Hanks and Hampton volunteered to serve on a committee to investigate strategies and ideas on the bullying concerns brought to that meeting. Public input was encouraged from students, parents and community members. The committee and administrators met to discuss the board's bullying policy prior to a public meeting held on November 10. Elwood and Hanks spoke about the current programs in place in the system to educate students on bullying – Maureen Hamm's program in the elementary school, Ronita Jacobsen's required Family and Consumer Science units for seventh and eighth graders and the new opportunities for Jerry Klein to work individually and in small groups with junior-senior high students. Eileen Bramer also offered the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) members as resources for students. Hanks suggested a small addition to the bullying policy.

Several patrons commented on the need for more attention and action on bullying. Committee members expressed a willingness to meet again with patrons on the subject.

DISCUSS/APPROVE CHANGE TO BOARD POLICY 502.03 (ENTRANCE ADMISSIONS)

Nebraska Legislative Bill 1006 will change the age for kindergarten eligibility beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Currently children may attend kindergarten if they reach age five by October 15 of the current school

year. Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, that date will change to age five prior to July 31. Hanks moved, Peterson seconded, to approve the change to Board Policy 502.03 (Entrance Admissions) as presented. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

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

Nebraska Legislative Bill 1006 provides three circumstances in which a student can be admitted to kindergarten before age five. They include 1) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year, 2) the family anticipates relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year, or 3) the child has demonstrated through a recognized assessment procedure approved by the school board that the child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten. That assessment in the local district would be the MAPS test. Principal Kort has also prepared a "Parent Packet" of information that parents will need if they request that their child be admitted to kindergarten prior to the established entrance date. Elwood moved, Hanks seconded, to approve Board Policy 502.031 on first reading as presented. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

APPROVE CHANGE TO BOARD POLICY 303.06 (ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION)

Following the Nebraska Department of Education's (NDE) review of the current district principal evaluation, one line is needed to bring the evaluation into compliance with the administrator evaluation criteria. The length of the evaluation must be stipulated in policy. The addition to the policy states, "The administrator to be evaluated shall be observed for a period of time equal to a full instructional period." Peterson moved, Elwood seconded to approve the change to Board Policy 303.06 (Administrator Evaluation) as presented. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

APPROVE PRINCIPAL AND SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION FORMS

The only suggested change from NDE was to add the line to board Policy 303.06 as was done in the previous motion. Hanks moved, Elwood seconded, to approve the superintendent and principal evaluation forms as presented. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Anderson and Hampton absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2010-2011 AUDIT REPORT

Michael Pommer, CPA, has completed the 2010-2011 district audit. Board members received a letter from the auditor and a copy of the audit report, with no formal compliance issues reported for the fiscal year, other than indicating a segregation of duties deficiency, which is common for small schools. Hanks moved, Peterson seconded, to approve the 2010-2011 audit report as presented. Upon roll call vote the ayes were unanimous, with Hampton and Anderson absent. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A MOVE TO EIGHT-MAN FOOTBALL

Much discussion occurred on the proposal to move from eleven-man to eight-man football for the coming two years. Activities Director Kort reported a likely total of 22-23 football players for the coming year with eight of them being freshmen. Safety of the players was the primary concern, since freshmen players may not be prepared for the position they would be required to play due to low numbers and injuries of starters. Football coaches Chad Schumacher and Dean Boyer were present and stressed that this move will not guarantee wins as there are many good eight-man teams in the area, but again that safety of players is the issue. When younger, smaller players compete against older, more experienced, larger players, the possibility of injury increases. The team would not be eligible to participate in playoffs as the total school enrollment would still be too large. Notification to the Nebraska School Activities Association must be made by November 30. Peterson moved, Hanks seconded, to notify the

Nebraska School Activities Association that Plainview will play eight-man football during the 2012 and 2013 football seasons. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Hampton and Anderson absent. Motion carried.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Elementary Principal/Activities Director Kort reported on one-act competition, the start of winter sports practices, and the elementary book fair. Discussion occurred on cooping the boys golf program with Creighton. Several board members felt both boards should meet together to discuss the subject prior to action on a proposal at the December board meeting.

Secondary Principal Klooz distributed several handouts to board members on school improvement. He also reported requests from students to take home school laptop computers to complete work. He has developed a contract to allow students to do so. National Honor Society will soon hold an induction ceremony for new members. The local FCCLA webpage has been chosen by NDE as an example to assist other schools in setting up a program and webpage.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was no president's report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Alt, Secondary Principal Klooz and board chairman Zuhlke plan to attend the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) convention. Superintendent Alt reported that the goals for Annual Yearly Progress were met. Debbie Hoffart has been replaced by Kelli Mosel as a part-time kitchen/lunchroom employee. He reported on the recent LtoJ and data in-service days for teachers. He proposed inviting a NASB representative to meet with the board on board skills, etc., with November 30 as the possible date. Some locks in the elementary have been re-keyed. Action on the 1-to-1 computer initiative is set for the February board meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Following discussion on the necessity of a closed session, Peterson moved, Elwood seconded, to go into closed session to discuss personnel and to protect the public interest and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous, with Hampton and Anderson absent. Motion carried.

The board entered closed session at 9:02 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 10:48 p.m.

Following the closed session, the board agreed that one of its members would contact Jennifer Koepke and let her know that both communication with parents and appropriate documentation of bullying and other disciplinary actions will be a high priority for the administration. All incidents will be investigated and incidents involving sexual harassment, or if the discussion of weapons is a part of an investigation, will be reported to parents immediately.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 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 14th day of November, 2011, which meeting was preceded by notices posted by 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at Midwest Bank, Madison County Bank, The Plainview News, Casey's, Roadrunner, the City of Plainview offices, Plainview Post Office, Brunswick State Bank, Brunswick Post Office, and the doors of Plainview Elementary and Plainview Secondary Schools.

Imogene Wacker, Recording Secretary