

Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting

Monday, October 10, 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, Vicki Peterson, Krista Hanks, John Anderson, Jeremy Hampton and Marilyn Elwood. Also present were Superintendent Richard Alt, Elementary Principal/Activities Director Randy Kort, Secondary Principal Randall Klooz and recording secretary, Imogene Wacker. Cory Friedrich, Candi Dickinson, Bob Green, Becky Dahl, Roland Johnson, Jennifer Koepke, Joan Alexander and Eileen Bramer 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 September 12, 2011 budget hearing, tax request hearing and regular meeting, the financial reports, the October claims and approval of the agenda.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$1,065,367.04 (323,233.86) in the General Fund. CDs total \$1,000,000.00 (1,000,000.00), Special Building Fund \$42,500.18 (71,936.91), Petty Cash \$2,005.14 (2,483.27), Activity Account \$64,739.89 (60,062.75), Lunch Account \$8,436.12 (11,564.87) Employee Benefit Fund \$52,920.70 (52,903.31), Depreciation Fund \$465,865.90 (465,674.53), Payroll Account \$1,009.44 (1,105.24), Custodial/Section 125 Account \$18,296.80 (8,399.26). Total assets were \$2,636,396.01 compared to \$1,922,692.50 a month ago and \$2,575,123.15 a year ago.

September receipts totaled \$1,121,174.56. That compares to \$75,483.03 in August. Disbursements totaled \$379,041.38, including \$74,671.50 for claims and \$304,369.88 for payroll. Building Fund receipts totaled \$10,589.09. Building Fund expenditures were \$40,025.82.

Claims to the General Fund totaled \$84,745.20. There were no claims to the Building Fund. Peterson moved, Elwood seconded, to approve the consent items. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Candi Dickinson, Joan Alexander and Jennifer Koepke were present and all spoke their concerns about bullying in the school system. Principal Klooz asked parents to visit with him or other administrators if there is a bullying problem. Board members thanked community members for voicing their concerns.

STAFF PRESENTATION ON CHECK FOR LEARNING

Check for Learning is an initiative of the Nebraska Department of Education to provide a bank of test questions to help prepare students for the NeSA assessments. Jennifer Hodson, Jessica Horstmann and Lori Schrader participated in the preliminary meeting to learn how to write questions and how to enter them into the question template. Dean Boyer, Robin Reed and Michelle Mosel will be involved with the actual writing of assessment questions which must be submitted by November 1. Jennifer Hodson made a brief presentation to the board on Check for Learning.

RECOGNIZED ASSESSMENT FOR EARLY KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

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 on or before July 31. The bill also provides three circumstances where a student can be admitted to kindergarten before age 5, including a board-approved, recognized assessment procedure available for determining if a child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten. Since all students reaching age five before July 31 are eligible for entrance into kindergarten, this assessment would be used only for early entrance. Elementary Principal Kort told the board that he and kindergarten teacher, Debra

Jensen, have discussed using the MAPS reading and mathematics tests as the recognized assessment in the Plainview district. The board will be asked to adopt a policy in November or December.

DISCUSSION ON MUNICIPAL CHECKING ACCOUNT

A current certificate of deposit (CD) at Madison County Bank has matured. As CD interest rates are currently very low, it was suggested to deposit the funds into a municipal checking account at the same institution, currently earning slightly more interest than a CD. The rate, however, would not be guaranteed and could fluctuate. Payment of interest to the district could also not be done quarterly by check, as is currently done. The district's auditor requires that interest earned on investments be paid during the current fiscal year and not be rolled over into the face value of the investment. The opening of a municipal checking account would require board action.

Following discussion with the auditor, Superintendent Alt recommended that the CD in question be left as a certificate of deposit and the board expressed agreement.

UPGRADE OF TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Brian Garey, technology staff member from ESU #10 in Kearney, did an audit of the school's technology infrastructure to see what improvements are needed to handle the increased computer/network traffic. Goals include providing better wireless access throughout the buildings to improve the current wireless use of computers for student learning, assessments, etc., and to update the infrastructure so that if a 1-to-1 computer initiative is approved, the infrastructure could adequately handle the increased bandwidth demands. Garey estimated the cost of several potential options with the total estimate to do all the work at one time at \$12,000. Principal Klooz commented that for the proposed 1-to-1 initiative, the entire junior-senior high school would require the infrastructure update. The administration will bring a proposal back to the board at a later meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE EVALUATION INSTRUMENTS

Compliance with Rule 10 now requires having evaluation instruments for all certificated staff members, including school administrators, follow Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) guidelines with approval by NDE, as teacher evaluation instruments have been in the past. Possible revised evaluation forms for the superintendent and principals were mailed to board members and were discussed. Board members found the superintendent evaluation instrument agreeable. The principal evaluation instrument will be brought back for approval at a later time. Both instruments will be sent to NDE for suggestions prior to possible board approval.

HANDBOOK CHANGE

In an effort to reinforce the school's position on bullying, the principals requested the addition of wording to the school handbooks that specifically mentions bullying as an unacceptable behavior. At the present time, the unacceptable behaviors are listed within other parts of the handbooks, but "bullying" is not specifically addressed. Also, the "directory" information section of the secondary handbook, concerning the types of information the school is allowed to provide about students, was inadvertently omitted in the secondary handbook. A copy of the proposed changes was included in the board packet. Hampton moved, Anderson seconded, to approve the handbook changes as presented. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Elementary Principal/ Activities Director Randy Kort reported the girls golf team's qualification for the state tournament and the self-report of a golf violation. Spencer Davis and Kaydi Daudt were selected for the All-State Children's Choir with Carissa Wacker as an alternate. The D2 subdistrict volleyball tournament will be hosted by Plainview, with Plainview's volleyball subdistrict in Wausa.

Secondary Principal Randall Klooz reported upcoming activities. He also spoke on the use of instructional technology in the classroom. He announced that Tammy Schindler has been elected president-elect of the Nebraska Speech, Theater, and Communication Association. Four more security cameras will be purchased for the high school, with the approximate \$2,200 cost to be paid by the high school activity fund.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chairman Zuhlke asked for board direction on how to proceed with action on the bullying concerns. Elwood, Hanks and Hampton volunteered to serve on a committee to investigate strategies and ideas with public input from students, parents and community members. The committee will not address individual situations.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Alt reported that the Nebraska School Board Association's (NASB) convention will be November 17-18 at the Embassy Suites in Papillion. He encouraged board member attendance with the first registration deadline of October 21.

He reported on the CJUMP program proposed by the NASB for statewide natural gas pricing through ACE and Source Gas Energy Services' proposal for a one- or two-year gas price commitment.

The remaining Title V federal grant money will be used for the swipe key project and the remaining ARRA grant money for additional iPads, adaptors and pens for the special education department.

He updated the board on the swipe key installation, with plans for the system to soon be operational. He reported his attendance at the recent school law seminar and reported on recommendations from EMC Insurance for the school facilities, including having the fire alarm system ring at a second location as well as in the school buildings, and a fire detection system in the basement gym in the junior high building. E-Rate financial applications have been submitted.

Board members received, in their packets, past, current and projected enrollment figures. Superintendent Alt and Principal Klooz also reported on the recent discussions with Creighton administrators on sharing options. Boys golf and wrestling were mentioned as current options for sharing sports programs. Board members suggested that sports sharing begin at the junior high level. As staff retirements occur, sharing of teaching staff may also be possible. The board encouraged administrators to continue meeting and to look at making commitments for the future in academic areas as well as activities.

Superintendent Alt also commented that the administration is aware of several recent safety issues and is dealing with them.

CLOSED SESSION

Anderson moved, Peterson seconded, to go into closed session to discuss personnel and procedures. 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 8:10 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 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 10th day of October, 2011, which meeting was preceded by public notice posted on Thursday, October 6, 2011, at Midwest Bank, Madison County Bank, The Plainview News, Casey's General Store, 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