

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

**Monday, July 13, 2009**

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 of Plainview Public Schools by Alden Zuhlke, president. Roll call was answered by Zuhlke, Jeremy Hampton, Krista Hanks, John Anderson, Dan Stelling and Kent Friedrich. Also present were Supt. Richard Alt, Principals Randall Klooz and Randy Kort and recording secretary, Imogene Wacker. Those who had signed the visitor roster were Penny Davids, Donna Hoffmann, Stacy Ziems, Elaine Hampton, Corey Dahl, Cory Friedrich, Patty Knaak, Eileen Bramer, Kathleen Johansen, Lori Porter, Christy Anderson, Bonnie and Neal Williamson and David Hoffmann. 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 June 8, 2009, regular meeting and the June 15, 2009, special meeting, the financial reports, the July claims and approval of the agenda.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$899,208.75 (734,479.16) in the General Fund. CDs total \$1,000,000.00 (1,000,000.00), Special Building Fund \$42,152.74 (52,637.25), Petty Cash \$2,497.81 (1,119.05), Activity Account \$25,753.06 (36,059.53), Lunch Account \$23,121.86 (24,471.68), Employee Benefit Fund \$52,166.10 (52,114.01), Depreciation Fund \$463,617.58 (213,198.96), Payroll Account \$3,533.10 (1,239.97), Custodial/Section 125 Account \$9,969.41 (9,488.60). Total assets were \$2,322,732.18, compared to \$1,824,477.91 a month ago and \$2,055,791.85 a year ago.

June receipts totaled \$726,135.49. That compares to \$992,275.17 in May. Disbursements totaled \$561,405.90, including \$300,330.30 for claims and \$261,075.60 for payroll. Building Fund receipts totaled \$24,515.49. Building Fund expenditures were \$35,000.00, repayment of a loan from the General Fund, leaving a balance of \$42,152.74, compared to \$52,637.25 a month ago. 87.94 percent of the General Fund budget had been spent, compared to 82.33 percent a year ago.

Claims to the General Fund totaled \$199,288.23. 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. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

A group of parents was again present to express concerns about the proposed combination of 2008-2009 third graders into one fourth grade classroom for the coming school year. Speaking to the issue were Penny Davids, Donna Hoffmann, Patty Knaak and Stacy Ziems. All expressed the opinion that it was not just the number of students that was of concern, but also the diversity in abilities and behaviors in the class.

Davids also asked questions on the proposed purchase of high school security cameras and questioned the method used to recently hire a technology coordinator.

### **INSTALLATION OF HIGH SCHOOL SECURITY CAMERAS**

Hampton reported that he is still looking for grant funding for the purchase of high school security cameras. The issue was again tabled to a future meeting.

### **PROCESS FOR SELECTING DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

Anderson reported for the Hiring Practices Committee. Concerns found were procedure, transparency and confidentiality when hiring recent employees.

The committee felt that board policy may not have been followed during recent hirings but the board now should move forward and all future hirings, including certified and classified staff should be brought to the board for

approval. If time is short, special board meetings may have to be called. Communication between the administration and the board and between the board and the community should be improved.

Superintendent Alt reported that he felt a quality technology coordinator was hired. In Alt's past experience, classified (non-teaching) staff did not require board approval, but the board's new policy manual states, in one section, that all hires are to be recommended by the administration and then approved by the board.

#### **FOURTH-GRADE CLASSROOM**

Superintendent Alt explained his decision to recommend a combined fourth grade class for the coming year. Principal Kort plans to spend time observing the classroom and will be available for support and help. During Mrs. Horstmann's maternity leave, a long-term substitute teacher and the paraeducator will serve in the classroom. Board members spoke of the difficulty of the decision and also expressed the opinion that if the combined class did not work, a second teacher could be hired at any time during the year and the class could again be divided.

Anderson moved, Hampton seconded, to have one fourth grade class for the coming school year. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

#### **DESIGNATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR**

Designation of a state and federal programs director for the school district is a formality to allow for documents and forms to be signed.

Friedrich moved, Hanks seconded, to designate Superintendent Richard Alt as the State and Federal Programs Director for the 2009-2010 school year. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

#### **PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

New Elementary Principal Randy Kort told of an offer by the Plainview Fire Department to provide the labor and pay for half the expense to repair the visitor-side bleachers at the football field. The board appeared to be in agreement to accept the offer and pay for the other half of the expense.

Secondary Principal Klooz reported two, or possibly three, foreign exchange students will attend school in the coming year.

Changes planned for the junior-senior high student handbook include no student cell phones allowed in the building, no eating lunches in the hallways and mandatory Advantage Program attendance for any student with a below 70 percent average in any class.

The class schedule is in the development stage and students will be placed in core classes with some choices for non-core classes.

Fifteen places in the new APEX program will be available for students to take online classes if there is an unsolvable scheduling problem.

Klooz plans to have a committee study block scheduling versus an eight-period day. Block scheduling will be in place for 2009-2010.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Zuhlke reported an upcoming finance meeting available for school board members to attend.

He also reported that he and Stelling had, earlier in the day, taken the three administrators on a tour of the school district.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The preschool will proceed for the coming year and will follow Rule 11, not partnering with Goldenrod Hills. The new activity bus is being brought up to Nebraska specifications and has not yet been delivered.

The date for the annual board-staff fall gathering was discussed.

Questions were asked on a roof repair rotation. It was suggested that money be budgeted each year in the Building Fund so that funds for needed repairs are available and/or that roofs can be replaced on a rotational basis.

A contract will be signed with Beth Olson for occupational therapy services.

A discussion was held on the practice fields available for use by the football team. It is hoped that the school and the city can cooperate on the use of fields.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 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 13<sup>TH</sup> day of July, 2009, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in The Plainview News.

Imogene Wacker, Recording Secretary