

School Board Minutes
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
School Board Retreat
Held at the Gladstone Inn, Jamestown, ND
January 24th, 2015

Board Minutes Present: President Tony Roorda, Lynn Boom, Kirk Rode, Robert Froehlich, Scott Harms, and Shane Kjellberg. Absent: Julie Jansen.

Also Present: Superintendent Jerry Waagen, and Business Manager Amy Maurer.

Call to Order: President Roorda called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm

Agenda: The following was added to the agenda: 2015-2016 Calendar.

School Forecast for Upcoming Years: Mr. Waagen reviewed the general finance history of the district with the board. The possibility of legislation limiting budget carryovers to 10-15% of the budget and the impact that might have on the district was discussed. *Shane Arrived.

What the district should have for a fund balance carryover was discussed. The need to clarify the reasons for maintaining a specific carryover and the specific financial impact that different circumstances would have on the budget was discussed. Some reasons for a carryover such as changing enrollments, building repairs, state aid formula changes, and buses were discussed.

The current staffing and their years of experience were reviewed. The current staff has a good blend of new and more experienced teachers.

Current enrollment and pk-12 class sizes were reviewed. Pre-school has been a real asset. Enrollment has dropped from 109 this fall to a current enrollment of 99. The varying reasons for the drop in enrollment were discussed. Why some parents choose to open enroll their children out of the district was discussed.

Mission Statement and Vision Statement: The definitions of a mission statement and a vision statement were reviewed. How to encourage parental involvement when everyone has busy lives and making the school an inviting place for parents was discussed.

The board will review the information and consider ideas for mission and vision statements.

Calendar: A proposed 2015-16 calendar was reviewed. The state law on making up every hour missed due to the weather was discussed.

AYP: AYP scores were reviewed and discussed. Things being done to improve reading and math in the elementary include sustained silent reading, pair-share reading, interim assessments and implementing Saxon math.

Mr. Waagen said that it is likely that the school day may need to return to the slightly longer days of a few years ago. This would be a local decision.

School Building Improvements: Needed building improvements/maintenance was discussed. Work to be considered includes: 1) Repair to the stairwells/hallways in the basement of the high school. 2) Replacement of floor and installation of carpet in the learning center. 3) Replacement of carpet in the front office. 4) Replacement of carpet in the 1st and 4th grade classrooms. 5) Installation of dry erase/whiteboards in all classrooms. 6) Repaint the gym bleachers. 7) Clear drain pipes in the elementary buildings. 8) Hang speakers for the sound system in the gym. 9) Improvements to the stair rails and trim around the stairs in the high school. Mr. Waagen will start checking into bids on some of the work.

Mr. Waagen will be scheduling a routine asbestos inspection.

Student Transportation: Information on the current fleet of vehicles was reviewed and discussed. Bus #5 has the highest mileage (165,000) but is currently running well. There are issues with bus #7- the small yellow bus. A non-CDL driver can drive that bus on a regular route which is sometimes needed. The board discussed trading it in on another new/used small bus. Roorda's research on buses available for purchase was reviewed.

What size of bus is needed on the west route, which has only a few students, was discussed. The state reimburses the district at a rate of \$.52 per mile for small buses and \$1.13 per mile for large buses. The difference in fuel efficiency between large and small may be minimal and the cost of the driver is the same. A large bus handles better when the roads are bad. Clarification on what is considered a small or a large bus for state reimbursement is needed. The disposal of bus #3 was discussed. After putting some work into the two white buses, they are now running okay.

Policy Review: Mr. Waagen shared a list of NDSBA recommended policies that should be added to the district policy book. A committee meeting will be scheduled to review the listed policies.

Curriculum: Information on Common Core was shared with the board and discussed. There is proposed state legislation for schools to not associate with Common Core or do Smarter Balance Testing.

Mr. Godfrey's recommendation to increase the number of credits required for graduation was discussed.

Concerns about the district's new Saxon Math textbooks and whether it is harder for some students because of the transition or if its use needs to be reconsidered was discussed.

School Board Self- Evaluation: Board members had turned in board self-evaluation forms and a compilation was reviewed and discussed.

Teacher and Principal Evaluation: Mr. Waagen reviewed the new model being used for teacher and principal evaluations. The district is transitioning into the Marshall Model for the evaluations. The

principals have been sitting in on each teacher's classroom at least 10 times per year to work on teacher evaluations. The principal visits with the teacher within 24 hours after each classroom visit to review what went well and what can be improved.

The superintendent evaluation form was discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

Feb. 11, 2015

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date