

WORK SESSION  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Aitkin Independent School District No. 1  
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431

January 30, 2017

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. in the Security State Bank Meeting Room by Vice Chairman David Burgstaler with Mr. Burgstaler, Mr. Hasskamp, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Chute, Mr. Hoge and Mr. Janzen present. Ms Hills arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Also present were Bruce Miles of Big River Group LLC, Superintendent Bernie Novak, High School Principal Paul Karelis, and Elementary Principal Jesse Peterson. Business Manager Tiffany Gustin arrived at 5:54 p.m.

Mr. Miles led the Board and administration through an exercise to develop lists of recent successes and issues (both intended and unintended, both positive and less than positive).

High School Principal Paul Karelis and Elementary Principal Jesse Peterson left the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Mr. Miles reviewed the qualities of effective school board members; school board roles and student achievement; the reasons why some school board members micromanage; and board member and administration conflict.

The Board worked through several exercises, including their ideas for board practices and work, how to develop desired change, and thoughts about topic areas for future work. The Board brainstormed topic areas to implement, learn and review, and consider.

Superintendent Novak presented a letter to the Board indicating his desire to retire effective June 30, 2017. A Board work session will be scheduled for Monday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aitkin High School Media Center to discuss how to proceed with the hiring process.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ryan with a second by Mr. Janzen; the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Tiffany Gustin  
Secretary