

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Aitkin Independent School District No. 1
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431
Aitkin High School Media Center
November 17, 2015

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Dennis Hasskamp with six members present. Mr. Welshons was absent.

A motion was made by Ms Hills, with a second by Mr. Hoge, to approve the agenda, removing item #18 (Approve partnering with the City of Aitkin for a Safe Route to School Infrastructure Grant) from the Consent Agenda and adding a board member report from Mr. Chute on a Superintendent Evaluation Workshop. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Scheduled presentations:

Middle School Student Council Representatives Sam Sadlowsky and Peyton Peterson spoke with the Board about their recent hunting-themed scavenger hunt and their upcoming dance.

Senior High Student Council Representative Taylor Courier reported that the Council worked on the Veterans Day program. The Council is now planning for its annual 12 Days of Giving event.

Chief Jeff Beahen, the President of the Law Enforcement Memorial Association, presented the Aitkin Public Schools with a letter and print, including commemorative coins, in recognition of the efforts of the District and its staff members for the work that was done to prepare for Deputy Steven M. Sandberg's funeral service on Friday, October 24, 2015.

The following new staff members introduced themselves to the Board:

Kris Hamilton - Gr. 1 Teacher at Rippleside
Jason Long - Gr. 5 Teacher at Rippleside

Lisa DeMars, District Curriculum and Continuous Improvement Coordinator, presented the District's World's 2015-2016 Best Workforce Plan, which must be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education by December 1, 2015. A motion was made by Mr. Burgstaler, with a second by Mr. Janzen, to approve the plan as presented. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

On behalf of the Music Department staff, Kelly Blake, High School Music Teacher, presented a summary of the department's curriculum review.

Julia Real, High School Art Teacher, and Loren Vonasek, Elementary Art Teacher, presented the report on the Visual Arts Curriculum.

Old business:

No old business was discussed.

New business:

A motion was made by Mr. Burgstaler, with a second by Mr. Hoge, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 19.
- Collateral Report for November.
- Report of expenditures for October including \$812,045.94 for bills and \$762,904.85 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Insurance Account checks #13642 - 13672 in the amount of \$9,399.23.
- Office receipts for the month of October in the amount of \$1,100,810.09.
- Donations for October in the amount of \$330.00.
- Wire transfers for October in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.
- Accepted resignations:

Kerry Hopperstad - resigned as junior high football coach effective 10/30/2015

Linda Plekkenpol - resigned as dishwasher at the high school effective 10/20/2015

Collin Ten Bruin - resigned as a cleaner at the high school effective 10/29/2015

- Approved the revised Winter Extracurricular Assignments per the list.
- Approved the 2015 Teacher Seniority List.
- Approved the 2015 ECFE Seniority List.
- Approved the 2015 AESS Seniority List.
- Approved the 2015 Driver Competency List.
- Approved the 2015 Bus Driver Seniority List.
- Approved the 2015 Custodian Seniority List.
- Considered/approved Snow Plowing Bid.
- Reviewed and Approved Continuation of the Clinical Learning Experience Agreement with The College of St. Scholastica.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Administrative reports:

Board members' reports:

Mr. Chute reported on the 2015 Annual Conference of the Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) that was held earlier in the week; the sessions were informational and beneficial, and he recommends that others consider attending in the future. Ms Hills and Mr. Novak also spoke about their experience at the conference.

Mr. Hoge reported on recent Parent Advisory Council and PTO meetings. PAC has been discussing the next Family Fun Night (which will be an academic carnival) and its organizational policies. PTO awarded its Golden Gobbler Awards, talked about the ongoing Gobbler clothing fundraiser and considered various grant requests.

Ms Hills reported on the Special Education Board Meeting held at the Paul Bunyan Education Cooperative. The next meeting will be held in April.

Mr. Chute also reported on the Superintendent Evaluation Workshop that he recently attended, presented by the Minnesota School Board Association. Recommendations included annual setting and review of measurable goals, a board self-review, and avoiding use of simple averages for ratings. Mr. Chute made a motion to form a committee of three board members to discuss the superintendent evaluation process that is currently used and bring back a recommendation on possible changes to the process. Mr. Janzen seconded the motion. The motion was amended to reflect that the entire board should use the current evaluation form, with compiled results discussed at a work session or closed meeting. The motion was withdrawn, as consensus was reached to hold a closed meeting in January for a performance evaluation.

Committee reports:

Ms Hills reported on the Policy Committee Meeting held on October 21. The group discussed the Facilities Use Policy at great length, but no consensus was reached. Based on the committee's recommendation, Ms Hills made a motion, with a second by Mr. Hoge, to remove Policy JEE, Student Attendance/Credit Loss Policy from the Policy Handbook. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The Personnel Committee met on November 5 and discussed the open cleaner position and the struggles to find substitutes in various positions. Discussion is beginning on how the District will fill the Transportation Supervisor position upon Gary Ladehoff's anticipated retirement.

The Facilities Committee also met on November 5. The group discussed the ongoing listening sessions surrounding a possible referendum. The group also discussed various facilities projects and ongoing concerns. Ms Hills thanked the newspaper for their coverage of the listening sessions.

Mr. Burgstaler discussed the status of negotiations with Education Minnesota – Aitkin.

Ms Hills reported that the Aitkin Education Foundation met and is seeking new board members.

Superintendent's report:

Mr. Novak reported on the community, staff and student listening sessions that have been held by FJJ so far. They will be in the community tomorrow to gather additional feedback. Meetings will be held at the Glen/Kimberly Town Hall and Palisade on December 1. Task force meetings have been scheduled for January 6 and January 20. Board members should submit names to Mr. Novak of people who may be interested in serving on the task force.

He also reported that the 2016 MSBA Leadership Conference will be held on January 14-15. Board members who are interested in attending should contact Mr. Novak.

He reminded the Board that the January and February meetings are on the second Mondays of each month due to the holidays.

Board members were encouraged to stop over at Rippleside. Ms Besch is doing some really neat things with the new 3D printer; the students are very excited. Mr. Novak stopped by Mr. Vonasek's room and commended him for the great projects happening in his art classroom.

Four legislators (including House of Representatives Education Finance and Policy Committee Chairs Sondra Erickson and Jenifer Loon) visited Aitkin last week wanting input from area school districts. Eight area school districts were represented. Good discussion took place, and the feedback will be used as the legislators prepare for the upcoming session.

Principals' reports:

Mr. Peterson reported that conferences are going well; they will finish up on Thursday. The workshop day last Friday was a busy one.

Mr. Karelis reported that the National Honor Society inducted its new members last weekend. Winter sports are getting underway with practices already started. Mr. Karelis would like the Policy Committee to review how weighted classes impact grade point averages. He will be collecting statewide data and meeting with his building leadership team to gather information on the issue.

Mr. Hasskamp presented the upcoming meeting schedule as listed in the agenda.

Comments from visitors:

Brian Smith, a parent of a Rippleside student, complained about how a student issue is being handled. A meeting will be set up to discuss the issue at a later date.

In follow-up to the discussion on security, Terry Butenhoff encouraged the Board to be present in the buildings.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Burgstaler, with a second by Mr. Chute. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Tiffany Gustin
Secretary