

# BOE Meeting Highlights

## Board of Education Meeting June 17, 2015

The Board of Education encourages the public to attend the meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month. There is an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for input from the public. After that the Board conducts the School District's business, including the Superintendent's and Principals' Reports, position appointments, and issues to act upon.

Here are some highlights from the meeting held on June 17. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

### Budget Meeting

- Mr. Keteri reported to the Board about the 2014-15 budget. Due to unforeseen things, this year we will be in deficit spending for a minimal amount of time. There were two teachers unexpectedly out for health reasons and an extra special education aide needed this year. The Athletic Raffle was also not held this year. He stressed it was not due to union demands or overspending but something that could not be avoided or planned for. Once the district is in deficit spending, they must report to the state and have a plan to get out for the Department of Education.
- The projected budget for 2015-16 was presented with different ideas the Board can accept or not to reduce the budget to help with the deficit and to add to the fund balance. The ideas are to get out of deficit with the least impact to students. The Board can adopt the budget and change it when needed but a budget must be adopted by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Some of these ideas include:
  - Raising the lunch prices to reflect the true cost of the food and service since the district has the lowest prices in the area by far
  - Hiring two new teachers at Jeffers to replace Mr. Kangas and Mrs. McCormick's positions.
  - Eliminating the special education aide at SRE and covering it other ways
  - Eliminating the art program for next year
  - Combining the junior high and high school band for next year
  - Privatizing the custodian position opened by the retirement of Kurt Heinonen
  - Having one kindergarten class due to a low enrollment number. A plan is in place for a part time kindergarten teacher in case the number does increase.
  - Due to a high enrollment in fourth grade, having just a part time 4-6 social studies teacher to split them during core classes but having them altogether for homeroom
  - Limiting the enrollment in the CTE program. Right now it was limited to seniors only and they have 13 students signed up. It can be limited to 10 or another number.

- One thing that will help is the count should be higher next year. The district had a lot of new students after count day this year that will be counted next year.

## **Regular Meeting**

### **Public Participation**

- There were no public comments.

### **Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri**

- The main item to report on was the budget.
- Negotiations with the support staff union is next week.

### **Principal's Report-Mike Benda, Jeffers High School**

- The exam policy for next year will be changed. This year it was that if the student had 0 tardies, 0 unexcused absences, and 0 office referrals they could be exempt. This led to an overwhelming amount of calls from parents excusing absences from weeks prior, which did not match the handbook policy of excusing within 24 hours. He thinks it is good for students to have an incentive so the idea is for students who have As in the class for the third and fourth quarter and no office referrals can be exempt at the teachers discretion.
- Next year the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking the PSAT for free. The 11<sup>th</sup> will be taking the SAT. Next year every grade 3-11 will be tested.
- Mr. Benda spoke in support of the Art Program. He says it is very important. Jensen Rajala, a senior, received an art scholarship to go to Rabbit Island for a week.

### **Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary School**

- Mrs. Harris was not present.

### **Action Items**

- The 2014-15 Final Amended Budget was approved.
- The 2015-16 Fiscal Budget was approved.
- The L4029 Tax Rate Levy Request was approved.
- The Series B Debt Retirement Savings account at Miners State Bank and the Debt Retirement Escrow account at BNY Mellon was approved to be closed.
- The 2015-16 Borrowing Resolution was approved.
- Mr. Ken Kangas' retirement was accepted with regret.
- The reduction of a special education aide at SRE was approved.
- The posting of open positions for an English teacher and math/science teacher at Jeffers was approved.