

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting July 8, 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 July 8. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

Public Participation

- Board Member Chad Snell reported that the German Club raised about \$240 on the 4th of July and the South Range Business Association matched that. The band also raised over \$100.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The Board needs to approve their Bylaws. He suggests that for this year the Board forgoes being in the MASB to save money on the dues. The principal's are forgoing their memberships this year to save on money. This has been done in years past. When the Board passed them, Steve Nicholas volunteered to forgo his check for being on the Board.
- The new trades building has 'appeared out of nowhere'. Construction is coming along smoothly. It has just been roofed and windows and doors will be coming along next. DP has been impressive and is ahead of the deadline. There are numerous people invested in making this program successful. There has been offers to pay for the tools, but first a grant through Lowe's will be looked into.
- The greenhouse funded by the Health Department is coming along. There has also been a \$5,000 donation from a private donor. It is possible there will also be a \$30,000 donation to start a culinary program in the future.
- Looking at cuts for next year, the plan to combine the junior high and high school band is proving to be difficult and not cost-effective. For this year, it would be better to leave them as two classes and use this year to transition into combining them for next year. He approached the Foundation in regards to the art program and they offered to cover \$10,000 for next year so the program can stay. Mr. Keteri stressed this is just a 'finger in the wall' and something needs to be planned for the future. He is hoping that after next year they will have \$140,000 in fund equity. Over two years, this amount would be over the 5% of the budget that is supposed to be saved in fund equity. He stressed it is important to have money for negotiations with the teachers and support staff for next year.
- One thing to consider is moving graduation from Sunday to Friday night. Some people have voiced wanting to move it.

Athletic Directors Report-Steve Lishinski

- Approving coaches should be held off for next month when the open positions can be filled.
- He will be posting for the open positions of
 - Junior High Girls Basketball Coach
 - Junior High Boys Basketball Coach
 - Cross Country Coach
- He has the evaluations for all of the coaches.

Principal's Report-Mike Benda, Jeffers High School

- Two 4' by 10' hoop houses will be at SRE along with the greenhouse at JHS. It will extend the growing season by 500 miles south.
- Mr. Kilpela is apart of a consortium and is at a workshop for chemistry teachers. The type of teaching they do is interactive and collaborative and very impressive.
- Ms. Pera began a two week workshop at MTU to develop curriculum for an 8th grade unit on climate change. The entire Mi-STAR curriculum will be an integrated middle school science curriculum based on the 3 dimensions of the Next Generation Science Standards, as well as the 5E learning model (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, evaluate.).
- This year they will be doing two inservices with Stanton, Dollar Bay, and Chassell. It will be nice for the teachers at these small schools to collaborate with more teachers from the same grade level and departments.

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

- Ron Outinen and Trevor Mickalich are doing a good job of cleaning the building this summer.
- The summer GE program is under way. Regional Coordinator Bridget Hillard does a phenomenal job with it. Attendance is at about 30 kids in the morning.
- The school is currently looking for AmeriCorps workers for next year. They have to apply through BHK.

Action Items

- The Board approved joining the Copper Country Association of School Boards.
- The Board approved the 2015-2016 Support Staff Contract.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary