

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting August 12, 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 August 12. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

Public Participation

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The Trades Building is on course to be completed by the end of the month. Mr. James Anttonen from the class of 1961 has made a donation to cover the equipment. In speaking to Mr. Karppinen about it, he would like to also have an auto garage for students to learn auto skills such as tire and oil changes and general maintenance. That might be something that will be looked at in the future. Something is going to be made thanking all of the donors who completely funded the project. Joe Schwenk, who has done plaques for the school in the past and does a great job, will be doing it again once the decision of where it will be placed is made.
- There is a donation from Julie Gundlach waiting for a culinary program. The old library was being considered as a place for it but the cost was large. Options within Jeffers are being considered.
- Lunch prices have to go up by 15 cents.
- The expected student count of 455 is higher than last year. The district hasn't had a drop for 8 years. More Atlantic Mine students choose Adams over Houghton than in the past. No doubt this is due to the many things that the district has to offer. There is a small kindergarten class this year at 24 so there will be one section. Mrs. Geshel recently had a boating accident and will not be ready to return right away in the fall.
- The audit will be ready next month and will not be in deficit. The 5% holding in the fund balance will not be made by the end of this upcoming year but maybe it can within 2 years with strategic spending.
- He is still deciding the calendar with the teaching staff. They are working out Christmas Break dates.

Principal's Report-Mike Benda, Jeffers High School

- Mrs. Pera was invited by Shari Stockero (MTU) to fly to Chicago on July 30 & 31 to participate in professional development related to the research she has been doing in conjunction with other researchers. The research centers on building on student thinking in the classroom. "Leveraging MOSTs (Mathematically Significant Pedagogical Opportunities to build on

Student Thinking) is a collaborative project among researchers at Brigham Young University, Michigan Technological University and Western Michigan University that focuses on improving the teaching of secondary school mathematics by improving teachers' abilities to use student thinking during instruction to develop mathematical concepts."

<http://www.leveragingmosts.org/index.html>

- "Jump into Jeffers", the 7th grade orientation will be September 1st at 9. There will be a 9th grade orientation at 5:30
- September 2nd the staff will be doing an inservice at Houghton High School about what to do if there is an active shooter in the building.
- September 14 will be picture day.
- There has been discussion about moving Graduation to the evening of Class Day, on Friday as opposed to Sunday. A decision needs to be made for the calendar. The Board discussed the pros and cons. It has usually been done on Sunday for the formality of honoring the graduates on a special day and having extra travel time. If it was all on Friday it would give families more time for that Memorial Day weekend and time for graduation parties.
- The handbook has a few changes with names and course offerings. The exam policy has changed to reflect students can be excused from end of the year exams if they have all A's in the 3rd and 4th quarters and less than 10 absences at the teachers discretion. There also will be no parking in front of the school.

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

- This year they will be doing packet pickups for students on Wednesday, August 19 instead of mailing everything. Any not picked up will be mailed.
- 4th grade and Kindergarten orientation dates have not been set but will be before the school year begins.
- This year they will be doing joint inservices with Dollar Bay and Chassell.

Action Items

- The Board approved trying Graduation on Friday night this year.
- The Board set the dates for the athletic raffle. Tickets will be available at the 5K but athletes won't have them to sell until after. The drawing will be at the last home basketball game, March 3rd. Board Member Archambeau will try to start a sports booster club to take over this responsibility.
- The Board unanimously approved Paige Yoho as Junior High Girls Basketball Coach, Alex Outinen as Junior High Boys Basketball Coach, and Jonathan Kilpela as Cross Country coach. The Board with a 5-2 vote approved to continue David Bekkala as Hockey Coach. The Board unanimously approved to continue the rest of the coaches, JV Girls Basketball Coach Miranda Aho, JV Boys Basketball Coach Jason Koski, Varsity Girls Basketball Coach Joe Romano, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Duane Snell, Cheerleading Coach Val Dobson, Golf

Coach Jason Koski, Softball Coach David Archambeau, and Track Coach Steve Lishinski.

- The Board approved the SRE and JHS handbooks.
- The Board approved Madeline Larson as JHS English teacher and Samuel Kilpela as JHS math/science teacher.
- The Board approved lunch prices of \$1.75 at SRE, \$2.00 at JHS, \$3.00 for adults, and \$0.30 for milk.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary