

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting September 9, 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 September 9. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

Public Participation

- Dave Bekkala, JHS Hockey Coach, addressed the Board about the concerns anyone may have about his dedication to the program. He brought a portfolio showcasing the program and all the work that he puts into it, such as scheduling, MHSAA meetings and trainings, setting up the LSC Championship, and team parties and school visits. There was one date where he did miss a practice but it in no way detracts from his passion and commitment to coaching.
- Eric Mattila, a parent of SRE and JHS students, addressed the Board concerning co-op athletic schedules. They aren't on the small athletic flier made. This is because there isn't enough room on it. It was discussed to have a fall and spring flier to fit all of the schedules. He also asked why the Chromebooks didn't follow the 7th graders to Jeffers. It was discussed that at the parents meeting when they had been in 5th grade, many parents didn't want to buy a Chromebook in 5th and then again in 9th grade. Instead of buying them in 5th, they will stay at SRE for other students. The junior high has a Chromebook lab at Jeffers they will only have to share this year with the seniors. After this year, 9th-12th will have their own Chromebooks so the lab will be solely for the junior high classes.
- Chuck Palosaari and Cheryl Ruohonen, social studies teachers at JHS, addressed the Board about an opportunity they found to bring students to the inauguration in 2017. One quote they received was for \$1030 a person for 30 people, if they could get 54 it would be \$750. It would be a 5 day trip with travel and breakfast and dinner covered. They want to gauge interest in the trip and possibly partner with Chassell or Dollar Bay teachers and students. Fundraising would be worked out with Morgan Raether and the German club so they aren't running together.
- Morgan Raether, German teacher at JHS, addressed the Board about doing another German dinner, this time in October instead of February. They'd like to do in October 3 to coincide with Oktoberfest. It'd move to the Range Lounge to be more centrally located and do more things

such as a 50/50 and silent auction. She is getting the food cheaper so tickets will be cheaper at \$20.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- This year's count is good, up to 460 from last year's official 445 count. Jeffers numbers are significantly higher, probably at least somewhat due to the new trades building.
- Some of the tools ordered for the trades building are in, with another set of hand type tools next week. They are looking into getting a tool trailer for storing the tools. They will be building concessions for the ball fields in South Range for the Village.
- The district's \$38,000 grant funded security upgrades are being installed.
- Lori Geshel, kindergarten teacher at SRE, is out temporarily from an accident. She and the union made an agreement with the district for her to not use the sick time bank and for the district to use her salary to pay for the long term substitute teacher. Mr. Keteri and the district are very appreciative of this gesture.
- Mr. Koski resigned as JV Boys Basketball Coach.
- The elementary building's roof is in need of repair. It will be a big job so it would be best to do it in phases. He will have a full report on it next month.
- There was some discussion about a recent Cross Country meet where some athletes had health problems due to the heat and humidity. With the weather being hard to predict in August, it was hard to anticipate this problem. Next time they will give the first responders an invitation and stress even more to the coaches to pull athletes as needed.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- The long term substitute for Lori Geshel in kindergarten is Naomi Oja.
- The school has Christina Gardner back for AmeriCorps. She does a great job.
- The two orientations for kindergarten and fourth grade were well attended. Mrs. Normand does a nice job helping the students with the transition to the upper el.
- They recently had two inservices. They had a joint morning session with Chassell and Dollar Bay that went well. The afternoon was spent at an active shooter training. Even though the staff has done that before, there were still many things that they learned.
- This year, GE will run Monday-Thursday and will be free for all students!
- The Booster Club will have it's annual fundraiser starting September 30th.
- She has received many compliments on how nice the building is looking, thanks to Ron and all that helped this summer.
- Tuesday, September 15 is the night of the Ice Cream Social.

Principal's Report-Mike Benda, Jeffers High School

- "Jump into Jeffers" was phenomenal, as it has been the last 4 years. All 27 7th graders attended. They took a tour of the building, did a scavenger

- hunt, got schedules, had a pizza lunch, got to ask the faculty questions, and roam around the building. He commended Jen Pera and Cheryl Ruohonen who put it together and all of the teachers who attended.
- The Bioblitz at Lake Perrault will be September 18th and everyone is invited. One new thing they will be doing this year is a cardboard boat race, put on by Mr. S. Kilpela.

Action Items

- The Board approved the agreement with the ETA regarding Lori Geshel's sick leave, and thanked her.
- The Board approved Jason Koski's resignation as JV Boys Basketball Coach.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary