

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting October 14, 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, November 11, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

Public Participation

- There were no public comments.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The NEOLA policy has some updates to be adopted. One regards how to handle the situation of open carrying guns. Even though in Michigan, all schools are gun free zones, someone with a concealed weapons permit can legally open carry at a school. If that did happen, the school would go into lockdown as a precaution. Another regards how to deal with incidents of sexual assault. The school will conduct their own investigation separate from the police. There are certain details regarding time lines and even if the incident doesn't happen on the property, if students are involved there should be an investigation. There were other updates concerning Board member reimbursement and conflict of interest specifications.
- The paneling is up in the trades building. The students are learning and getting experience.
- Mr. Keteri felt uneasy after a recent lockdown because of an escaped non-violent criminal. The police said that it could be ended and students were sent home without being given information. The person was found in Painesdale after school hours. Each situation is different, but in the future he would consider sending a text message alert to parents saying that the lockdown is over because the police say it is ok.
- The roof at the Elementary was looked at with a few bids on it. There were different suggestions from a whole new roof, to re-roofing parts, to sealing parts. This is still being looked at and considered.
- The Elementary's system of air exchange and boilers is not on an automated system, which is something that it should be. There were a couple of bids on that. Board Member Nicholas suggested looking into a grant to fund at least part of that project.
- The 4-6 grades at the Elementary have huge class sizes, with over 30 in 4th and 5th grade. The teachers are doing their best to handle but it is affecting students. He and the teachers are meeting Wednesday to find ways to resolve the issue with the least financial impact.
- The district has received the \$35,00 grant from the Keweenaw Community Foundation from the Herman Gundlach Fund to start a

culinary program. Students will do work studies at grocery stores, restaurants and Michigan Tech, learning different ways to cook and prepare food.

- There are two applicants in consideration for the JV Boys Basketball Coaching position.
- The Toivola baseball field is still being considered as a home field for a Boys Baseball team.
- The official count is at 451 students.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- During the school's recent fire prevention day, they had a building evacuation drill where they went to the community building.
- A lot of classes have been outside lately with the Western U.P. Center for Science and Math.
- There is a student teacher, Samantha Branz, with the sixth grade until December.

Principal's Report-Mike Benda, Jeffers High School

- The Juniors recently took the PSAT which they found very difficult. It will give them a good idea of what the SAT in March will be like.
- Mrs. Pera, math teacher, recently received a \$100 grant from MEEMIC for supplies.
- The recent BioBlitz was successful. They had great weather for it. For the spring, they are considering a morning of academics and an afternoon of fun so that the students might appreciate the area even more.
- They will be doing their lockdown drill tomorrow.

Athletic Committee Report

- There will be a meeting next Tuesday at 7:30PM at the SRE library with the newly formed Jeffers Sports Booster Club regarding the raffle.
- They hope to get a letter out about a meeting for the raffle with all parents and athletes in early November.
- This year they will be having the big money prizes then other prizes of donated items.
- At the meeting they will discuss the consequences for athletes who do not sell any tickets.

Action Items

- The Board approved the NEOLA updates.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary