

## **BOE Meeting Highlights**

### **Board of Education Meeting November 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 November 11. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

#### **Public Participation**

- Darin Johnson, a parent with children at JHS and SRES, is concerned about the large class sizes at the grade school. The teachers are excellent and go above and beyond but need help. 32 students are too many.
- Deb Bradford presented the audit. There have been issues with the state regarding pensions that affects the district. One area of concern with a deficit is the food service.
- Melissa Nicholas, Prom adviser, wants to do her fundraisers again this year of Valentines and Saykly's eggs on Easter.

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

- Tomorrow is a half day for Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- A bill recently passed regarding third grade retention being tied to reading score. It will go into effect with this year's kindergarteners.
- MSTEP scores will be coming out soon.
- She was recently contacted by Mary Wright, who worked with students a few years ago on the story line project. Students wrote about someone and they were displayed on clotheslines. They had also interviewed students and made a documentary, "Yoopera". It was recently showed at a Milwaukee Film Festival. Harley Eakin, a former SRE student, is highlighted in it. It will be shown on channel 13 on November 17 at 8PM, November 18 at 2PM, and November 24 at 1PM.

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

- Jeffers' Parent/Teacher Conferences are also tomorrow. This will be the first time that Jeffers and the Elementary have had them on the same day.
- The High School Bowl team beat L'Anse at their recent match. This is the first time in many years they have passed the first round. The episode will air on January 9 on Channel 13 at 8:00PM and will repeat on January 11 at noon. The team's next match is to be recorded January 15 against Manistique. Good job to coach Mrs. Pera and team members Briana Foreman, Stephen Mannikko, Bethany Foreman, Jordan Wiles, and Grace Laitala.
- At a recent Principal's Round Table, one topic was how different schools deal with delinquent lunch accounts. Some schools strictly enforce a pre-

- pay policy where any student with a delinquent account more than \$20 only receives a pb&j for lunch. Some things to be looked in to are having a family account and paying online.
- On December 9<sup>th</sup> there will be a CTE for women conference where they will be sending some ladies. Jeffers currently has one female in automotive right now. There was a recent STEM meeting for girls at MTU where they had some students go.

#### **Athletic Committee Report**

- Kristen Archambeau and Casandra Mattila did a great job of going around to local businesses to get extra prizes for the raffle. There is well over 50 extra prizes to be won at the raffle with a retail value over the \$20 cost of the ticket.
- They recently had their well attended parent meeting where they passed out tickets. They strongly encouraged parents to prepay for the tickets. Next year the Board may want to look into enforcing a prepay for ticket policy. It would make athletics pay-to-play, but families can get that money back by selling the tickets.
- Each family received 12 tickets, regardless of the amount of children or sports. It was too difficult to assign different amounts for families with different amounts of students playing various sports.
- One feedback was about doing something for the Music Program. Mr. Keteri pointed out that the Foundation is always taking donations and any donation can be earmarked specifically for something, i.e. the music department. Donations can be directly on the school's website. All money raised for athletics does directly impact the classroom. The less money the district has to pay for sports, the more for the class.

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

- Trent Keteri was hired as the JV Boys Basketball Coach.
- In regards to the audit, the deficit isn't due to unpaid balances. In the past, the true cost of the program wasn't reflected. Wages from aides and janitors that helped serve and clean wasn't ever counted in that category where it is now to show the true cost of the program. Also contributing to the problem is the rising cost of food. There isn't a way to run a completely debt-free food service, but they can work on reducing it as much as possible. Changing 5-6 of the more costly meals a month to something cheaper or ordering Dominos or Little Casers for a meal can make an impact.
- Glenda McMillan's recent surgery was successful. She will have to undergo chemo and radiation. Thoughts and prayers are with her.
- To solve the upper el class sizes at the grade school, teachers worked hard on a new schedule that would split the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade for most of the day. The new schedule utilizes paraprofessionals and Emily Raffaelli more effectively, but also to do this, the district would need to hire a new specials teacher.

**The Board went into closed session regarding a disciplinary action.**

**Action Items,**

- The Board approved the 2014-15 Audit.
- The Board approved the posting for a part time specials teacher at South Range Elementary School.

*Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary*