

# BOE Meeting Highlights

## Board of Education Meeting December 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 November 11. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

### Public Participation

- There were no public comments.

### Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The food service continues to be a deficit part of the budget. One solution that he is not in favor of but other districts do, is fully privatizing the food service employees to save money on benefits, and having food brought in from another place. For example, Dollar Bay gets their food from Houghton Schools. Other suggestions from the Board included negotiating to 9 month employees or becoming a hub ourselves and making food for another district. No decisions were made at the time.
- The automated system at SRES for air exchange and heat failed this summer. The air exchange is not currently working. Bay Electric gave 3 different proposals with their new automated system which is less expensive than other places. One proposal is a new manual system for about \$4,500, one is about \$15,000 for a whole new system including air exchange, heating, and lighting. The third option, which he is leaning towards, is a 3 year phase making payments totaling around the \$15,000 that would fully automate the system.
- The pool has not been filled partly due to the fact it is not ADA compliant in having a lift. He found a manual lift for \$1800, which is lower than the automated lifts he had previously investigated. Some people outside the building have expressed interest in using the pool. The initial cost to fill the pool is high. Normally it was filled gradually at the end of summer to allow the water to reach room temperature before heating it. Maintaining the heat would be lower than in the past with the updates to the building and having natural gas heat. The pool doesn't have a separate meter and it was suggested for that to be looked into, to avoid paying sewage and other costs on the many gallons of water needed to fill the pool. Members of the Board expressed concern over the expense of the pool during a fiscally tight year. No decision was made at the time.
- John Pastore, BOE Vice President, is resigning effective January 12, 2016 after 25 and a half years. Mr. Keteri thanked him on behalf of the district for his service. The open position will be posted on the school's website and in the paper.

- Darren Niemi, BOE president, voiced concern about the overseas German trip that students will be taking after the recent terrorist attacks. It was reported by parents in the audience that they recently had a parents meeting about this and that the company has been very good in communication. Parents have different options they can take if they no longer wish to go.

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

- The Parent/Teacher conferences that were held on the same day as the grade school went pretty well.
- Mr. J. Kilpela, science teacher, is growing salmon in his classroom, funded by Tom Rozich and the DNR.
- Mrs. Raffaelli, music teacher, recently attended with students a Brass Clinic and Honors Band.
- Congratulations to Mr. S. Kilpela, math and science teacher, on his new baby girl, Paola.
- It is being looked into in the area in getting back more work based learning opportunities for students, like Red Cross babysitting training and Early Childhood.
- One problem the school faces is vaping. It doesn't leave evidence and is hard to catch students doing it.
- Three girls recently attended a presentation on automotive careers.

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

- Mrs. Raffaelli, music teacher, did a wonderful job with the recent Christmas program, "Arf! On the Husetop". The K-3 teachers also did a good job of pulling together to help make it go smoothly.
- Ms. Raether, English and German teacher at JHS, recently brought the JHS drama kids to do a presentation to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades about life at the high school.
- Mrs. Babcock, art teacher, recently received a grant for SRE to have their own kiln. There will be some additional expenses but the Booster Club will most likely fund that.
- Mrs. Lishinski and Mr. Heltunen, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers, have been doing a neat job of teaming up. They made a movie on behavior expectations that will be debuting to the school on Friday.
- Mrs. Harris, Mr. Keteri, and Mrs. Normand, 4<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher, interviewed 3 people for the upper el's specials teacher. They recommend Laura Larson, who worked for the school last year as a part time 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. If approved, Mrs. Harris will send out a letter with the updated schedule to 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade parents. The new schedule will go in effect Wednesday.

#### **Athletic Committee Report**

- Many raffle tickets have been sold.
- Seasons are underway and going pretty well.
- They are always looking for people to help run the clock and books at basketball games.

#### **Action Items**

- The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Board Member John Pastore, effective January 12, 2016.
- The Board approved the hiring of Laura Larson as the part time specials teacher at South Rnage Elementary.

*Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary*