

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting January 13, 2016

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 January 13. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

Public Participation

- Bruce Heltunen spoke about applying for the open board seat. He is a '95 Calumet graduate and Michigan Tech engineering graduate. He has 5 children in the district. His engineering degree gave him a background in natural gas and energy saving. He currently works at Midwest Loans as a manager working with processing and business efficiency and operations. He has worked with unions. His father was a teacher for over 30 years.
- Eric Mattila spoke about applying for the open board seat. He is an '89 Jeffers graduate. He has six children in the district that are fourth generation Jeffers students. He works for the Postal Service as a letter carrier.
- George Eakin spoke about applying for the open board seat. He is an '87 Houghton graduate. He has a daughter that was a '10 Jeffers graduate and a son who will be graduating in 2017. He has been a hard worker all his life and currently works for D&L services. He has an interest in being a part of the school.

Open Seat

- Eric Mattila was nominated and received 3 votes from members Snell, Marier, and Niemi.
- George Eakin was nominated and received 2 votes from members Nicholas and Archambeau.
- Bruce Heltunen was nominated and received 2 votes from members Butina and Archambeau.
- Eric Mattila was brought to the floor for a vote where he received unanimous yeas and was declared as a Trustee of the Adams Board of Education.
- Mattila's current seat will run January through December. At the next general election, the rest of the 4 year term will be on the ballot, along with the seats currently held by Chad Snell and Annette Butina.

Selection of Officers

- President
 - Members Niemi and Nicholas were both nominated. Niemi received votes from members Archambeau, Butina, and Niemi.

Nicholas received votes from members Snell, Nicholas, Mattila, and Marier. Steve Nicholas was brought to the floor for a vote where he received unanimous yeas to be declared the President of the Board.

- Vice President
 - Member Niemi was the sole nomination. He received unanimous votes to be declared the Vice President of the Board.
- Treasurer
 - Member Snell was the sole nomination. He received unanimous votes to be declared the Treasurer of the Board.
- Secretary
 - Member Butina was the sole nomination. She received unanimous votes to be declared the Secretary of the Board.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The food service's account is doing better and becoming more manageable. The cooks are doing a stand up job at controlling costs through strategic meal planning.
- The district has had a big savings this year with the warmer weather. The savings from August-December from heating costs are a little over \$5,000 and electrical savings are about \$2,000.
- The amended budget isn't done yet, but his guess is that it will be close to or under the original budget. Some of the controls the Board put in place are helping, such as Mr. Keteri having to sign off on every expenditure. There has been no major maintenance issues to deal with this year. There have been some staffing issues that have come up. One is Glenda McMillan's, a janitor at Jeffers, absence due to illness. She is expected to be out through the rest of the year and a decision will need to be made shortly how to deal with that position. Lori Geshel, kindergarten teacher at SRE, has been out due to injury but is planning on returning January 25 part time. She had an arrangement with the district that Mr. Keteri is very appreciative of.

Athletic Director's Report-Steve Lishinski

- One thing that is being looked into is a co-op with Hancock for Junior Varsity Hockey. Jeffers players that do not make the Jeffers Varsity team would be able to play JV hockey for Hancock. Their program is self funded so they would have to pay to play. The Jeffers team would probably still keep a small taxi of 1 or 2 students. If needed, a Jeffers player would still be able to be brought up to Jeffers Varsity. They would not play Varsity for Hancock.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- The building has a few changes. New lights have been put in along the sidewalk at the student drop off. The buzz in system is being installed as is a lockdown switch. The school recently had a lockdown drill and Jack Dueweke, emergency plan coordinator, happened to be there so they had a good discussion about procedures for the buzz in system.

- The staff also has a few changes. Lori Geshel, kindergarten teacher, will be back half time. Eric Segula, 4-6 science teacher, took a new position downstate. His love and passion for science will be missed but Mrs. Harris doesn't think the students will miss a beat with the new candidate, Jessica Schuett.
- The upper el has a new schedule and it has been working well.
- The M-Step scores were shared. This past year's scores are not judged against the school as it was a trial run. As usual the students scored well in math. One area that could improve is writing which is something being addressed in the new schedule with Mrs. Larson.

Principal's Report-Mike Benda, Jeffers High School

- Over \$600 was raised recently for Glenda McMillan. Cora Rajala has been doing a fantastic job with NHS fundraisers for Glenda. A Hat Day raised \$400. The Student Senate held their annual Elf Auction and raised \$236 for Glenda.
- Anna Arens, Kayla Solmonson, Lauren Houtari, Amanda Coponen, Megan Kinnunen, Kate Halonen, Eli Kilpela, Ely Ruonavaara, Connor Heinonen and Molly Rautiola went to the Medical Care facility and assisted the staff with Christmas parties.
- FAFSA Night facilitated by Trish Sherman was well attended.
- Jeffers recently had a lockdown drill. Their button to close all fire doors wasn't installed until today.

Action Items

- The Board accepted the resignation of elementary science teacher Eric Segula.
- The Board approved the hiring of Jessica Schuett as the Science teacher at South Range Elementary.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary