

BOE Meeting Highlights

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

Public Participation

- Steve Lishinski spoke to the board on the behalf of softball Coach Archambeau. The team would like to do a fundraiser of Club's Choice. It would be April 15-29 with a May 19 delivery. They make 40% profit. The team also recently had a donation of \$300 from Adams and South Range Fire Department towards catching equipment.
- Terri Komarzec, a parent of a JHS and SRE student, encouraged starting an aquatics program again for elementary through high schoolers. Jeffers is great because it offers something for everyone. A swim program would offer another thing for students and teach a life lesson. The pool is an asset not being utilized. She would be able to help with a recreational program but wouldn't be able to be a coach of a competitive team. Building interest in a young age would foster a better team once they're able to be competitive.
- Patrick Nettel, a parent of JHS students, would like to see a new hockey coach. In his opinion, Mr. Bekkala is a good guy but not a good coach, the same mistakes are made at games and not corrected. He thinks we lose some students in the district partly because of hockey and would like to see something different.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- Mr. Jonathan Kilpela, JHS science teacher, requests a 1 year sabbatical. He will be getting married and going to Finland to get his masters degree. He is a great asset to the district.
- After 34 years, JHS Principal Michael Benda will be retiring to fish instead of molding student's minds. The administration and school district will miss him.
- After 35 years, Mr. Bill Marinelli, director of maintenance, will be retiring. His efforts and and commitment is appreciated.
- Kayla Semmens, a privatized worker who does recess and kitchen help at SRE, put in her notice.
- The amended budget is ready to be approved. There is more money in fund equity than expected but still not the 5% needed, although the district should be by next year. There was a lot of savings from lower energy usage and staffing changes. To save more, decisions will have

to be made, such as not replacing Jon Kilpela's position (open from his sabbatical) with current staff, and other things such as considering coping with another school for hockey instead of our own team and examining every expense. Contract negotiations with teacher and support staff will be difficult during this time.

- Teachers are up for renewal of probationary status. Recommended for third year probationary status by Principal Harris are Charley Heltunen, Laura Larson, and Joann Feeley. Recommended for third year probationary status by Principal Benda are Jon Kilpela, Chuck Palosaari, and Morgan Raether. Recommended for second year probationary status are Sam Kilpela and Madeline Larson.
- Kim Harris's principal evaluation was available for the board and he recommends her renewal.

Athletic Director's Report-Steve Lishinski

- Lake Linden is starting a gymnastics program and invited Jeffers to cop with them. The program would be parent funded and no cost to the district. He put a sign up in the office and had a couple of girls interested.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- March as Reading Month was busy. The school did 'One School, One Book', reading "The World According to Humphrey". The ATSD Foundation generously purchased books for each family. The Book Fair was successful. Due to the tight budget, this is the only way the library gets funds for new books. The Booster Club generously paid for coupons for children to get a free book during reading night.
- The elementary's basketball season recently ended. Coach Mande Lehto and Coach Ethan Kinnunen did a nice job.
- MSTEP testing starts next week.
- Friday will be kindergarten registration. They will be looking for interest in a young 5's program.
- The Hei Suomi program is up and running. Two students from Finland are working with students in 3rd and 4th grade since last year was missed.

Principal's Report-Mike Benda, Jeffers High School

- On March 11th they had an inservice where they went over many things including drone technology for students, weather stations, Lake Perrault, Mr. Jon Kilpela's salmon, and Mr. Sam Kilpela's greenhouse.
- The Board's Curriculum Committee and the Staff's Curriculum Committee should meet soon to make decisions.
- Mrs. Jen Pera and Mrs. Lisa Raffaelli, math teachers, will be attending a 3D printing workshop this summer. They will be getting software and hardware because of it.
- Mrs. Jen Pera has been selected to work on the M-STAR project again this summer. The goal of the summer activities will be to continue development of Mi-STAR units started in the summer 2015 hubs to ready them for piloting fall semester 2016 and spring semester 2017. Their

- overreaching goal is to test a model for reform of science curriculum, teaching, and learning in the middle grades.
- Board Member Eric Mattila who went on the recent German Trip to Europe commented that it was money well spent. Jeffers students were wonderful and showed exemplary attitudes through the last day.

Athletic Committee

- The athletic raffle made about \$12,000. It will have to be decided if next year the tickets will have to be purchased ahead of time as a pay-to-play option.

Action Items

- The Board accepted the resignation of Mr. Michael Benda and sincerely thanked him for all his work.
- The Board accepted the resignation of Mr. Bill Marinelli and sincerely thanked him for his 35 years of service.
- The Board granted sabbatical leave of one year to Mr. Jon Kilpela.
- The Board approved third year probationary status to SRE teachers Charley Heltunen, Laura Larson, and Joann Feeley. The Board approved third year probationary status to JHS teachers Jon Kilpela, Chuck Palosaari, and Morgan Raether. The Board approved second year probationary status to JHS teachers Sam Kilpela and Madeline Larson.
- The Board approved Principal Kim Harris's evaluation.
- The Board approved the 2015-16 amended budget.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary