

# BOE Meeting Highlights

## Board of Education Meeting May 19, 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 May 19. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

### Public Participation

- Vanessa Dietz, a member of the community, asked the Board about what the situation with the Post Office building is. The roof is in need of repair and people are worried it might close because of the condition. Mr. Keteri answered that when the school took over ownership of the building they had been planning on using it for cosmetology before that was put into the trades building. The cost for materials would be \$15,000 if students in trades worked on it. For a company to do it, it would be \$40-\$45,000. There isn't funds at the time for this. He has been looking into other options, such as the Postal Service taking over the building. He acknowledged that it is not a good situation.
- Mark Halonen, a parent of JHS and SRE students, commented on the sports his children have been involved in, hockey and baseball. He has been very impressed with how clean and respectable the teams play and has the utmost trust in the conditions the coaches provide. He commends their effort and passion they put in their teams. He suggested that if the coaching is changed, the student athletes that play should be surveyed first, instead of just hearing from parents.
- Terry Komarzec, a parent of JHS and SRE students, asked how the aquatics program is being considered since it was not on the agenda. The Board let her know that various committees recently met and they discussed it.
- Pat Nettel, a parent of JHS students, spoke again in favor of hiring a new hockey coach. He said he has watched practices where some athletes sit idle because the full rink isn't used. He doesn't think our athletes excel at the same rate that other programs do. Our students might not be able to beat the local bigger schools but should be able to at least compete with them.
- Mark Harris, a parent of JHS students, agreed that coaching changes should be made with hockey. He watches practices and agrees with Mr. Nettel. It'd be nice if our team didn't have to travel as much and play more local games.

### Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- There are some NEOLA policy updates for the Board to approve, including things about how to spend grants, conflict of interest clauses,

tools for evaluating superintendents and principals, testing changes, staff reduction and recall based on effectiveness versus seniority, staff evaluation, bond issues, and guns in the building.

- The Foundation Dinner went well, raising around \$7,000.
- Graduation will be Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Ruann Opie will be the commencement speaker.
- Madeline Larson, JHS English teacher, is asking for a half year of maternity leave. She is a very good teacher and will be back for the second semester.

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

- The Hei Suomi program is running and going great. The two students from Finland are Eetu Ahola and Kaisa-Marie Poikela which the school has been happy to have. Unfortunately Eetu had to go back early for a family emergency.
- GE will run again at school this summer. There will be a free morning portion with activities. They will provide an afternoon childcare portion for a fee.
- Friday will be the volunteer luncheon.
- Kindergarten registration went well. Numbers were higher than expected. There will be two sections of kindergarten.
- Joann Feely, SRE special education teacher, was recognized at the PAC awards, along with JHS teachers Jennifer Pera and Lisa Raffaelli.
- On different days, the sixth grade and eighth graders helped Mr. Outinen with raking the school grounds.

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

- Mrs. Sherman has been running a recycling program at the school that students have been helping with, cutting back on a lot of waste. The greenhouse uses other waste for compost.
- Jeffers is almost finished up with all of the testing.
- Ms. Raether recently brought students to a student leadership forum at MTU.
- The Drama Class, under Ms. Raether, recently had a presentation for SRE students. They also went to nursing homes to perform.
- Dayna Johnson, Marissa Nordstrom, Brooke Heinonen, Mara Pietila, and Brenna Hill did well at History Day.
- REMC recently did a phone upgrade.
- The spring concert was really nice.
- Mr. Jon Kilpela brought a team to the Bioathlon and is currently on a trip with his physics students. They also recently released about 100 of the salmon he's been growing.

#### **Athletic Committee**

- The committee recently met to discuss different items. One question they had was who is ultimately responsible for the hiring of coaches. It was clarified that if the coach is paid through the district it is by the Board. This is cases mostly with the teaching staff. If it is paid through third party GMS, then Mr. Keteri is but under the direction of the Board.

- They were split on whether sports should be pay to play with the fundraiser but leaned towards not.
- The discussion with the pool involved the pros and cons. A pro is that it does maximize programs offered to students, but a big con is the cost. They referred it to the financial committee if there are funds available to fill and maintain it next year.
- One thing discussed but not recommended was to end the JHS hockey program to co-op with Houghton. It was asked why they would choose this sport over others and it was because it was the least amount of students affected. As of now, Lake Linden is only committing to a one year co-op with Jeffers.

### **Curriculum Committee**

- The committee recently met to discuss different items including technology. More of those skills should be taught in 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade. The chromebooks are valuable to use in place of some books because the virtual versions are cheaper and updated. Less than 5% of the chromebooks have failed and the district does have technological help through REMC.
- They discussed having a different option to the senior term paper such as a project that would have to be presented to a panel or something similar.
- Different classes were discussed for students that don't take band, such as Michigan History or an environment class.

### **Financial Committee**

- The committee recently met to discuss things affecting the financials of the district.
- One thing that was discussed but they are not in support of is for the support staff to pay there own health insurance during the time they are off in the summer.
- With the enrollment numbers for next year, the district will probably have to add a teacher at the elementary.
- They were made aware of the fact that Mrs. Chynoweth's salary is paid through Title I.
- They discussed how they could use teachers in different ways, whether they should remove or limit dual enrollment and CTE classes.
- They discussed the positions of Director of Maintenance and the JHS Principal.

The Board went into closed session.

### **Action Items**

*Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary*