

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting June 23, 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 June 23. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

Budget Hearing Meeting

- This year's budget looks solid. The district is a little over halfway to the 5% fund equity that needs to be saved per the state. This year there was a new law stating that the food budget has to be at \$0, so the general fund had to pay for that. The general fund has always paid for negative balances in food service. Part of the reason for a negative balance is food prices being higher each year. Mr. Keteri is confident that the 5% will be reached at the end of the 2016-17 year along with plans for the year of reducing class sizes.

Regular Meeting

Public Participation

- Emma Juntunen, JHS band student, asked for permission to do monthly car washes to fund the senior band trip. The Board gave them permission.
- Sue Destrampe, SRE teacher, spoke on behalf of the elementary teaching staff. They have concerns about the elementary, such as class sizes, programming cuts, a decaying building, mid year moves and more professional demands. They feel that concessions for the budget get made at the elementary level and their work is not valued. They ask that South Range Elem is a forethought when planning, not an afterthought.
- Jade Babcock, art teacher for Jeffers South Range, and Dollar Bay, spoke about her concerns for the art program schedule for the elementary. One schedule she has seen didn't have time blocked for K-3. She spoke about how she has seen students excel in her class, getting to be creative. To sustain a solid program, it needs to be K-12. She is happy to see that the high school is getting more time with her but sad that it is at the expense of the elementary.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The post office building remains an area of concern. It is not a good or safe situation. As he sees it, the district has three options. One, to level the building. Two, to put on a new roof. Three, to build a new building. For a new roof, it would be \$30,00-\$45,000 for the roof alone, it would

also have more needs to add to the expenses such as a new exterior, windows and door. For a new building, it would cost around \$20,000 plus the cost of removing the old building. The concern for the district is that the post office is on a month to month lease. To put a lot of money into the building would require a bigger commitment from the post office. If they built a new building and raised the rent for a new building, the district could make their money back within three years. The district could also sell the building to them. Mr. Keteri will talk to the postal service to see what they would be willing to do.

- There are open athletic positions. Mr. Keteri and Mr. Lishinski, the athletic director, spoke with Mr. Bekkala, the hockey coach, who resigned. Mr. Bekkala expressed his love for the sport and team but felt that it was time for him to resign so things did not revolve around him but rather the team. Mr. Keteri acknowledged the numerous things Mr. Bekkala did for the team behind the scenes that allowed for a successful program. Had Mr. Bekkala wanted to stay, Mr. Keteri and Mr. Lishinski would have recommended him to stay in his position.
- There was a high school art position he was going to post but wants to wait to determine the needs of Dollar Bay first to see how Mrs. Babcock will be used in the district. The current elementary schedule has more art with a commitment to add more.
- The support staff has a two year tentative contract agreement to approve. The support staff conceded some things in the first year but it was made up in the second year.
- There are openings to be filled in maintenance. He recommends Brian Pera to be hired for the high school as a day time, nine month employee with the benefits package. There will be a year round, evening position for the high school that will be worked out by September. He recommends Ron Outinen, currently maintenance at SRE, to be Head of Maintenance, based out of SRE.
- The Foundation had some recent donations. Mr. John Opie donated \$75,000 to the scholarswhip fund. Mr. Jim Anttonen donated \$25,000 to the trades building. Mr. Paul Karppinen pledged to match up to \$50,000 donated to the trades program. Almost the whole trades program is funded through the Foundation. Different trades companies have already expressed interest in hiring Jets graduates because of this program.

Principal's Report-Steve Lishinski, Jeffers High School

- They have been interviewing some candidates for the Special Education position.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- There was the normal end of the year activities, including Donuts with Dad, Awards Day, and a successful time at Camp Nesbit with the sixth grade.
- Great Explorations is going well. This summer it is free for students. It is Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 12:00. The program is full with

34 registered students and have been having over 20 each day. They didn't have enough commitments from families to have a paid afternoon program. Bridget Hillard is out for most of the summer so Darren Kinnunen has been running it and doing a great job.

- Mande Lehto and Jessica Schuett, SRE teachers, along with JHS teachers Jen Pera and Lisa Raffaelli have been going to SMILE (Science Math Integrated Literacy Engineering). They will receive about \$1600 each worth of equipment for doing this.
- Eight different staff members have been taking online classes for emotional learning needs.
- There has been some graffiti on the building along with some screens being cut. They have been talking to the police about it.
- Summer cleaning has begun in the building. Jeffers students Trevor Mickalich and Evan Platzke have been helping Mr. Outinen.

Athletic Committee

- The committee of Mr. Mattila, Mr. Marier, and Mrs. Archambeau recently met to discuss different items along with Mr. Lishinski and parents.
- Open coaching positions for this year at the time of the meeting included JV Girls Basketball, JH Girls Basketball, Cross Country, and softball. There was discussion about Coach Bekkala. Parents at the meeting praised Mr. Bekkala and the committee would have recommended to keep him in the position had he not since resigned.
- There are two new co-ops to consider. Lake Linden invited Jeffers to co-op for gymnastics. The program is parent funded and is no cost to the district. Another would be for Copper Country Christian school to join all of our teams. There are things that they have to first work out with MHSSA.
- There was some discussion about the Toivola Ball field regarding the baseball team. The township owns it but does not have money or current plans to work on it.
- An athletic fee was discussed. Some were for it, some argued that it could hurt participation and ultimately revenue. Because they could not agree, they do not recommend it at this time.
- Different fundraising options were discussed, such as getting sponsorships.
- The pool was discussed. As Jeffers is still in a swimming co-op with Hancock, the decision to fill the pool is not one for the Athletic Committee but the Financial Committee.
- There was discussion about schedule B and there are still questions the committee had regarding coaches payment. Mr. Keteri clarified that schedule B is for district staff coaches and Mr. Snell who has been coaching for so long to fall under it. The Board can set non-teacher coaching wages. Each year the contracts have to be renewed or not.

The Board went into closed session.

Action Items

- The Board approved the 2016-2017 Borrowing Resolution.
- The Board approved the L4029 Tax Rate Levy Request.

- The Board approved the 2015-2016 Final Amended Budget.
- The Board approved the 2016-2017 Fiscal Budget.
- The Board approved to post the athletic positions of JV Girls Basketball Coach, Hockey Coach, Softball Coach, Cross Country Coach, and Junior High Girls Basketball Coach.
- The Board approved the tentative support staff contract agreement.
- The Board approved the Ron Outinen as the year-round Head of Maintenance.
- The Board approved the Food Service Budget for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.
- The Board approved Brian Pera for the school year custodial/maintenance position at Jeffers.
- The Board approved the Lake Linden-Hubbel gymnastics co-op.
- The Board approved the schedule for Board Meetings for the 2016-2017 to be the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary