

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting September 14, 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 September 14. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

Public Participation

- Mande Lehto, math/6th grade teacher at SRE and Camp Nesbit Director and fundraiser chair, asked for permission to fundraise for Nesbit. She plans on doing a Little Caesar's Pizza Kit sale and a Jeffers accessory sale. The Board granted permission.
- Steve Sabatini, community member, asked the Board if they had a stand for the proposed windmills in the area. Taxable values could potentially drop and hurt the school's revenue. The trades program is doing well, what if the proposed windmill could hurt it. The Board has not made an official position in regards to the issue.
- Morgan Raether, German teacher at JHS, would like to take another trip with her German students to Europe next school year and asked for permission to fundraise. So far she has more interest than last trip with over 20 students. The plan is to go to Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and back to Germany. She would also fundraise to cover the cost of her substitute while gone. The Board granted permission to fundraise.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- Two new teachers for approval are Rachel Torp as the JHS Physical Ed and Social Studies teacher, and Jennifer Castellano as the SRE Art and Technology teacher.
- September 24 is the annual 5K walk/run and new 10K run. So far they have a lot of sponsors for the tshirt. The Foundation is a major sponsor, covering half the cost, they are still looking for another major sponsor.
- Enrollment is looking solid. He is waiting for count day to give an official number. There are numerous reason for the higher enrollment, most of all being the wonderful staff that treats each student with respect and concern. The enrollment number is a positive reflection upon them.
- The audit will be done soon and ready for either the October or November meeting.
- Mr. Keteri will be attending a leadership endorsement program in Lansing throughout the year.
- He has been in touch with the Regional Director of Leasing for the Post Office in regards to the building the school owns that the Post Office rents. The school gave the options of a new six year lease with a

completely new building or the post office could have the building for free. He also offered the mail could temporarily be sorted in the school with portable temporary boxes outside until a permanent decision is made. Mr. Keteri did not receive a decision either way but it seems as though the Post Office does not want to make a commitment. While offering the service of a post office is a good thing, it cannot be at the cost of the School District, a federal building is not the district's responsibility. The Post Office will have until September 30th to make a decision before the Board makes their final decision.

- On October 4 the State Superintendent of Schools will be visiting the district. It is Superintendent Whiston's goal to visit every school in the state.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary

- The Booster Club will be doing their annual fundraiser with Believe. It will start October 3rd.
- It's been nice having JHS senior Cora Rajala helping at SRE.
- Enrollment is up.
- The normal back to school activities are going well. The Book Fair will be next week along with the Ice Cream Social. Classes have been going over expectations and the school has been doing drills. She thanked Mrs. Geshel and Mrs. Destrampe, kindergarten teachers, and Mrs. Normand, fourth grade teacher, for their orientations that went well.
- The Hei Suomi program will be starting next week. That's where students from Finland work with SRE third graders.

Principal's and Athletic Report-Steve Lishinski, Jeffers High School

- Onkalo's Bowl will be September 30th.
- Jeffers may be a pilot school if chosen as a partner school for Mi-STAR, a middle school science program. Mrs. Pera, science and math teacher at JHS, worked on developing the curriculum for the past two summers. "Mi-STAR (Michigan Science Teaching and Assessment Reform) is motivated by a vision for the future in which science is taught and learned as an integrated body of knowledge that can be applied to address societal issues. Our overarching goal is to test a model for reform of science curriculum, teaching, and learning in the middle grades." –Mi-STAR website
- Mr. Palosaari has worked on October 5th to be the Bioblitz at Lake Perrault.
- Mr. Lishinski is happy with how the 7th and 9th grade orientations went. Mrs. Pera and Ms. Ruohonen did a wonderful job with 'Jump into Jeffers' with the 7th grade. A special thanks went to Ms. Sherman for helping with the 9th grade.
- The school has jumped back into the beginning of the year, it doesn't feel like they even left. The new staff members are fitting in well.
- All fall athletic programs are underway and the 5K/10K planning is ongoing.

The Board discussed action items.

Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary