

# BOE Meeting Highlights

## Board of Education Meeting November 9, 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 November 9. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

### Public Participation

- Christina Verran and her husband Rick, came to the Board following up about issues her daughter in fourth grade has been having with bullying. She said that it was gotten better for her daughter. She was wondering what would happen if an incident happened on the bus. Mr. Keteri answered that proper protocol has been happening and in that situation, the bus driver would use his training and the next step in the handbook would be taken.
- Terri Komarzec, parent of JHS students, wanted to know what was going on with the pool. Mr. Keteri answered that it has been filled for about a month or two but there was a problem with the chemical pump. A few different people have looked at it. Someone from MTU's maintenance will come and look at it this week. The drains also need covers, the pool needs a lift, and the health department needs to check it. This shouldn't take long.

### Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The food program is going in a good direction. Jean Stevens has been doing a good job getting it under control. Within 4 years the district should be able to get rid of the debt from that program.
- The UPPCO bill the school received was not correct. They are waiting for the correct bill to pay it.
- The leak in the kitchen has stopped. Another issue had been taken care of and the leak in the kitchen stopped.
- The audit is looking good. This year has an \$88,000 increase in fund equity, bringing it to around \$112,000 which is around 3%, the district needs to be at 5%. The district is starting to see the long term savings switching to heat with SEMCO. Next year will see a savings of around \$40,000 and \$60,000 the year after.
- The ISD recommends getting a waiver for the amount of special education students that the special ed teachers are allowed to service, going from 18 at the elementary to 21 and 20 at the high school to 24. It doesn't effect this year but it could in the future.

- There are some NEOLA policies to update including healthcare plans, teachers notifying building principals before using a crowd sourcing fundraiser, and a few other minor things.
- Congratulations to the elected Board members, Eric Mattila, Chad Snell, and George Eakin.
- Northern Michigan University wants to form a partnership with Jeffers with the trades program. Students would earn intro credits at Northern in 4 different degree paths, tourism/culinary, welding, construction management, and cosmetology. Mr. Keteri visited Northern, representatives from there will be visiting Jeffers within a month.

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

- The staff is choosing Students of the Month this year. Two each from the upper and lower el.
- Ms. Jennifer Castellano officially started this week as the Art/Technology teacher. Everything is falling into place well. Wednesday was a building inservice so she was able to work with the teachers to see what needs need to be met. Julie Laban who was the long term sub in the position since the beginning of the year did a great job of filling in a new position.
- The Halloween Parade and parties were held all day on the half day Friday before the holiday and Halloween itself was a regular school day. It worked out really well.
- Report Cards will be handed out tomorrow at parent/teacher conferences.
- Three recent inservices included one with the SRE staff regarding the new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention bill, a district wide regarding the new evaluation process, and a cross district with Chassell and Dollar Bay.
- Mrs. Feeley, resource room teacher at SRE, paid for her own training this summer to be a consultant screener and tutor for dyslexia. She recently paid to go to Florida for the final testing for it. She will be the only certified consultant in the U.P. for this. The Board expressed their appreciation for her.

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

- Parent/Teacher Conferences have been well attended.
- Mrs. Pera, junior high math and science teacher, had the Michigan Tech Engineering Ambassadors in working on solar thermal towers with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders and kinetic and potential energy arrows with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. She is also the High School Bowl adviser and they have their first match November 18<sup>th</sup> with a later air date. In addition, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade has begun piloting the MISTar program in science.
- Ms. Ruohonen, junior high English and social studies teacher, has had students writing for the Youth Advisory Council and the VFW Patriot's Pen.
- Mrs. Pera and Ms. Ruohonen took the junior high on a field trip to Victoria Dam, funded by the Keweenaw National Historic Advisory Council. The students enjoyed their day.
- Ms. Raether, English and German teacher, recently had a Haunted House ran by the Student Senate, earning over \$200. Kids were excited

to do it and it got good reviews. They put on a Halloween Dance following it. Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> she will be putting on the school play. Also, fundraising for her class trip to Chicago in April is going well.

- The Band Buddies program has been going well. SRE students recently came to Jeffers to meet. The school had a lot of music all over.
- Ms. Castellano has also started at Jeffers, teaching a graphics class. Ms. Lindy Beauchamp has started as the cosmetology teacher.
- In athletics, junior high boys basketball is going well. Girls and boys junior varsity and varsity basketball will be starting practice in the next few weeks.

The Board discussed action items.

*Submitted by Valerie Dobson, South Range Elementary*