

## **Board of Education Meeting November 12, 2014**

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 12. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

### **Public participation**

- Morgan Raether, English and German teacher at JHS, wants to put on a German Dinner as a fundraiser and cultural activity for the community. It will be Thursday, February 12. Tickets will be around \$30 a plate. Food will be authentic German cuisine. German students will send out special invitations to community groups. They hope to get 150-200 tickets sold before the dinner. Steve Nicholas suggested letting WMPL radio station know about it to reach more of the community. She also would like to take the German students on a European trip instead of the Concordia trip. The students would fundraise now until spring break 2016 to have a cultural experience, visiting Munich, Paris, and London. It would be through a tour company that plans the activities. Price includes admission into sites, breakfast, dinner, and transportation. She has 16 students who have expressed an interest and 4 adults who would be interested in chaperoning. To pay for the cost of about \$3,500, they will be doing fundraising and also paying some out of pocket. Except for the first deposit, the money is refundable so if a student does back out, they would get back any out of pocket money put in, the fundraising money would stay with the German Club. Their recent can drive brought in over \$600 and they are currently selling German chocolate. The Board expressed a concern over fundraising with other groups needing to also raise money. Miss Raether is aware and is planning fundraising activities different from others and scheduled at different times.
- Paul Bridgers, a parent of a 5th grade students, addressed the Board with a concern about his son being bullied. He said his son has been having issues for a while and there was a recent conflict that caused concern. He was not satisfied with how things were handled.

### **Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri**

- Mr. Keteri recently spoke with both Mr. Rod Liimatainen, former BHK Director of almost 40 years, and Mr. Kevin Store, of the Portage Foundation, about the Trades Center. Both had different ideas to go about funding. Mr. Liimatainen's idea is to go after grant funding. The district would be wise to invest in a grant writer, funded either by the Foundation or a combination of the Foundation and district to get grants for both entities. A lot of the time grants will match money which is a great thing for the district that has money to be matched for the Trades Center and Program. Steve Nicholas commented that when he was on the Board for BHK when Mr. Liimatainen was the Director, the money for hiring a grant writer was money well spent. Going in this direction would cause Mr. Keteri to be away from the building a lot because it takes time and networking to get grant money. Mr. Store's idea is to go after Industry funding and to get the different industries involved and invested in the Trades Program. What the industries need would define the curriculum and be beneficial to the graduates of the program.
- The school lunch Farm Fresh program is wrapping up. It went great! The Keweenaw Foundation funded the cost of about \$6,000 for the 10 local meals.

- The kindergarten hit 35 students so it was split for the whole day, causing an opening for a part time third grade teaching position. Laura Larson applied.

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

- Laura Larson has been doing a great job in the part time rd grade position. It has been a transition for the students changing teachers. What helped a lot was Mrs. Larson coming in a week before taking over to get to know the students and routine.
- Ms. Lehto, sixth grade teacher and Camp Nesbit Director and Fundraiser Chair, would like to sell Little Caesar Pizza Kits. They do this in conjunction with selling food at the Craft and Vendor Fair and do very well with both.
- Mrs. Harris let the Board know that she and the teachers are fully aware of the behavior issues that were brought up and the handbook policies are being followed.

#### **Athletic Committee Report**

- Board members from the Athletic Committee were brainstorming different ways to get more involved in the fundraisers or to change them for the better. One idea was to make the Annual 5K Walk/Run and 1/2 Marathon a memorial event. Each year it could be done in the name of a JHS alumni. Another thought was to move it to the end of the school year.
- One thing they would also like would be to sell the Annual Raffle tickets longer, throughout the year. This way the outgoing seniors will still be invested. The Print Shop has offered to donate a free banner to advertise this. Also, they'd like the coaches to pass out the tickets to athletes to motivate them. It would probably mean more coming from their coaches than Board members. The alumni could also be contacted better.

#### **Action Items**

- Laura Larson was approved as the part time 3rd grade teacher at SRE.
- Fundraising for the German class trip to Europe was approved.

*-Valerie Dobson, SRES*