

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting April 8, 2015

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 April 8. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

Public participation

- Eric Mattila, a parent of SRE students, addressed the Board concerning the 5th and 6th grade basketball game that was held at the SRE gym instead of Jeffers. The gym was overcrowded and there were people that couldn't even get into the gym. With two gyms at Jeffers, something different should have been done. The Board was informed that the gym at Jeffers was getting new mats put up at the time and was not available for a game. It was an unusual circumstance that hasn't happened before and shouldn't happen again in the future. Mr. Mattila also commented that Coach Bob Hocking of the boys team did a great job in getting all 22 boys rotated into play all season.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- Testing is beginning next week and will be going into May. This year they will all be done on computers. There may be problems switching over using new technology but should get easier. It is a huge event and change in Michigan that all schools will be testing this way. The downside is that the data will not be reported for two years. Usually the staff uses the data to focus on certain areas. For the next few years the teachers will be using their knowledge of where the focus needs to be.
- The district was awarded a safety grant for \$36,000. The buildings entrances will have swipe keys. Visitors will have to be buzzed in.
- The district was awarded a grant of \$2,000 from the Community Arts Center.
- The district was also awarded a \$12,000 grant for their garden.
- South Range Elementary was awarded a \$2,000 CATCH grant for things such as PE equipment and inservices for health.
- The Foundation's Annual Dinner will be May 2nd. Tickets are \$50 each. There will be a Jeffers made sauna raffled among other items.
- Bids are out tomorrow for the Trades Building. He is excited to see how they come in.

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

- The science fair was recently held. It went very well. As far as she could tell, SRE was the best represented school in the area with the most placed students.
- The 5th grade begins testing next week, the first students of the district to do the testing on the computers.

- Kindergarten registration is April 24th. They will be doing it like last year, with the April date being for screening and registering paperwork. They will have a kindergarten experience day for the new students in August, closer to the school year. This year per the state, students should be 5 years old by September 1st.
- Mande Lehto and Bob Hocking did a nice job coaching 5th and 6th grade basketball with the many kids that come out to play. Their work is appreciated.

Principal's Report-Mike Benda, Jeffers High School

- Mr. Benda was not in attendance.

Action Items

- The Board accepted the resignation of Kurt Heinonen, custodian, and thanked him for his 25 years of service.
- The Board approved 4th year probationary status for Eric Segula, and 2nd year probationary status for Charles Heltunen, Joann Feeley, Laura Larson, Charles Palosaari, and Morgan Raether.
- The Board approved Paul Karppinen as this year's commencement speaker.