

MINUTES – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – February 23, 2017
Central Administration Building- Board Room

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to attendance of the public.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mr. Zimmerman, Vice-President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM in the Central Administration Building Board Room. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Zimmerman announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted on the west wall of the meeting room.

Attendance taken at 6:03 PM:

Present Board Members:

Janet Byars
Nancy Sedlacek
Steve Winter
Jon Zimmerman

Absent Board Members:

Doris Martin
Lisa Pieper

2. Approval of the Agenda

Board of Education of District #15 approve the agenda as presented passed with a motion by Steve Winter and a second by Janet Byars.

Janet Byars	Yes
Doris Martin	Absent
Lisa Pieper	Absent
Nancy Sedlacek	Yes
Steve Winter	Yes
Jon Zimmerman	Yes

Motion Passed: 4 Yeas - 0 Nays

3. City- Land Purchase Request

Doris Martin entered the meeting at 6:04 PM.

Steve Kelley informed the Board that the city is interested in the property north of the salt barn (north of Grant Street) as they are in need of additional storage space. He stated that the area is in a flood plain, but that the city is still interested in pursuing purchase of a couple of lots if the school district is interested in selling. Winter noted that the area is no longer being used by the district and that a deal with the city should be pursued. The Board directed Mr. Nauroth to work with the city administrator to secure a potential price and agreement that can be brought back to the Board at a later date.

4. Curriculum Review- Business

Mrs. Nielsen introduced Brenda Gronewold from the High School. A handout was shared by Mrs. Gronewold that provided an overview of the business curriculum. She shared that the new quarter class, Personal Finance, is now required for all juniors. Mr. Ben Brink focuses on the financial literacy aspects and Mrs. Gronewold on career development through the class. The economic markets, financial institutions, financial literacy and economic systems are the main areas of focus. Students have to research a possible career and are required to also do a job shadow. Mr. Sutter added that this has been a very positive addition to the graduation requirements. He added that an investment club was started in January and provides students with an opportunity to learn about investing while playing a stock market game.

5. Monsanto Grant

Mrs. Nielsen introduced Dr. Joan Christen, High School Science. Dr. Christen provided a report on the Monsanto grant that was received for the first time in July 2016. She shared that the grant money was used to purchase additional technology equipment (Labquests). Students use the labquests to collect real time data and then they analyze that data. Dr. Christen added that the students have made phenomenal improvements with the use of the technology since the beginning of the year. A handout was shared with Board members that contained pictures of the students working with the new equipment as well as lab reports and data from some of their labs. Dr. Christen informed the Board that she is writing another grant and if awarded, the plan is to use those funds for an area in the library mezzanine that would provide a space for both the science and library clubs to utilize as there is a lot of interest in the use of technology among the student body.

6. Behavioral Consultant Position

Mrs. Cordry-Hookstra shared that the district partnered with the ESU 5 for a part-time behavioral consultant, Barb Rieken, for the current school year. Her focus has mainly been on special education students and the elementary has consumed the majority of her time. Ms. Rieken typically does observations and then offers hands-on support with those students. She is also able to show the teachers how to utilize effective intervention measures. Mrs. Cordry-Hookstra informed the Board that a survey was sent out to staff members and the results were very positive; however, staff members do feel that additional behavioral support is needed in the district. Mrs. Cordry-Hookstra was happy to report that suspensions are down this year and seclusion is down by at least fifty percent which is partially the result of additional training for special education staff. This year staff has also moved more students than ever before back into the general education setting.

7. Paddock Lane Roof

Mr. Brazell informed the Board that replacing the roof at Paddock Lane Elementary was on the schedule for the summer of 2018, but some leaks were discovered over the last week or so and the roofing consultant is very concerned. They are investigating the option of trying to replace the roof yet this summer. Mr. Brazell shared that there may be a proposal for the Board to consider at the March or April board meeting. The estimated cost is \$750,000 and replacement would include tearing off (four layers) all the way down to the deck. The replacement work may affect summer school classes and possibly the end of this year and/or the beginning of the next school year. Mr. Brazell also noted that the sewer line here at the central administration building collapsed last week, but has been temporarily repaired and shouldn't cost too much to repair.

8. Annual Report

Mr. Nauroth noted that publishing an annual report is required. He added that the report has a bit of a new look this year, but the normal testing and budget information will still be available as separate attachments on the website. Mr. Nauroth asked Board members to review the report and contact him with any questions or suggestions.

9. Budget/Facility Plan

Mr. Nauroth emphasized that reallocating funds within the budget is something that is done on an annual basis and that the budget shortfall that is being projected and how the district intends to proceed is more than just an issue with preschool. He shared a handout that included information that was previously shared or discussed at the board retreat and recent board meeting. The final page of the handout included cost saving options and how they would affect the amount needed from cash reserves. Mr. Nauroth stated that he would be happy to answer questions on any of the information, but that he mainly wanted to hear what the Board is thinking.

Martin asked if we are considering all the budget options that are possible or is there somewhere else that possibly cuts could be made. She stated she would like to see smaller classes remain at least in the younger grades (K-2) as that is important.

Zimmerman asked if there is anywhere at the administration level that costs could be reduced. Mr. Nauroth responded that in a couple of years, there will most likely be room to make a reduction of a central office administrator. Zimmerman also asked if 3 year old preschool was eliminated if that would solve the entire budget shortfall. Mr. Nauroth responded that the district cannot get rid of all the 3 year old sections as there are students that we are required to provide services to. Zimmerman stated that there is a great need for early learning in our community to ensure that young children are prepared to start kindergarten.

Martin asked elementary administrators to speak on the number of sections (reduce to 6 or keep 7) that is currently being discussed. Mrs. Replogle stated that with the current class sizes it would make more sense to go down to 6 sections. Mrs. Smith stated that you have to think of this more long-term; it's not fair to have to divide students out multiple times if you have 7 sections in the lower grades and then move to 6 sections. Byars asked if we retain all the preschoolers (as is the goal of providing 3 and 4 year old services) then can we keep 6 sections or would we need to go back to 7 sections to serve them all. Mrs. Replogle and Mrs. Smith stated that the numbers game is an unknown variable that they cannot predict to be able to answer that question.

Mr. Nauroth asked what additional information is needed by the Board. He was informed to work with elementary administrators to develop a proposal for the Board to consider at the upcoming March meeting. The consensus of the Board was to keep classroom sizes as small as possible.

10. Public Comments - This is the proper time for public questions and comments on any topic. Please make sure a request form is given to the Board Vice-President before the meeting begins.

Tracy Vitosh addressed the Board. She spoke to the social and emotional effects of splitting the Cedar students up. She provided the opinion of a licensed mental health provider, Kay Konz. She encouraged the Board to leave all students where they are and put money into buildings as needed.

Christie Moore spoke to the Board next. She was curious if any research had been done on districts that take on 3 year olds for preschool and then later cut or drop the program and also if consideration had been given to building a preschool only building.

Brent Essink addressed the Board next. Realizing the potential budget shortfall, he suggested the district research other potential areas where reductions could be made; administration and sports were specifically mentioned.

Rachelle Koch mentioned the following topics to Board members: Cedar regaining rooms that were given up to preschool, what will happen if sections are reduced but then elementary enrollments go back up due to

retaining preschool students, whether or not SCC is available for preschool after this year, and the possibility of adding onto Cedar for additional preschool space.

Erin Johnson voiced her support of moving to 6 sections to the Board. She shared that it's important to get the children at an early age for preschool. Change is very difficult, but in order to succeed it is inevitable.

Jenny Hanshaw informed the Board that the Cedar PTO is not against preschool. She noted that numbers can be made to look like a lot of different things and she encouraged Board members to compare apples to apples when looking at data.

11. Adjournment

Board of Education of District #15 adjourn passed with a motion by Nancy Sedlacek and a second by Steve Winter.

Janet Byars	Yes
Doris Martin	Yes
Lisa Pieper	Absent
Nancy Sedlacek	Yes
Steve Winter	Yes
Jon Zimmerman	Yes

Motion Passed: 5 Yeas - 0 Nays

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Fairbanks

Board Secretary/Superintendent

Date