

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Aitkin Independent School District No. 1  
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431  
September 15, 2014

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Brian Orłowski with six members present. Mr. Hasskamp was absent.

The following agenda change was presented to the Board: Revise consent agenda item #11 (Approve hiring) to add Mary Kramer – Paraprofessional, Title I Assistant (effective 9/29/2014) and Laurie Stensland – Special Education Teacher at the Alternative School. A motion was made by Mr. Hughes, with a second by Mr. Burman, to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Scheduled presentations:

Student Council Member Taylor Courier updated the Board on next week's homecoming activities.

The following new staff members introduced themselves to the Board: Allen Balsley (H.S. Counselor), Rich Larson (Agriculture), and Teri Larson (Technology).

FFA Advisor Rich Larson gave a presentation to the Board about the upcoming FFA National Convention. A motion was made by Mr. Chute, with a second by Mr. Hoge, to approve a request to allow six students to raise funds in order to attend the conference in Louisville, Kentucky, from October 29 - November 1, 2014. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Old business:

Kathy Hakes-Fastner presented the latest revisions and additions to the district's Strategic Improvement Plan: Creating the World's Best Workforce.

A motion was made by Mr. Burman, with a second by Mr. Welshons, to approve the "Teacher Evaluation and Professional Development Plan 2014-2015," as presented at a previous meeting. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes, with a second by Mr. Burman, to approve the Strategic Improvement Plan: Creating the World's Best Workforce." All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

New business:

A motion was made by Mr. Orłowski, with a second by Mr. Hoge, to approve the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 18.

- Office receipts for the month of August in the amount of \$1,556,491.85.
- Report of expenditures for August including \$919,167.79 for bills and \$343,528.67 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(B).
- Insurance Account checks #13253-13280 in the amount of \$8,161.45.
- Collateral Report for September.
- Donations for August in the amount of \$10,763.39.
- Wire transfers for August in the amount of \$1,125,000.00.
- Approved a Youth Service Grant:

Jena Larson - LLCC - \$1,000.00

- Approved lane changes:

Julie Asmus - from MA+45 to MA+60  
Melissa Domben - from BA+15 to BA+45  
Kerry Hopperstad - from MA+30 to MA+45  
Rebecca Michaletz - from MA to MA+15

- Accepted resignations:

Joni Carlson - Paraprofessional at Rippleside effective 8/27/14  
Marie Gordon - Teacher at Alternative School effective immediately  
Kenna Grater - Science Fair Co-advisor effective immediately  
Virginia Landrus - H.S. Asst. Cook effective 9/12/14  
Barbara Moen-Goenner - H.S. Paraprofessional effective 8/28/14

- Approved hiring:

Michele Plagman - Teacher at Alt. School  
Mary Kramer – Paraprofessional, Title I Assistant (effective 9/29/2014)  
Laurie Stensland – Special Education Teacher at the Alternative School

- Approved spring head coaches.
- Approved the Music Technician Employment Agreement with Rebecca Klingelhofer and Mary Braton.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Burman, with a second by Mr. Welshons, to approve the 2014-2015 List of Fundraising Activities as presented. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes, with a second by Mr. Welshons, to approve the proposed 2014 payable 2015 levy at the maximum. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried. The Board will hold its budget meeting as part of the December meeting as approved at the August meeting.

The consensus of the Board was to hold a work session on Monday, September 29, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

A motion was made by Mr. Burman, with a second by Mr. Hughes, to approve being part of the IRRRB EIP Initiative. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Administrative reports:

Board members' reports: No Board members' reports were given.

Committee reports: No committee reports were given.

Superintendent's report:

Mr. Novak reviewed the 2014 opening enrollment data with the Board. Enrollment is down at this point compared to last year.

A motion was made by Mr. Welshons, with a second by Mr. Burman, to approve the 2014-2015 Teacher Handbook. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. Novak gave the Board copies of two letters that had been received to their attention. He also presented Mr. Orłowski with his MSBA Certificate for completing the Phase I-II-III trainings.

Mr. Novak informed the Board that interviews are scheduled for Tuesday for the Community Education Director/Elementary Dean of Students' position, and that the Aitkin Education Foundation has received its 501(c)3 status.

Principals' reports:

Mr. Pederson reported that the start of school has been relatively smooth. Kids are getting into the swing of transportation and class schedules. He reported very positive impacts from the addition of the high school receptionist and the second counselor and several other positive happenings since the start of school.

Mr. Peterson reported that the school year is underway and that the PA system, entrance buzzer, computers, and telephones are up and running. He thanked the elementary staff for their patience and Carrie Kruger, Steve Loscheider, Chancy Nordick, and Loren Vonasek for their hard work to pull everything together. The new classroom iPads were working great, and the new "What I Need" time at each grade level has been great for interventions. Mr. Peterson reported that Gary Ladehoff had commended the students on their good behavior during the elementary bus training. It has been an enthusiastic, positive start to the school year.

Mr. Burman reported that he spoke to many parents at Rippleside's entrance conferencing, and things went very well.

The upcoming meeting schedule was reviewed, as listed in the agenda.

Comments from visitors: No comments were made by visitors.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Orłowski, with a second by Mr. Burman. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Tiffany Gustin  
Secretary