

## REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 9, 2010

**1. CALL TO ORDER & 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Keith called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary Board Conference Room. Trustees Present: Krystal Zentner, Mark Giesick, Penny Young and Russ Imlay. Others Present: John Ballard, Becky Bell, Betty Sweet, Linda Eckerman, Michelle Hoferer and Ole Olsen.

The agenda was amended to add Item 10-New Business E: Out-of-District Travel.

### **3. MINUTES:**

Trustee Imlay made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2010 Regular Meeting with a correction to Item 6 - Correspondence to read: "Bridger ranked ~~second~~ in the top 10 High Schools in Montana". Trustee Young seconded the motion. Members voted 5/0 in favor.

### **4. CLAIMS & PAYROLL:**

Trustee Young made a motion to accept the following: claims 13198-13241 with check 12807 dated 7/28/09 for \$1848.70 to Northern Analytical Lab declared void as the payment was made to the wrong company and warrants 13242-13246 declared void as ruined during printing, 1/27/10 expenditure transfers and line item coding changes, payroll warrants 16628-16675 and direct deposit lists from 2/3/10. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion. Vote 5/0. Discussion: costs for the imaging units for the copiers and Trustee Young wondered if the district had used the search dog provided free from the county or only the Interquest search dog; at this time only the Interquest dogs have done the inspections. The County team has not done an inspection but discussed use the building for training purposes, not just for the canine unit but for their personnel. The County Canine Unit would be welcome to come through and do additional inspections. (Note: The high school copier has made a total of 662,276 copies and the elementary copier 888,634)

### **5. ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY ACCOUNTING:**

Trustee Zentner made a motion to accept the activity accounting for January. Trustee Imlay seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0. Discussion: members of the Art Club traveling to Italy received a grant from the Red Lodge Foundation for the trip, and, reimbursements to Athletics usually happen on a monthly basis during fall & winter and as needed during the rest of the year. (Note: in FY09 \$26,875 was reimbursed to Athletics from the General Fund and an additional \$80,782 was spent for Athletic and Activity stipends and trip driver wages. In FY10 as of 2/15/10, \$19,686 has been reimbursed to Athletics from the General Fund and \$43,738 on stipends and trip driver wages.)

### **6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Bridger Education Association has asked to open negotiations for the 2010-2011 school year. Trustees Giesick and Zentner will serve on this committee. Results of the district's Workers Compensation audit completed on behalf of the Montana Schools Group Insurance Authority were given to the members. An adjustment of \$1,612.10 will be deducted from the next quarter's premium due to overpayment of premium calculated on the paraprofessionals' wages. A letter of thanks for the use of the facilities was received from the Pelican family. Information was received from Montana School Boards Association outlining the services they provide to their members. Superintendent Ballard encouraged the Board to continue membership. All members were given a special invitation to the Kindergarten's patriotic

program to be held February 16. County Superintendent Jerry Scott has set his county-wide meeting for March 11 to discuss future concerns of the school districts in Carbon County. Notice will be posted in the event a quorum of trustees attends.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:** none at this time

**8. SPECIAL REPORTS:**

A. Activities Director Report: A.D. Finn was unable to attend but sent copies of the bracket for the Boys Divisional Basketball tournament and passes for the Board Members.

B. Principal's Report: 1. Overview: Information will be gathered from the elementary staff before a revised cell phone policy is proposed to the Board. "Keep the Drive" students were to have left for their Washington DC to present their "Texting Kills" program but the trip has been postponed due to the weather. Ski Day involved 142 students with skiing or bowling and snowshoeing. Several high school students will be going to either a Science Bowl competition in Billings or a History competition in Missoula. Montana political leaders have been invited to the Kindergarten Patriotic program on 2/16; none have confirmed their attendance. There is an in-district PIR day scheduled for March 1. The oldest bus in the district's fleet has needed a few hundred dollars in repairs but all concerned feel the bus is worth keeping. The Board has tentatively set their Visitation Day as March 4. The first week in March will be "I Love to Read Week".

C. Superintendent's Report: 1. Principal's Evaluation: Superintendent Ballard brought an evaluation tool to the meeting and asked members to help update the language. The investigation going on in the district has involved several staff members; hopefully it will be wrapped up this week or next and a special meeting may need to be called. The front doors on the Elementary have been installed and the back door is waiting to be installed.

We have a student attending now and another student who has attended the Montana National Guard Youth Challenge Program. Students can earn a GED through the program. State ANB funding could be collected if the district approves the classes and credits the students could receive a Bridger diploma. Another district student is currently attending the New Day program in Billings. New Day does not have high school certification and they are asking if the district would review and sign off on the credits earned for the student to receive a diploma. New Day currently operates in conjunction with the Billings School District but Superintendent Ballard could draft an interlocal agreement with them which may entitle the district to ANB funding. Having a goal of getting a diploma from the Bridger School District may be an incentive for the students to complete the programs.

The high school students involved in the science and history competition have not had an opportunity to fund-raise for their expenses. Superintendent Ballard will bring information back to the next meeting to help decide from where the funding for these competitions will come. The teachers union wants to bring two grievances before the Board. Both issues are very complex and should probably be heard in two separate meetings. Tentative dates are March 2 and 9 or 8; the 9<sup>th</sup> would be in conjunction with the next regular meeting.

Spring enrollment count was 199 for a yearly average of 198 students. Superintendent Ballard estimates the shortfall will be \$54,000-\$55,000 in next year's budget. A special legislative

session may be called but best estimates are that the following year will have the district with \$70,000 less in the budget than the current year. A list of possible places to cut some money needs to be prepared. ESEA Title funding may be cut back also. The district has a heavy Special Ed load and the four paras working with those students are all necessary unless the enrollment changes. Oil and Gas monies could be used to offset those wages. Information on the extended contracts currently held by four staff members was discussed; three of the staff had prepared lists of how they fulfill their additional contract time during the summer months. Fromberg's superintendent has suggested sharing curriculum and some teaching positions including Vo-Ag and even administration. Vicki Kaufman has included a special education life skills component as part of the Family & Consumer Science child development class. Deb Imlay has asked the Booster Club and they have agreed to accept half of the Concessions stipend for the next school year.

D. Clerk's Report: 1. Superintendent Search: an updated list of candidates was given; members went through the applications at the end of this meeting and selected applicants for further inquiry and possible interviews. Bill Phillips, Robert Webb and Denise Chrest will be contacted and scheduled for interviews on February 22 or 24. Interviews will be posted on the school web site, front windows of the school and at the post office. Information will be included in the Carbon County News article inviting the public to the interviews. 2. Spring Enrollment: a spreadsheet showing comparisons in Spring Enrollment from 2003-2010, was given to members.

## **9. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Vision and Goals: Trustee Imlay made a motion to accept "Excellence in Education" as the District's vision statement. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0. A contest may be held for the students to incorporate the vision statement into a logo with a \$50 savings bond as the prize for the winner. The Board will continue to work on setting goals. Principal Bell has MAPS and other data to look through; that information may help form goals.

B. Policy Revision: 3310 – Student Discipline: Trustee Young made a motion to adopt the second reading of revisions to Policy 3310. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Pre-School Services: Trustee Zentner made a motion that the Bridger School District will provide special education services to its eligible 3-5 year olds through its existing special education program. Trustee Imlay seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

B. Possible budget adjustments: covered under Superintendent's report

C. Drivers Education: Trustee Zentner made a motion to give Superintendent Ballard permission to interview and negotiate with applicants for the driver's ed program instructor position. Trustee Young seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0.

D. Personnel: Coaches Job Description: Draft job descriptions for coaches and assistant coaches were given to the Board for their input. In the past, job descriptions have been ratified by the Board. Those that have been approved in the last few years will be re-printed for the members to include in their Board Policy books. Approved job descriptions will be posted on the school web site.

E. Out-of-District Travel: Trustee Zentner made a motion to approve travel to Washington DC for “Keep the Drive” members Dillon Thomas and Laurel Myers. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Members would appreciate a presentation when the students return.

**11. FUTURE ISSUES:**

Superintendent Search, principal evaluation and re-hiring and, updates and additions to district policies including 5328 & 5328P-Family Medical Leave, school election, budget amendments and fund transfer.

**12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

---

Board Chairman

---

Clerk of the Board