

REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 20, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Elementary Multipurpose Room. Trustees Present: Claude Keith, Krystal Zentner, Penny Young and Mark Giesick. Others Present: John Ballard, Betty Sweet and Jeff Weldon. Please see attached list of 4-day committee members, staff and community members present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. MINUTES:

Trustee Zentner made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 16th Regular Meeting. Trustee Young seconded the motion and members voted 5/0 in favor. The ‘blog’ for the school for ideas on the Mission Statement and goals is still in the process of being implemented.

Item 11 E, Policy 3311 will be moved up and be heard after item 8-C.

4. CLAIMS & PAYROLL:

Trustee Zentner made a motion to accept the following: payroll warrants 15904-15957, 1/7/09 direct deposit listing and claims 12287-12344. Trustee Keith seconded the motion. Vote 5/0. Information was given on the ACE Indian Ed for All claims and it was noted that the travel bus has been equipped with a grill guard.

5. ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY ACCOUNTING:

Trustee Young made a motion to accept the activity accounting reports for December, 2008. Trustee Zentner seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Robin Smith submitted a letter to the members asking to open negotiations with the BEA for the 2009-2010 school year. Steve Henry advised the BEA that if the 4-day schedule was implemented on a trial basis we would not be obligated to continue past the trial period. Several letters had been written to the Board from members of the 4-day week committee.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT: Elaine Harmoning noted that she had heard the rumor that the paraprofessionals would be paid time and half for work on Fridays if the 4-day week was implemented and that this was not true.

8. 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK:

A. Committee Report – Several letters were read and received from members of the 4-day committee encouraging the Board to accept the majority recommendation to move ahead with the alternative schedule, other members added their verbal encouragement. KC Hickok and Bart Heiken, also committee members asked the Board to not accept the recommendation of the committee. Discussion was then opened up to the audience and questions asked on a variety of points were addressed by committee members, board members or by legal counsel Jeff Weldon. Attorney Weldon summarized: the Board is charged with setting the calendar days and hours for the district while adhering to the state mandated aggregate hours and soliciting input from the

public and employees on major changes, which it has done. The Board members voted in July 2008 to make the decision of whether to implement the alternate schedule at the January 2009 meeting and formed a committee that was asked to investigate the subject and make a recommendation to the Board. The committee, after examining the research, meeting with members of the public, and preparing a mailing - that went out to all box holders in the Bridger mailing district - voted 9 to 3 to recommend the Board to implement a 4-day school week on a 2 year trial basis. The Board now has the following options: 1. Take no action, 2. Receive the report, discharge the committee and move forward on a motion to accept or decline the recommendation, 3. Accept the recommendation of the committee and direct the superintendent to move forward with implementation, or, 4. Ask for additional public input.

Trustee Young made a motion to accept the report of the committee and leave the implementation procedures to the superintendent. Chairman Graham seconded the motion. Discussion: Trustee Giesick feels it is a mistake for the Board to vote as it leaves the community out-of-balance and causes hard feelings. He would like the issue to be placed on a ballot. Trustee Young then asked if all contentious issues should be brought to a community vote. Trustee Giesick said 'no' but that this changes the structure of the community. Trustee Keith likes the idea of the 4-day week but wants the community to be behind the decision. Chairman Graham noted that the Board had voted to make the decision itself, so asking for a community ballot now was a surprise and that even if the community were to vote, it could still be split on the decision. Trustee Zentner thanked the committee for the important work they did and said she takes their recommendation seriously. She does not want to cut hours and she is opposed to a community ballot. The Board was elected to represent the community and they should make the decision. She wished she would have had the AYP information earlier and wants whatever we do to give the students a better education. Superintendent Ballard wondered what would be the indicators of a 'better education' and Trustee Zentner said that would be increased test scores, meets needs of all graduates, and, having the district make AYP. She had tallied the responses of the community survey and thought the answers were 72 against, 36 for and 6 with no opinion. Discussion was again opened up to the audience and topics ranged from the pros of students having time on Friday to work or take college classes to hiring a consultant to give us advice.

The motion on the floor was then called to a vote. Members voted 2/3 in favor of accepting the recommendation of the committee and the motion failed. (For: Penny Young, Beth Graham. Against: Mark Giesick, Claude Keith, Krystal Zentner). The Board was asked for a motion to disband the committee and Trustee Keith wanted the committee to continue. Chairman Graham noted that the Board would need to discuss the matter at the next meeting. The committee had done what it was asked to do and that if a new committee were formed, they can participate if they would like.

B. Ballot Issue – The cost estimates involved in a mail ballot were given and Jeff Weldon commented on the time line. At this point in the year it would be more feasible to wait for the May general election and put the issue of the 4-day week on the ballot at that time. Trustee Giesick made a motion to resolve to put the issue of the 4-day week on a ballot at the May 5, 2009 election. Trustee Keith seconded the motion.

Discussion included: since it is the duty of the Board to set the calendar, they should make the decision and move on, the committee had done its job and was now having its recommendation ignored, moving this vote to the community could cause problems down the road with the community wanting to vote on other items, trustees are elected to represent the people and should do their duty and vote, trustees are elected to represent the people and should do their duty and give the community the vote, the trustees are not tied to the results of the ballot to make their decision, dragging out the decision is of no benefit.

Trustee Young then called for question. The motion on the floor is to have the item placed on the ballot at the May election. A written resolution will be presented to the Board at a later meeting. Members voted 3 to 2 in favor of placing the item on a ballot in May. (For: Beth Graham, Mark Giesick, Claude Keith. Against: Penny Young, Krystal Zentner)

C. 4-day School Week Decision – Trustee Keith made a motion to table this item to the May 2009 agenda. Trustee Giesick seconded the motion. The vote counted 4/0 in favor. Trustee Young abstained from voting.

Item 11E – Policy 4411 was heard at this time so that Attorney Weldon could be present.

9. SPECIAL REPORTS:

A. Activities Director: Nothing at this time.

B. Community Committee: Mr. Kapor asked to have this item taken off the agenda until further notice.

C. Classified Base Rates/Matrix: Trustee Zentner and Chairman Graham will be bringing information to the February meeting.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Policy 4330 F – Facilities Use Agreement: Trustee Zentner made a motion to table this item till Jeff Weldon gets information back to us. Trustee Young seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0.

B. Goals/Mission Statement: Adding a paraprofessional to the Vo-Ag program and increasing the range of classes offered as well as opening discussion of a vocational building project with other schools have been steps towards our goals.

C. Pay Schools Program: Trustee Keith made a motion to give Superintendent Ballard the authority to initiate the Pay Schools program. Trustee Young seconded the motion. The vote counted 4/1 with Trustee Giesick dissenting.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Personnel: Trustee Young made a motion to accept, with sincere regrets, the notice of intent to retire by Cathie Kraft effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Trustee Keith seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

B. Pre-K Special Ed Services: Trustee Young 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 Zentner seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

C. MHSA Proposals: As the annual meeting was held on Monday, January 19th, this item was struck from the agenda.

D. Future building maintenance plans: Trustee Zentner made a motion to table this item until information can be received from the architect. Trustee Keith seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0. In an effort to be prepared for any stimulus funds that may become available, Superintendent Ballard will work with the architects to develop a list of items that need to be done to the campus structures. Randy Novakovich is already working on getting the jacks under the building and the boilers need to be ordered.

E. Transportation Forms: Trustee Keith made a motion to accept the 1st semester TR-5, Individual Contract and TR-6, Bus Route Reimbursement forms as presented. Trustee Young seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

F. Policy 4411 – Investigations and Arrests by Police: The issue brought before the Board was whether district policy was upheld when a matter arose where Superintendent Ballard, who had asked a police officer to be present but not to participate in or conduct the questioning, questioned students about a missing item. Trustee Zentner feels that since the officer was there, the parents of the students should have been called too. Attorney Weldon noted that issues such as these are often overlapping, the code of conduct as administered by Superintendent Ballard and police issues. Police can be brought in and may follow-up with their own investigation. According to school policy 4411, the parent does not have to be present. Attorney Weldon also noted, the younger the student the greater the need for parental involvement. The urgency of a situation may not allow time for the parent to be contacted. Changing our policy to ensure parental involvement could be counterproductive. We would hope that our administration would have a close relationship with our police department and that they could call on each other for help. Trustee Zentner wants clarification on when police will be brought in. Superintendent Ballard was asked to contact area schools and see if they had policy and how they address such issues. No further action was taken at this meeting.

11. CLERK'S REPORT: A letter will be sent to Robin Smith of the BEA that explaining that once the legislature provides a budget, we will be contacting the BEA to schedule negotiation meetings. Board visitation – we will look ahead in the schedule to see when an elementary activity is coming up and schedule the visitation for that day. Work continues on the Activity Accounting Handbook and W-2's will be prepared and mailed before month-end.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Negotiations with the Teamsters Union were to resume on January 26th but the meeting has been postponed to February 6th. It was the consensus of the members to commit to the vocational building project and Superintendent Ballard will discuss the matter with other superintendents in the county. There are no solid figures yet but we would need to commit at least \$40,000 to \$50,000 to the project of building a modular home. More information will be gathered and the

Board will be asked to act on this issue at a later date. Junior High FCS members raised enough money to purchase one automatic external defibrillator. Training will be available on January 30 in conjunction with the Distracted Driving program.

13. FUTURE ISSUES:

Four Day School Week, Elementary Roof, updates and additions to district policies, building appraisals, Extracurricular Activities: accounting policies/procedures, emergency planning, transportation issues and negotiations.

14. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next Board meeting will be held February 17th.

Trustee Keith made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. Trustee Young seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

ATTEST:

Board Chairman

Clerk of the Board