

**School Board of Trustees
Monthly Session Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2008**

The regular monthly board meeting which was held at the Minico High School Library, 292 West 100 South, Rupert, Idaho was called to order by Chairman Brian Duncan.

Board Members Present

The following trustees were present: Brian Duncan, Chairman; Greer Copeland, Vice Chairman; George MacDonald, Trustee; and Doyle Price, Trustee. The Clerk of the Board reported a quorum was present. Trustee Tammy Stevenson was absent.

First Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee George MacDonald and seconded by Vice Chairman Greer Copeland to go into Executive Session. Executive session began at 5:36 p.m. for the purposes of consideration of school personnel Idaho Code 67-2345 (a), (b), labor negotiations or interest in real property (c), and legal questions (f). The poll of the trustees follows: Duncan – Yes; Copeland – Yes; Price – Yes; MacDonald – Yes.

Vice Chairman Copeland moved to close the Executive Session and return into Open Session. Trustee Doyle Price seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Brian Duncan, Chairman of the Board, declared the Executive Session closed at 7:00 p.m.

The Board discussed legal and personnel items.

Open Session

Chairman Duncan called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Poll of the Board

The poll of the trustees follows: Duncan – Yes; Copeland – Yes; Price – Yes; MacDonald – Yes.

Others Attending

The following were also present: Dr. Scott Rogers, Superintendent; John Fennell, Assistant Superintendent; Michael Tribe, School Counsel; and Betty Miller, Board Clerk. Others attending were: Building Principals: Suzette Miller, Laurie Copmann, Kevan Vogt, Dan Rogers, John Kontos, Federal Programs Director, Michele Widmier; Maintenance Supervisor, Theo Schut; Transportation Supervisor, Alicia Bywater; and MCEA Co-President, Helen Wyant. Rich Greene was present from South Idaho Press.

Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome to Meeting

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Brian Duncan. Following the pledge, Chairman Duncan welcomed staff and patrons.

Agenda Approved

George MacDonald, Trustee, moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a business item regarding an offer to harvest hay on the new Acequia Elementary school site. Vice Chairman Copeland seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Good News Report:

Spartan Dance Force Report

Sandee Nelson and students, Briana Sanders and Kinzie Cofer gave an account of the Spartan Dance Force trip in which they performed in the 2007-2008 BCS (Bowl Championship Series) National Title Game at the Superdome in New Orleans. The students reported that not only did they learn many new dance routines, but were able to see some of the after effects from Hurricane Katrina. Mrs. Nelson and students thanked the Board for allowing them to take this fun and educational trip.

Minico Spuds Report

Deb Roundy, Special Education teacher at East Minico Middle School, reported on the recent trip students took to the 2008 World Special Olympics where students were given the opportunity to walk in the opening exercises and participate in some of the games. Mrs. Roundy also discussed fund raising projects, showed a slide show, and “signed” the music which will be presented for approval for next year’s Olympic Games.

National Title I Conference Report

Peggy Price, teacher at Rupert Elementary, gave a review of the National Title I Conference which was held at the Gaylord Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. Nine employees were in attendance from Minidoka County School District and received instruction regarding the new legislative proposals and changes in the areas of: Reauthorization, Special Populations, and Educational Reform. Rafael Esquith, author of *“Teach Like Your Hair Is on Fire”* and Tennessee Governor Bredesen were guest speakers. How information gleaned from the conference is being shared with others in the school district was also discussed. Thanks were expressed to the Board for allowing attendance at the conference.

Student Representative Report

A student representative report was not given this month.

Annual Accountability Report & Student Achievement/Learning

The Annual Building Accountability Report for Minico High School was given by Principal, Dan Rogers. Mr. Rogers explained that Minico’s Philosophy is that there is no room for students to fall through the cracks and that all students can and will succeed. Scholarships amounting to over \$1,500,000 have been earned by the last two graduating classes. Mr. Rogers reviewed Academies, Tech Prep credits, Dual Credits, Honors courses, C-Core policy, Activity policy, Extra Help Fridays, and ISAT/PLATO. The Mission of Minico is “Learn from Yesterday, Succeed Today, and Excel Tomorrow. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #1.

Patron Comments

Rena Halverson, a Minico Spud parent, commented on the importance of the Special Olympics Games which were held in Boise and the disappointment of the students in having to return home a day early and miss part of the program. Deb Roundy reported that there had been miscommunication, a lack of time to prepare, and not enough alternates to fill the team. She explained that one student had received too many absences, another had moved, and yet another student did not qualify to participate due to grades. Teachers will meet and plan in advance for next year's games. A copy of the Patron Comment form is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #2.

(Other patron comments are listed under the Business Section regarding "Reduction in Force for ESL Program").

Consent Agenda

The board moved to adopt the Consent Agenda with a unanimous consent.

Minutes of Previous Board Minutes Approved

Minutes of previous board minutes were unanimously approved for:

February 21, 2008, Regular Board Meeting

February 25, 2008, Annexation Hearing at Rupert City Chamber

February 28, 2008, Special Board Meeting, (Lighthouse Training Meeting)

The minutes noted above are herein incorporated into the board minutes by reference to the date of the board meeting.

Bills and Payroll Were Approved

The School Board approved bills and payroll for payment:

Accounts Payable: \$ 725,026.24

Payroll: \$ 1,941,510.92

The monthly reports and bills are herein incorporated into these minutes by reference to Exhibits: "Board Revenue Report", and "Accounts Payable Runs.

Correspondence and Information:

Teacher Evaluation Committee Update

Suzette Miller and Pat Bollar explained that beginning the first week of school, a committee was charged with doing research in developing a Teacher Performance Evaluation for the school district. The committee has collected and reviewed several evaluation tools and has found the "Charlotte Danielson" model to be the most fitting for the district's needs. Once developed, plans are to pilot the new evaluation form during the next school year and ask teachers to volunteer for participation. A copy of the Performance Evaluation and Teacher Self-Assessment form is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #3.

Business:

("The Reduction in Force for ESL Program" was moved to #1 under Business to accommodate patron comments.)

Reduction in Force for ESL Program Held

Federal Programs Director, Michele Widmier, reported that the total number of migrant students have decreased from 134 in the 2007-2008 school year to 95 for this year. Mrs. Widmier gave an overview of the LEP students' ISAT percentages in Reading, Language, and Math for each school in the district; discussed the percent making language proficiency gains on the IELA; and the number of LEP students receiving services each day per instructor. A copy of the 2007-2008 School Allocations report is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #4.

Dr. Rogers stated that the district is not cutting programs, only trimming or "pruning". Due to a steady decrease in enrollment, funding for Federal programs are under-funded resulting in a possible cut of \$55,172.00 and the downsizing from two to one ESL teacher.

Michele Widmier reported that several state review teams state that teaching a second language is a problem for the entire staff, not just one or two teachers and the most highly performing districts integrate students into a regular classroom setting.

Patron Comments Regarding the ESL Program:

Rosy Campos, ESL student at Minico, asked why funding is available for music classes with only five or six student and not available for the ESL program. A copy of the Patron Comment form is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #5.

Ben Reed, station manager at the Spanish language radio station in Rupert, stated that he felt the District doesn't value the ESL program enough and feels it is an insult and offensive to the Hispanic population not to have two ESL teachers at Minico High School. He stated that it is a question of priorities and that the District should find the proper funds in order to show the Hispanic population that we are committed. A copy of the Patron Comment form is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #6.

Catie Smith, teacher at Minico High School, presented several letters from teachers at Minico stating the need to continue with two ESL teachers. Mrs. Smith asked the Board to find the needed funds to keep two ESL teachers at Minico. She stated that it is a critical component in sheltered instruction, that students need more assistance than a regular teacher can give, test scores will suffer, and there is no way that one teacher can do the same as two. A copy of the Patron Comment form and letters are hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #7.

Dan Luker, ESL teacher at Minico, asked the Board to take a look at the Spanish surnames to see how these students are doing in their classes. He stated that the entire Spanish population is struggling, not just ESL students. Research shows that if you raise the first language, the second language will come up with it. Mr. Luker stated that the District should pursue using the bi-lingual resources that we already have.

Trustee Doyle Price motioned to treat the “Reduction in Force for the ESL Program” as a first reading to allow the Board an opportunity to digest the material that was presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee George MacDonald and approved with one opposing vote from Vice Chairman Greer Copeland.

Zions Bank Approved as Liquid Assets Management

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Greer Copeland, seconded by Trustee Doyle Price and unanimously approved to continue using Zions Bank as the financial advisor to invest bond proceeds in order to receive the highest yield.

2008-2009 and 2009-2010 School Calendars Approved

Trustee George MacDonald motioned to approve the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school calendars. Vice Chairman Copeland seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Copies of the calendars are hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #8.

Mt. Harrison Scholarship Fund Approved

Trustee MacDonald motioned to give permission to raise funds for and establish the Mt. Harrison High School Scholarship Fund. The motion was seconded by Trustee Doyle Price and unanimously approved. The Scholarship fund will be established to provide eligible juniors and seniors who are receiving credits for classes taken at Mt. Harrison and articulated through the College of Southern Idaho. A copy of the Mt. Harrison High School Scholarship Fund Policy is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #9.

Safety Busing Approved

Trustee MacDonald made a motion to approve the safety busing ratings. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Copeland and unanimously approved. Copies of the Requests for Safety Busing Reimbursement forms are hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #10.

Paul Elementary Memorial Fund Account Approved

A motion to approve the formation of the Paul Elementary Memorial Fund account was made by Trustee MacDonald, seconded by Vice Chairman Copeland and unanimously approved.

AMCOR Approved for Masonry Block Bid

Trustee George MacDonald motioned to accept the recommendation of Petra to approve AMCOR as the apparent low bidder for the masonry block for the new schools at a cost of \$276,916.33, subject to attorney review. Vice Chairman Greer Copeland seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. A copy of the bids and Petra recommendation is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #11.

Idaho Drug Free Youth Program Approved

A motion to move forward with the formation of the Idaho Drug Free Youth (IDFY) Chapter at Minico High School was made by Trustee MacDonald, seconded by Vice Chairman Copeland and unanimously approved. This is a step in continuing drug education and awareness in the district. Funding is available through the Safe and Drug Free Funds for the “*I Promise/IDFY*” (a voluntary drug testing program) if started this year and for the next school year. A letter of recommendation from Dave Aikens, Safe and Drug Free Schools Coordinator, and a copy of the “*I Promise....*” Program is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #12.

Amended/Revised/Deleted/New Policies:

Policy #201.25 “School District Trustee Zones” Held as Second Reading

Policy #201.25 “School District Trustee Zones” was held as a second reading to allow for input. It was proposed that the policy be presented at the Special Board meeting which will be held on March 25, 2008. Dr. Rogers directed Alicia Bywater, Transportation Supervisor, to see if a trustee zone map could be made on Transfinder. A copy of the proposed policy is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #13.

Policy #501.15 “Communicable Diseases” Held as First Reading

A new policy “Communicable Diseases, #501.15, was held as a first reading to allow for comments from all buildings. A copy of the policy is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #14.

Revision of Policy #410.52 “Emergency Closure Days” Held

The revision of Policy #410.52 “Emergency Closure Days” was held as a second reading. A copy of the policy revision is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #15.

Revision of Policy #503.64 “Student Athlete Drug Testing” Tabled

A revision of Policy #503.64 “Student Athlete Drug Testing” to include voluntary drug testing was tabled. The Board proposed that the policies be separated with the voluntary drug testing policy to be numbered #503.65. A copy of the proposed policy revision is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #16.

Harvesting of Hay at New Acequia Site Approved

Vice Chairman Copeland moved to accept an offer from Mr. Layton Larson to harvest the dry land hay on the new Acequia school site. Mr. Larson will be responsible for weed control on the harvested site area. Trustee Price seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. A copy of the letter of request is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #17.

Disposition of Fixed Assets Approved

No Disposition of Fixed Assets forms were presented.

Second Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee MacDonald and seconded by Vice Chairman Copeland to go into Executive Session. Executive session began at 10:41 p.m. for the purposes of consideration of school personnel Idaho Code 67-2345 (a), (b), labor negotiations or interest in real property (c), and legal questions (f). The poll of the trustees follows: Duncan-Yes; Copeland-Yes; Price-Yes; MacDonald-Yes.

Return to Open Session

Trustee MacDonald moved to close the Executive Session and return into Open Session. Vice Chairman Copeland seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Brian Duncan, Chairman of the Board, declared the Executive Session closed at 11:30 p.m.

Business:

Travel Approved

A motion was made from Trustee MacDonald to approve all out of state travel requests. The motion was seconded by Trustee Price and unanimously approved. A copy of the travel requests are hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit #18.

Personnel

Vice Chairman Copeland moved to approve all personnel recommendations and requests as hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference to exhibit "March 13, 2008" including the addendum. The motion was seconded by Trustee MacDonald and unanimously approved.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn the regular board meeting was made by Trustee George MacDonald at 11:32 p.m. Trustee Price seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Chairman Duncan declared the meeting adjourned.

Brian Duncan, Chairman of School Board

Attest: March 13, 2008, bkm

Betty Miller, Board Clerk