

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – October 13, 2014

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a Regular meeting on October 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library Room. Board members present were Dawn Blain, Corie Mydland, Melvin Stene, Clinton Kramer, Justin Oswald and Sharon Songstad. Brad Stephenson was absent. Also present were Jeff Bermes, Superintendent, Jeanne Carroll, District Clerk/Business Manager, and Marilyn Vukonich, High School Principal.

Melvin Stene, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Justin Oswald made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Public comment was explained to the public. Linda Hayden said she's so happy with the girls volleyball going so well. She said she appreciates other teachers taking other kids for volleyball. Jess Grewell said the theme for homecoming was "decades". He said they brought back the spirit stick. Student Council will put on a pizza party for whomever gets it at the end of the school year. The Art class is making a new one. The Sock Hop dance October 24th replaces the dance they didn't have. Mrs. Vukonich said the problem is with a game night before, a dance is so not well attended.

Reports

Item #1 Building and Grounds

Mr. Bermes said the control system panel for the middle school will be worked on over MEA days. He said it should be done by Monday when school starts. There has been a few problems with the boilers starting up.

He is trying to get scorio for the track from Sheridan and is looking around to fix the track from the work done on the football field poles.

Melvin Stene talked about the cross country meet with 22 teams here. He said is was very positive for the town and school.

Correspondence

Item #1 JEA Letter/Business Manager Response

Both of these letters are included in the Board packet. Mr. Bermes will discuss them during his Superintendent's report and he actually talked about it a little for more detail on paychecks, paid time listing and pay stubs on letterhead. The teachers are satisfied with Mrs. Carroll's response for adding more detail, add paid leave, and stubs on letterhead, and also she talked about the sick leave reserve. Clinton Kramer asked questions. There was discussion.

Unfinished Business

Item #1 FFA Chapter Request

Jess Grewell said the cost to go to Nationals is about \$500 kid . He listed donations and the total raised of \$325 per student. They need another \$125 per kid. Mr. Massar said they are asking for \$175 per kid from the Board. The candy machine is taking a loss due to the health

foods being stocked in it. Mr. Bermes said he would be willing to donate \$175 to \$200 per kid from the district/concessions. Mr. Massar said 11 kids and two American Degrees are going. J-Club helped somewhat. Mr. Bermes recommends the district gives \$2500. There is to be \$1250 out of general, the rest from concessions. Justin Oswald made a motion to provide \$1250 from the district general fund and \$1250 from the Concessions. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Mr. Bermes said they are also looking for a special variance for Wednesday night, October 22, to go to the corn maze. They are requesting this because Wednesday is on family night and attendance is voluntary. The Board gave their approval.

Mr. Massar said the plasma table and cutter have both been ordered. They hope to have it shipped by end of this month. He said Norco gave a discount on the plasma cutter. State vo-ed, all the Perkins dollars, \$1500 from his advancing aged grant, and \$6800 from FFA will be paying for it, with the remainder, plus the electrical work to be done, being paid by the District..

Item #2 Boys Basketball Uniforms

Mr. Bermes handed out sheets showing colors and styles for uniforms. He said the boys football instead of basketball, are up in rotation. The girls are a year later. Mr. Bermes said funds are up so he could do both, football and girls basketball with year-end monies. All uniforms will meet MHSA rules. Mr. Bermes outlined the color scheme. The cost is \$99 per set or \$200 per kid. Mr. Bermes said this is actually less expensive than usual. Rob Robinson was present to also visit about the uniforms. These are underarmour and are very good quality. The boys wanted grey in the uniforms. Justin Oswald made a motion to allow the purchase of uniforms as presented. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

New Business

Item #1 Roberts School District Bus Pick-up Request

Mr. Bermes asked for Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. to protect personal privacy as opposed to the public's right-to-know. The Board came back in to Regular session at 7:28 p.m. Mr. Bermes said we have a family living in Boyd in our district, going to Roberts Schools. The family is not providing transportation to school, so the issue is the kids' safety. He proposed allowing them to be picked up by the Roberts bus inside our district, if Roberts will allow kids to be picked up at Cooney Dam. He said it adds two miles to our route and 2 miles to Roberts. Mr. Stene stated Roberts is already coming into our district to pick up at Blanchard Butte Road. This agreement will be done on a yearly basis, with a written notice presented to each board before school starts. Justin Oswald made a motion to allow that agreement with the above stipulations. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. I was unanimously carried.

Item #2 Enrollment/ANB Numbers

Mr. Bermes said its count time in October. He read the enrollment out loud. The total K-6 is 181. 7-8 both total 52, and the high school equals 122. In his future projections, in 2015-16 he projects 124 students in the high school, 118 in 2016-17, and 2017-18 105 students.

Item #3 Hirings/Resignations

Mr. Bermes said he is looking for an assistant for speech/drama. No one is applying. He said usually he doesn't recommend family, however in this case, he recommends hiring Megan Reed as Bob Reed's assistant. Sharon Songstad made a motion to hire Megan Reed as Assistant Speech/Drama coach. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. He also recommended the Middle School Basketball Head Coach be M'ckinzie Frickel and Sam Antillia as Assistant. Corie Mydland made a motion to hire M'Kinzie Frickel as Head Middle School Basketball Coach and Samantha Antilla as Assistant. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Item #4 Approval 6th Grade Participation in Basketball

Mr. Bermes said turnout is low and so he asks to allow 6th grade boys and girls to be able to participate. He said other schools are doing it, Playing schedules were discussed and the program. Justin Oswald made a motion to allow 6th graders to participate if Mr Bermes can get a team together. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. Mr. Oswald would also like to look into a school 5th and 6th grade program for our younger students.

Item #6 Discussion of Sports Classification

Mr. Bermes said the Board needs to discuss the direction for the district to take with lower enrollments. 119 is the cut-off for Class B. Mr. Bermes explained the formula for calculating class B and C. He said there is a weakening participation in sports, with the number of schools bringing up 8th graders, there are not enough players for for JV programs in Class C. He's looking at playing time for the kids as well. There is a lack of numbers in football because they have to put freshmen in with seniors. There are not enough to compete in Cross Country. He said we would be successful in Class C. He said the school does have some recourse. He read a letter aloud to Board from Mrs. Webber regarding sports numbers. Mr. Burke, Mrs. Webber and Rob Robinson would like to stay in Class B. Rob said Class C is not like it was when we were in it years earlier. He said there is a good group of younger kids that will be competitive at that level. Mr. Bermes said we have had one concussion this year in football. Rob Robinson said we need to look at the number of coaches we have, as other schools have 3 coaches or 4. Mr. Bermes said, in the Master Agreement, the Board has the ability to determine the number of coaches. Dawn Blain said we can't seem to get anyone to apply right now. Mr. Bermes said the reason is negative parents.

Patty Bergum-Nafets said with new staff, there have been better results with the middle school. She said when coming down to C, they would be playing 3rd and 4th graders. She said in B, we are being competitive. Mr. Bermes said we are currently fine in Class B, but would petition to go to Class C. Mr. Bermes stated our current enrollment keeps us in Class B. If numbers decline, then the Board can petition for an emergency move to Class C. Mr. Bermes said they are working on a petition to play football differently, than other sports. It was discussed further. Travel would be back where we were before. Corie Mydland made a motion to stay in Class B, but pursue the option of changing to C for football for 8 man. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Superintendent's/Principal's/Athletic Director's/District Clerk/Business Manager's Reports

Mr. Bermes said we just finished up seasons. District tournaments are in Columbus Friday and Saturday. MCEL is this week and so he will be gone to that the rest of this week from Wednesday on. Common core will be addressed by the legislature. There are a lot of verbal skills in math and reading and they don't match lexile scores. Tammy Bohlinger talked about her 4th grader and common core.

She said they are just presenting another rigid way of learning it. She doesn't feel her child is grasping it this way. Mr. Bermes said there's nothing wrong with showing another way to do it. It was discussed further. Mrs. Frank also talked about her child with math calculations and the common sense way to do it. She feels it is putting students further behind. There was further discussion.

Mrs. Vukonich handed out her principal's report and spoke about it. She reviewed her calendar. There will be a Veteran's Day assembly on November 11th at 8:45 a.m. The high school has received an award between MHSA and US Bank for no behavior issues with players or coaches. Mr. Kramer had concerns about cars being moved on the football field during games, He also asked why we don't charge for those games. Testing for PSAT and ASVAB will be going on.

The High School has received the News and World report banner for school (bronze)placed in the gym and plaque in the lobby.

Mrs. Carroll said the changes requested in the letter from the teachers would have been done for October, but there was not enough time before payroll because of Columbus Day. She also explained how the District is identified on check stubs and will put the direct deposit sheets on letterhead.

She handed Mr. Bermes a letter for his acceptance. He then read it aloud to the Board and moved it back to Hirings/Resignations. Mrs. Carroll is resigning due to a new opportunity offered to her. Her last day is November 13, 2014. She said in her profession, now is a slight lull time that is the best time to break in someone new, rather than year-end. She has offered to train for the district if they wish, at least through December 31st, at her current \$22.00/hour plus mileage. Corie Mydland made a motion to accept Mrs. Carroll's resignation with regrets, and accept Mrs. Carroll's offer to train her replacement as per the above-stated amounts. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried. The Board gave permission to advertise, and Mr. Bermes said he will try to help Mrs. Carroll and the new clerk. Mr. Bermes would also like Mrs. Carroll to come in and train the new clerk/business manager as suggested.

Items for the Next Agenda – November 10, 2014 at 7 PM—Regular Meeting

- Item #1 Athlete Eligibility
- Item #2 Youth basketball program
- Item #3 Additional coaches for C Squads
- Item #4 MHSA proposal for Class B

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on November 10, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Library. Dawn Blain made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Approved 11/10/14

Clerk Sharon P. Carroll

Chairman William L. Stone