



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

March 14, 2016

Phone (406) 244-5581

Fax (406) 244-5840

www.potomacschoolmontana.us

*“Potomac School equips each student for his/her future
within a culture of excellence that values the small community experience.”*

Call to Order

Board Chair Cliff Vann called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Gary Long, Craig Nelson, Jason Nordberg and Kelsy Ployhar. Jill Thornton, clerk, and Angie Williams, Principal, were also in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda)

Consent Agenda

Warrant Lists – Total Claims = \$26,051.80, Total Payroll = \$68,722.47

Business Cards – Included in Total Claims noted.

Petty Cash – Supplemental to monthly warrants used between Board Meetings – Reimbursed thru Claims.

Extracurricular (Student Accounts) – Beg. Balance Feb 1, 2015 - \$30,776.09; End Balance Feb 29, 2016 - \$32,043.35

Jason moved to approve the consent agenda. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Teacher Reports

Abby Stitt presented what Animal Wonders, a local animal resource, brought to the students. They have over 80 animals currently, and their program brings 5 animals to school at a time, once every week for 5 weeks. They present the animals and discuss adaptations and classifications. They have been coming to the school since 2012-2013, and their program is made possible by a combination of PTC and School funding.

Damian Gaglia talked about our Poet in the Schools program that comes through the Missoula Writers Collaborative. This year Robert Lee taught 5th through 8th grades, and Mr. Derrick taught Kindergarten through 4th grade. They teach the students the skills they need to write poetry and make it their own. Recently students are working on a student anthology. In the 7th and 8th grade classes, 180 poems were written from our 15 students.

Principals Report

Athletics- Girls' basketball is wrapping up. The tournament is this week. Our girls have done exceptionally well with 8 wins, 3 losses! Track will begin March 28th. Amy Vann and Lyndi Oien will be the track coaches. I am working on getting the long jump pit put in before then, and Amy has been checking out our equipment and seeing what else we could use.

Kitchen Report - Mike Evans and Victoria have been working hard on our new cooler in the storage room. When you get a chance, stop in and see it. The plan for the kitchen remodel is coming along.

Professional Development- The teachers have been participating in a book study with me for the last couple months. We have been reading “Mindset: The New Psychology of Success” by Carol Dweck. The author writes about the differences between a growth mindset and a fixed mindset. She gives examples of real people in sports, the business world, schools and personal relationships with both mindsets. The book has initiated some great conversations, and I really appreciate the teachers taking the journey with me. I've learned a lot, and from our conversations, I think they have too.

Gail and Diane have been taking an online class designed for paraprofessionals through MEA-MFT. We have great staff here that strive to grow and have a love for learning!

Calendar- When working on the proposed 2016-17 calendar in your packet, I proposed to the teachers changing our daily schedule to 7:50-4:00 instead of 4:30. We talked about whether the longer day is actually productive for the students. I have checked other schools that have a 4 day week and haven't found any that went over 8 hours a day. We did discuss the issue of homework and using the last half hour as a study hall. Some students use their time wisely and some don't. But to give adequate time for students there is a double communication arts period for the older students that time can be used for a study hall. Therefore, students will still have plenty of opportunity to complete their homework.

This change affected the number of days to go to school, but still aligns perfectly with the high school schedule which is nice for the families with students in both. I also changed the Explorer's schedule to the same as the school day instead of going to 6 o'clock.

Other items I've been working on:

- Evaluations
- Special education meetings, procedures, etc...
- Schedule and planning for next year

Upcoming-

March 14-18 CRT Science given to 4th and 8th graders

March 19 Adult Ed class- CPR/First Aid

April 4-8 Spring Break

Clerks Report

Next School years budget calculations are complete, and a preliminary detail budget is being worked out. The current years budget was also reviewed. Updates included the cost for the variable rate substitute we needed for Kindergarten, our Counselor, as well as additional Maintenance and Technology costs needed. These were offset by a reduction in our Special Education costs due to Angie Williams, our Principal, teaching the students and some savings in our budgeted extracurricular/athletic costs. At this point, and with those changes, we are working well within our planned budget for the year.

Board Professional Development Reports

Craig worked setting up our Bingo fundraiser, as well as negotiations. Kelsy also did negotiations, home basketball games, archery and Bingo. Gary reviewed the financial data and board packet with Jill in preparation for this meeting, and also attended Bingo. Jason did negotiations, archery and Bingo.

School Board Calendar

Kelsy is to review the next board meeting packet.

Election Review

At this point, Angie does not feel it is necessary to hold a Technology Levy. Kelsy moved to cancel the Tech Levy. Craig seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Negotiation Committee - PACE

Craig and Jason met with Gail and Diane to review and propose a new contract for the Potomac Association of Classified Employees (PACE). This negotiation was only to consider wages, not language. The committee agreed on a 2.5%

