

# Potomac Elementary School District #11

## Minutes – October 11, 2010

### 7:00 pm

#### Call to Order

Board Chair Robert O'Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Gary Long, Victoria Richardson and Jim Wrobel. Principal Tim Johnson and Jill Thornton, clerk, were also in attendance.

**Public Input** (for issues not on the agenda) none.

#### Consent Agenda

Victoria moved to approve the consent agenda. Jim seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Chair Bob O'Boyle thanked all who volunteered to fill our open trustee position. Jeff Hahn has been voted in as our new trustee. Bob asked Jeff to join the rest of the Trustees at the table, and Jeff Hahn then took his oath of office.

#### Principal's Report

##### Community Center

- Water testing for Arsenic came back slightly elevated. This will be followed up with DEQ.

##### Field Trips

- Golden Eagle trapping/release field trip was today.
- The Montana Naturalist program will bring grades 4 & 5 to Kelly Island.

##### MAP testing update

- K-2 testing showed significant issues: the audio was not working on all the questions yet, and the K-1 students are not prepared enough in computer testing to present reliable information.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade testing has presented us with valuable information. We now have a benchmark score for these students which will help in assessments and preparation from this point forward. We want to make sure our students are continuing to grow and this benchmark score will help in that analysis. This score is numerical and stays consistent through future grades.
- Issues that arise with individual students will be addressed in future early release day work sessions with the staff.
- Testing will continue with Winter and Spring sessions.
- I am researching how other districts use MAP for K-2. If they do not use it – Why? And if they do use it – Why?

##### Boys Basketball

- There is a meeting tomorrow to explain and discuss the need for family volunteering for our sports programs. The meeting will also discuss SCRIP sales and how they work.

##### On display

- Kindergarten art is on display in our main school hallway showing their work with primary and secondary colors.
- Also on display are Native American Homes from throughout the U.S. done by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Curriculum Pacing Guides are being finished up and will be posted on the schools district website as well as individual class web pages.

Strength Finder results and MAP testing results are going to be used to improve upon student learning. Both of these will be analyzed to find how they help in addressing individual student needs. These analyses also highlight roadblocks to overcome and jumping off points to move forward on.

**Clerks Report**

Jill Thornton recently went to a class on using ‘Google Docs’. This program allows bubble commentaries to be added to documents by individual members the document is shared with. This process looked like a good way to review and note our questions on policies, thereby eliminating the wastefulness of printing out all the policies for each board member to make their notes on.

Board members expressed concern with the possibility of discussions between board members in these ‘bubbles’ that would be outside of a public board meeting. To eliminate this problem, the documents could be set up so they are only shared between each board member and Jill as the clerk. This could allow each member to comment on their own file as if they had their own copy on paper, without sharing those comments with other board members until the regular meeting. Jill can then combine all commentaries on a document that can then be displayed for discussion when the board meeting convenes.

The board agreed to try this process out with our policy reviews.

**School Visioning**

The first committee meeting on ‘School Visioning’ will take place on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

Jim asked what the definition of a vision is for these discussions. Tim said what is desired from the committee is a statement that creates an ideal, or pie in the sky statement that can be used as a filter. This vision should be more than can possibly be achieved, short and to the point, so it can be used to choose the direction the school takes in deciding how to spend time and resources.

Jim restated that as the subject of our vision is goals and objectives.

The committee will then bring their vision to the board for review and approval.

**School Policy Manual**

*2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Newsletter Policy* – Jim commented that he felt line 22 should not be in the policy. It opens the door for ‘points of view’ and editorializing. He feels the newsletter should have community events and meetings set in ‘black and white’ but no commentary. The rest of the board agreed.

Jim also asked if there could be a problem with advertising in the Newsletter but agreed it could be addressed if problems arose.

Jim moved to approve the Newsletter Policy with the exclusion of line 22 and the change in line 27 to “these guidelines established in this policy.” Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0.**

*2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the 1000’s* – notes:

- Policy # 1332, line 25 – change \$2,500.00 to \$25,000.00.
- Policy # 1400, line 10 – change second Tuesday to second Monday.
- Policy # 1700, line 32 – eliminate the word ‘sexual’. - All harassment should be considered. And adopt the first policy # 1700 in the packet.
- Policy # 1531, line 27 – Change “\$20 per day” to be “The Montana State published daily rate”.

