



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

October 10, 2011

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

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda) None.

Consent Agenda

Jim asked what the next step was that the board needed to take on the Multi-District Agreement information noted in the minutes and discussed last meeting. Tim said he had contacted the clerk at Sunset school, and they were discussing it at their board meeting this evening. Jim asked to have the Multi-District Agreement on our next agenda so the board can take action on it.

Jim then moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0.**

Principals Report

Community

- Race to Nowhere update: less than ½ of the tickets are remaining (<55)
- Harvest Dinner October 16th. Athletic Field info will be presented. Packets are in the office.
- Goal setting committee met Friday the 7th. The next meeting will be on the 17th at 4:00 pm.

School

- Early Release staff development on Oct 14th will focus on Standardized testing. This testing will finish in late September (AIMSweb) and early October (MAP)
- Principal attended two conferences – the Montana Teacher Forum on building relationships in Helena, and a Common Core State Standards (CCSS) conference in Helena. CCSS is OPI’s guideline for curriculum which focuses on equalizing standards across the country. One of the reasons for this is to help students transition between states if they move.
- Math program has received overwhelming support, however there is concern over how grades are utilized (goal setting committee topic).
- Boys & Girls Club (15 students) is running Monday thru Thursdays after school.
- VISTA: Application to VISTA was excellent, though funding was short for new start up sites. Acceptance in spring 2012 is “highly likely”.
- Title 1 Parent planning meeting will be October 25th at 6:30 pm.
- Annual Data Collection is finished. (Accreditation statistics for school)

Activities

- Flag Footballs last game is Thursday. Monday at 5:30 pm is the end of year celebration.
- Girls Basketball will hold their Tournament at the end of this month.

Vision Impact

- Screening of the “Race to Nowhere” movie is placing the student needs front and center in a public forum. Discussions that follow will likely challenge areas in public education.
- Grading practice and philosophy is generating interest because of the impact the math program has had in placement.

Goals

Bob and Jim represent the board on the committee to set goals for the school. Bob said they had a good meeting last Friday. The next meeting will be Monday the 17th at 4:00 pm.

School Board – Professional Development

Bob wanted to talk about the importance of board members continuing education so they can be effective members of the school board. That, as well as visiting the school during the day will help the board be part of the ‘Culture of Excellence’.

Sports Field

The information packet for our Potomac Community Athletic Field is completed and available in the office. Alicia Vanderheiden and Dale Hinkle helped Tim prepare the packet. The packet information will be presented at the Harvest Dinner. After that we will analyze 1. what community help is available, 2. then get more cost figures and , 3. start writing grants. The biggest wildcard is whether to use the existing well or drill a new one, and if a new one should be potable water or just for irrigation.

Phase 1 will be to move the existing backstop to another location on the field, and then do the trenching, fine grading, irrigation, and seeding.

The date for the next meeting to discuss the sports field will be set after the Harvest Dinner. Tim wants input on what other uses the community would like to see incorporated. (ie. Ice rink?)

School Policy Manual

3rd reading of policy #7320 – Victoria moved to approve policy #7320. Jeff seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0.**

2nd reading of the 8000’s – Jim said he feels reviewing policies should be a continuous board activity. With that in mind, he would like to finalize approval of the 8000’s now, and start the review with the 1000’s again after the School Goals committee finishes.

Jim moved to approve the 8000’s. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0.**

Coaches

Jim moved to approve Chance Thompson as a coach contingent on his background check passing. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0.**

Substitute List

Jim moved to approve Maria Ibarbia and Zachary Kitchin as substitutes contingent on their background checks passing. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Adjourn

Chair O’Boyle adjourned the Board meeting at 8:45 pm.