



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

November 14, 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 7:06 PM by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Jeff Hahn, 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 then moved to approve the Consent Agenda without the minutes. Jeff seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Principals Report

Community

- District Goal Setting Committee
- Title 1 Parent Meeting – rescheduled due to locked door ☺
- PAC meeting – not one in attendance
- State of Montana has adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Chris Kuschel, our Curriculum Consortium Director, is undertaking the task of translating curriculum into the current curriculum.

School

- During MAP testing, the students showed increased interest in giving the tests their best efforts. This demonstrated the results of the staffs work on changing the students test perceptions, as well as promoting the ‘Culture of Excellence’ within the school.
- Hand Chimes under the direction of Sarah Schmill has performed for students during lunch
- Upper school is implementing an online typing course within Communication Arts time. (Nancy Linnell)
- iPads:
 - will be rolled out in the 3rd and 4th grade class after the winter holiday break: Abby Stitt is working through setup issues.
 - STEM uses are advancing in the upper school (Kristina Davis)
 - Diane Wooddard (WM-CSPD) will be at Potomac Nov 18th to help improve the webpage, Google doc usage and iPad strategies/setup/usage.
- Terri Klein consulted for the Alberton schools with their AIMSweb implementation
- The school counselor is working on an anti-bullying program
- PEAK Education Excellence Conference in Seeley Lake in on November 14th and 15th.
- The first quarter ended Friday November 11th.
- Math realignment update:
 - Evaluation of student needs is a continual process: PLC bi-monthly meeting, SAT referral, SAT, Evaluation referral for Sped Process. This continual process allows students to move to the best area for them based on the evaluation process – not locking them into whatever section they’re in.
 - MAP and AIMSweb tests appear to have been taken more seriously by students because of direct relationship to placement/movement in math courses.

- Data used in evaluation: Classroom scores, participation, student interviews, parent recommendations, MAP, AIMSweb, MontCAS, and attendance.
- Concerns remain centered on homework and grades.

Activities

- Flag Footballs: received the 2011 Sportsmanship Award!
- Girls Basketball: finished in 5th place in the Copper League tournament
- Boys Basketball: Started the season on November 7th.

Vision Impact

- Screening of the “Race to Nowhere” has produced a small focus group of 6 individuals in the Missoula area, two from Potomac, two from Clinton, and two from Missoula. This group will consider the impact to educational practices via research/best practices and common sense.
- Visit from Tamara Fisher (Gifted and Talented Coordinator from Polson) observed our math realignment as it relates to G & T programming philosophy.
- Grading practice and philosophy will be researched by the staff through a recent publication of articles from ASCD: Education Leadership, Nov 2011 (ASCD – Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development)

Jim commented on a news item he saw concerning the Missoula County Public Schools policy for background checks on volunteers. He would like to see that policy on the agenda for the next meeting.

School Goals

The committee for school goals consists of Bob O’Boyle and Jim Wrobel from the school board, Tim Johnson – principal, Terri Klein and Nancy Linnell from Potomac School, and Jason Johnson and Amy Vann from the Potomac community.

The meetings have brought good ideas forward. A major focus of the goals is to create critical thinkers of our students. There are a couple more meetings and then the goals will be brought to the board. Nancy Linnell is also meeting with the student council to get input from the students.

Sports Field

Information on the sports field was presented at the Harvest Dinner. There is also information on the web page. Currently Tim is looking at costs for a tractor needed for mowing.

The first phase – which is to be completed for next fall’s flag football – is:

1. Move baseball field and backstop
2. Install irrigation and well
3. Spread lawn seed.

The choices for what kind of well to install – potable or irrigation only – is still being discussed. Jim asked how that decision will be made. Tim said he is still in the process of talking to different people and getting input on this topic. Jim said he is concerned about any problems that could occur with the DEQ on any decisions made, and asked for that to be addressed in the decision making process.

Bob asked whether the PTC will use any funds from the annual Bingo fundraiser for the sports field. Tim said he preferred that the PTC remain a classroom initiative group. With the lack of funds for education there is a need for more basic school funds to continue promoting excellence in the classroom.

Multi-District Agreement

Tim has contacted Sunset School to set up a meeting with the board for discussion on a multi-district agreement. He hasn’t heard from them yet. He also plans to contact Seeley Lake Elementary.

