



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

January 13, 2014

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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, Cliff Vann and Jim Wrobel. Tim Johnson, principal and Jill Thornton, clerk, were also in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda)

Allyson Nelson would like information on what the administration is doing to bring back the smaller class sizes that are part of our mission statements 'small community experience'. She is also interested in how Tim Johnson is evaluated on his teaching since he is the evaluator of the other teachers. She also read a letter noting PTC activities.

Bruce Richardson would like to see all the minutes on the website. And Ryan Hall was interested in information on the preliminary budget shown in the September 9th agenda.

Chair O'Boyle explained the protocols the board must follow, which only allows discussion of agenda items. Items can be included in an agenda by contacting him with a request.

Consent Agenda

Warrant Lists – Total Claims = \$34,157.12, Total Payroll = \$55,015.92

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 December 1 - \$20,977.33; End Balance December 31 - \$20,512.89

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

8th Grade Report

Jeff attended the 8th grade meeting on January 9th at 6 pm. The discussion centered on using busses for their trip, paying for subs for the teachers who would go, and more ways to fundraise. Some of the upcoming events will be a fundraising stew cook-off with a 50/50 split on Super bowl Sunday at Cully's, a bake sale on February 6th, and a Poetry and Pie fundraiser on Feb 20th, where the pies will be auctioned off. They are also working on the Restaurant Voucher fundraising with local restaurants, and putting a brochure together.

At this point, the trip date being considered is May 4th. The estimates they received on bus transportation were Greyhound at approx. \$8,000 and Majestic at approx. \$5,000.

Principals Report

Community

- Ribbon cutting ceremony tomorrow (Tuesday) 4pm for Media and History Center.

School

- 105 students
- Kathleen Dent (Professional Development through WMCSPD) will be presenting on Friday's staff meeting regarding the Common Core basics.
- Middle School Electives: Computer Programming, Foreign Languages Intro (French, Arabic, Spanish), Native American Studies
- Technology:

- iPad Minis arrived for staff and kindergarten. Ms. Stitt is working on getting iPad Minis ready for rollout
- PCRC update:
County Board of Commissioners accepted language that will make our application to remove the ag exemption smooth.
We are cleared to apply for another spring grant through county park and rec.
- Explorers:
Ski Trip to Discovery; January 10th (40 students)
Robotics team continues practices; Competition Feb 1

.Activities

- Missoula Children’s Theater practice this week, two performances on Saturday; 50 students attended tonight’s tryouts between 3:00 and 5:00.

Vision Impact

- Mr. Johnson will be speaking at the Montana Assessment Conference (January 16th) in Helena with Mary Ellen Earnhardt regarding career readiness in the education field and the interaction after school programs have in that process using the Explorers program as an example

Grant Writing

Alicia asked for comments on what the board would like to see in her reports.

Bob said past discussion on the board recognized the effort that is visible in her reports. He feels a copy of the grant as well as the grant approval letters gives the information needed. Just supplying those items should ease up on her time.

Tim asked if Bob was referring to grants submitted, or just those approved. Gary said he would like to see both.

Gary would like to see a better accounting of what the school is getting for the grant writing dollars.

Cliff asked if a file is kept for the individual grants. Alicia said she keeps a spreadsheet. Cliff said that sounds like just what he is interested in.

Alicia said the priorities for which grants are pursued are set with Tim. The available grants are looked at for how they align with classrooms and learning. Then they are viewed through the filter of our strategic plan.

Jim feels there is no need to scrutinize Alicia’s time. He would like to just see the priorities and how the grants affect the budget.

Clerks Report

Jill said Elections would be on the agenda for next meeting. We currently have three board members up for re-election. If we have a bond or levy, that would be part of this election also.

School Board – Professional Development

Jeff attended the 8th grade meeting.

Cliff is working with the 4H Archery team, which meets from December through March. He also worked with Bob on the Trust Building Committee.

Bob also went with Cliff to a student council meeting. The student council said they feel bullying is decreasing at our school. They are discussing a school acronym. Then Cliff asked them for 3 items they like about our school. They said their three favorite things were the iPads, decreased bullying, and the sports.

Gary attended the NASA 1st Robotics kick-off, Boys Basketball, and the Christmas program. Bob said Paul Daniels commented that he felt this Christmas program was the best!

Jim spent most of his time researching for negotiations, and actually negotiating.

Contract Negotiations

Negotiations coming up are tomorrow, Tuesday at 5pm with the PEA, and a meeting will be set with Tim.

Furnace and Energy Efficiency

Tim said he has received another proposal for a furnace, but we still do not have a good picture of what is necessary. The work for a new furnace could possibly be paid for through a bond or levy run along with our Trustee election.

Jim asked Jill to look into whether a bond or levy would be the correct action for furnace replacement.

Gary wants to see windows and insulation first, not a bond or levy without more details.

Jim asked if we could get more information together for next month's meeting.

403B Administration and Plan Agreement

Jill said it seems the holidays held up the information she was waiting for. She will contact the companies and make sure we have something by next month's meeting.

Trust Building

Bob and Cliff worked on how to get more communication started to make it possible to achieve the school goals. They had Janette send out a survey to the staff to get input. They are hoping to have a proposal developed from those responses by next board meeting.

Jim asked if they could send the survey to the board also. Bob and Cliff said that was a great idea.

Personnel

Tim said there are no personnel to approve this month.

February Meeting

Jim moved to change the board meetings for February and March to the second Tuesday, commencing at 5:30 pm. Jeff seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Adjourn

Board Chair O'Boyle adjourned the Board meeting at 9:30 pm.