

Potomac Elementary School District #11

Minutes – September 14, 2010

Call to Order

Board Chair Robert O'Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Gary Long, Victoria Richardson, Alicia Vanderheiden and Jim Wrobel. Principal Tim Johnson and Jill Thornton, clerk, were also in attendance.

Public Input

None

Consent Agenda

Jim moved to approve the consent agenda without the August 23rd minutes. Alicia seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0.**

Principals Report

The Open House on Sept 8th went well. Discussions centered on a clarification of curriculum definitions.

Bridge Book Pizza party was Sept 10th

Newly Elected Student Council Executives (Sept 10th)

Annual Hearing / Vision screenings will be Sept 22nd
MSU student nurses

Community Center update
New floor is sensitive to marks from certain tennis shoes.

Athletics
Flag Football: first game at Lolo (Today)
Girls Basketball: first game at Frenchtown (Today)

Webpage
Documents, School Calendar, Athletic Calendar, Teacher calendars, Pictures and Pacing Guides

Parent Advisory Forum will be Sept 30th
Last Thursday of month
Parental input/concerns/ideas with Tim

The Bike-a-thon held on Oct 14th will provide funding for MCT, Bussing, etc.

Blackfoot Challenge Annual Youth Field Day Trip with Mrs. Davis' Science class (grades 4, 5) is Weds the 22nd.

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Curriculum Update

At this time we addressing concerns such as – Do we know where the students are at? And where will they be at the end of the school year?

One of the ways to assess the students is through MAP testing. With these testing results teachers can diagnose student issues in detail to get a clearer picture of where each student is.

PACING guides are also being implemented. These are one page overviews of each class that uses ‘strands’, or standards and benchmarks based on Montana State standards. These strands show where a student is within the benchmarks and can also identify low/high student ability. This helps teachers address areas where they can help each student based on identified test information.

Gary asked for clarification on the PACE guides – Were they classroom level information or individual student information? Tim said the guides give information for individual student progress that teachers can use as well as show to parents who are interested in areas to work on with their student.

Jim asked how long it was going to take to implement these steps. Tim said the staff was going to work on these systems during their early out meetings. It typically takes an hour for one topic. He also said this model is just a starting point.

Staff development is also implementing training in ‘differentiated’ instruction in the classrooms. This is a method that uses the student data to work with the individual students at their level.

Tim then presented the book Strengths Finder 2.0 by Tom Rath. These books include an individual assessment test online that the staff used to identify their ‘strengths’. With these identifications, staff members can call on another staff member to help with problems, discussions and strategies. They do this by finding another staff member who has a strength they need in their group.

Bob asked how the Tim’s meetings with parents have been going. Tim said they are going well. Most questions he received relate to a clarification of terms used when talking about curriculum.

Jim asked if any of the parent concerns required board involvement. Tim said no, the concerns were answered once parents had a better understanding of the terms used in curriculum.

School Visioning

Tim reviewed notes from the Boards prior visioning session. He said a vision is the rudder that directs the boat. It should be a very short phrase, not sentences.

Alicia said there was a perception that our last vision meeting, which was held within a board meeting, was non-inclusive. Bob thought it would be better if it was not in a board meeting but a meeting that Tim organized. Gary agreed with this. He feels that while the board would give input, the vision should be developed with a larger group. All agreed this would work best with Tim as coordinator.

Bob asked how Tim would like to move forward with this. Tim said as the vision needs a ‘whole community buy-in’, he would like to have a committee that includes the community, parents and the board. If he could have two representatives from the board, he would get the committee together.

Alicia moved to appoint Jim and Victoria to represent the school board on the visioning committee. Jim seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0.**

1st reading Newsletter Policy

No comments

Coaches

Tim recommended the following coaches be approved by the board:

- 1. Josh Macrow (flag football)
- 2. Crystal Cheff (girls’ basketball)

- 3. Kitty Thompson (boys' basketball)
- 4. Saul Steuer (track and field) and
- 5. Alan Pfister (girls' volleyball)

Jim moved to approve the five coaches recommended by Tim. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0.**

Volunteer Deposits

Emily McKee from Boosters feels there is a growing concern that sports programs do not have enough support either financially or from involved parents.

Tim said he has been involved with groups in the past who work with 'volunteer deposits'. These are funds deposited with the school before involvement in sports. These deposits are incentive for parents to be involved with fundraising, carpooling, etc. Whenever a parent can volunteer, their deposit is returned to them. If they cannot volunteer, they can have someone else volunteer for them, still allowing the return of their deposit. If that is also not a possibility, then their deposit is cashed and used to help with the sports programs financial needs.

Gary asked how many volunteer hours apply to have your deposit returned. Tim said it is typically up to the coach and that chauffeuring athletes to games is the main need. The preference is for volunteers to commit to give their time. He feels though that it is a bigger issue on paper than in reality as there are many ways to volunteer.

Jim stated he wants to make sure no child would be excluded as a result of this. Tim said there are ways to make sure of that. He feels if he can present it to parents it could be worked out. He has a meeting with flag football parents and will see how it goes.

Administrator Goals

Bob would like the board to set goals with Tim and discuss them next month. He would like to have evaluation guidelines at the end of the process. Monday the 27th works for the board. A special meeting will be set for 4:00 pm on Monday the 27th of September.

Board Meeting Dates

Jim moved to have board meetings on **Board Meeting Dates** the 2nd Monday of each month instead of the 2nd Tuesday. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0.**

Vacant Board Position Interviews

Interviews will be held at 9:30 am on Monday the 27th. They will be 15 minutes each.

Adjourn

Chair O'Boyle adjourned the Board meeting at 8:59 pm.

Robert O'Boyle, Chair

Date

Jill M Thornton, Clerk

Date