



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

August 8, 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 7:07 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 moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Principals Report

- The staff had a class on the use of the MAC laptops as well as Imovie on the 28th and 29th of June.
- We have had a couple of Math meetings – redistributing students by levels of understanding. Tim will teach one class of the middle school math.
- Abby, Janelle, Kristina and Tim visited the Monarch school on August 4th. This is a therapeutic private school that is based on a relational framework for instruction. Though a public school has different requirements, ideas from a relational system can be incorporated into the mix.
- Last week staff members attended a tech conference.
- A meeting is scheduled for September to discuss the athletic field.
- The grand writing team is focusing initially on grants for Music. Other fine arts and the athletic field will be the focus for future grants.

Jim asked Tim if the teacher structure and time is set for the math classes. Tim said there is still some discussion to be held, but the 2nd period is now set for the 2nd through 8th grade student's math classes. Kindergarten and 1st grade students will be held in their own classrooms, as that age is just learning how to be in school and the divergence of math understanding would not be great. The teachers for the different levels are also mostly set.

Jim then asked if the grants are specific. Tim said the grants are for general music components – Drums, Keyboard and Guitars.

Tim added one more thing. He was at archery training today, and he feels archery fits our vision and the Potomac valley to a T. It can be a physical education unit, but it can also be used in science in a physics unit. The archery is a relational learning type of class with a rural focus. The program is under the 'National Archery and Schools Program'. Hellgate elementary is also involved with this group, and they hold tournaments.

Clerks Report

Missoula County has just completed most of its financial inputs for the fiscal year 2010-2011. Their difficulty with the new accounting system is the reason schools have not been able to finalize their Trustee Financial Summary Report and Budget Report. Now that the information is available to the schools, the reports can be finished. The Budget Report needs board approval by August 20th, so a special board meeting needs to be held. Even though we cannot act on these items at this time, they are in new business. This is because we had to advertise ahead of time for our Budget meeting. Having it on the agenda, and continuing it until we can meet again, lets the public know.

The Audit will be ready by the end of this week and I will send it out then.

Contract Negotiation Committee’s

All contracts negotiations are now completed.

PEA - Victoria and Jim met with Brenda and Nancy for the PEA negotiations. Those negotiations were finalized at the end of June. The contract language is for 2 years, the salaries are for 1 year. Jim moved to approve the Master Agreement for the Potomac Education Association and Potomac School District 11 for the school years 2011 through 2013. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

PACE – Jim moves to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Potomac Association of Classified Employees and the Potomac School District 11 for the school year 2011-2012. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Clerks Contract – Jim moved to approve the clerk’s contract for 1 year. Jeff seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Principals Contract – The contract negotiation is completed, but the final written contract is not ready for the board. This item will be held over for the next board meeting.

Community Center Contract – Jim moved to approve the lease for the Community Center for the term of 2011 through 2014. Jeff seconded the motion.

Jim stated that he and Gary met with the community center to discuss the contract. It took one meeting; there were no changes to the contract except to redo language to make it clearer. Tim asked about the term ‘reasonable wear’ in section 6, as who considers something ‘reasonable wear’ is different between parties. Jim said the principal and community center representative discuss any issues to decide responsibility.

Bob asked for a vote on the motion before the board. **Passed 4-0.**

School Sidewalks

Jeff explained that a meeting was held between himself, Jill Thornton and Tony Knutchel. The sidewalks were discussed and the construction plan was worked out. When we heard back from Tony, he said the costs would be for the framing and concrete pour only. The removal of the existing sidewalk and fine grade supplied to the site was the responsibility of the school. If we could not complete this portion, he would rent a backhoe and prep the site also. His numbers were \$1,602 for replacing the step outside the front door; \$4,550 for replacing the front sidewalk, flagpole pad, back sidewalk and portions of the sidewalk to the Kindergarten; and \$1,130 for a handicap access sidewalk to the planned outdoor classroom. This third sidewalk would also provide a more direct route to the Kindergarten from the parking area.

School Policy Manual

The school policy manual will be held until subsequent meetings. These last policies will be split into smaller portions by Tim and he will coordinate the language for the ‘Family’ (previously the ‘Student’) handbook along with the policies. They will be put on the agenda as they are worked through.

Boys & Girls Club Facilities Use

Tim completed a survey last spring asking if the community parents would be willing to pay for their students to be in an after school program. The response was that 90% would pay for that. The Boys & Girls club came to the grant writing committee and presented their program – It would run from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm for 4 days per week. The cost would be \$4 per day per student. It requires 4 students on average per day to make the program feasible. They would require use of the school building, run the program without financial help from the school and have liability insurance.

The program itself includes homework completion time as well as physical activity and projects. They work with the Principal and Teachers to coordinate with the students academic needs.

