



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

September 12, 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, 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

Community

- Our Open House was open to the public, not just families of students. Including the community will help as one more outlet for greater communication.
- Burbuck Foundation donated \$7500 to help purchase iPads (15) for 3rd & 4th grades. THANK YOU!
- Race to Nowhere update – The movie will be presented at the Roxy Theater on October 13th. There will also be a second showing at Potomac School, the date to be announced.

School

- Standardized testing starts in late Sept (AIMSweb) and early Oct (MAP). This testing will also help in our analysis of student placement in our Math program.
- Boys & Girls Club began today. We are anticipating about 8 – 12 students will participate in the after school club.
- VISTA grant: If we receive the grant, it will help with the after school program, grant writing committee and our student would coordinate with the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of Montana.
- Website has more content added monthly if not weekly; coordination of teacher web pages will be addressed

Activities

- Flag Football and Girls Basketball have games Tuesday the 13th.
- Girls Basketball has new uniforms.

Vision Impact

- Screening of “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.

Audit Contract

Jeff moved to approve the Audit Contract for the year ended June 30, 2011. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Goals

Bob suggested the board participate in a committee to work on Goals for the school; these goals could then be used to set Goals for the Principal. He proposes that the committee contain 2 board members, 2 staff members and 2 community members, with Tim as the coordinator. Jim and Bob volunteered to represent the board on the committee.

Jim moved that Bob and Jim represent the board on the committee to set goals for the school. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Jim asked what the timing would be for the committee to present goals for the school. Tim & Bob both felt it could be completed by Thanksgiving.

Sports Field

Tim presented a drawing that had our existing sports field in black, with the proposed field in red. This plan was developed after Dale Hinkle reviewed the plan designed a few years ago. That past plan required completely filling in the pit, at a major cost, and the track required an easement into the Hall property. He decided to work with the field we have right now, with just some bridging over pit areas. This is a preliminary plan, and now Tim wants to bring in the community to get more inspiration on what to add. He also wants public discussion and input on how to lower the cost of \$150,000 to \$175,000 through volunteer work. Another option is to consider a bond issue in the future if fundraising does not meet the needs.

The next step is to work out the actual construction costs to have more detailed information when the concept is presented to the community.

Jim asked how spectators would watch the games. Tim said they are planning on moveable stands. Tim also said he hopes to have a playground area that parents can have younger children use while they watch the games.

Jim asked about the plan design that has the track run through the football field. Tim said that is one of the things that needs work in the plan. This plan does not use an easement to extend the field, but if that was possible it would relieve much of the separate field overlays.

The parent and community meeting is on September 29th, and Dale Hinkle, the plan designer, will attend the meeting to take questions and work with the design concept.

Jim moved to approve moving forward with the design concept. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

School Policy Manual

3rd reading of policy #7320 – the law on the maximum contract allowed before multiple bids are required needs to be checked.

2nd reading of the 8000's – Victoria's notes are in the 8000 set in the board packet for use during the next month.

Coaches

Tim presented the coach list for board approval pending background checks. The coaches are Steve Faucett (flag football), Crystal Cheff (girls' basketball), Kitty Thompson (boys' basketball) and Grace Leacock (girls' volleyball). Jim moved to approve the coaches listed for the 2011-2012 school year. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Substitute List

Tim presented the substitute list for board approval pending background checks. The substitutes are Grace Leacock, and Brock Zubatch (custodian). Jim moved to approve the substitute list for the 2011-2012 school year. Victoria seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

School Board – Professional Development

Bob received the Legal Primer notice that the MTSBA sent out and wanted to talk about how ongoing professional development for board members makes them more effective in their positions. He has attended the Legal Primer in the past and found it very useful. He asked if everyone was receiving notices on these trainings, and encouraged attendance when possible.

Jim added to that by explaining how he felt it was beneficial to visit the school to observe in the classrooms. He feels seeing more of the logistics at the school helps him make more informed decisions.

