

January 21, 2016—REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING—7:00 P.M.
SAVAGE SCHOOL
LIBRARY

PRESENT: Charlene Jonsson, by Skype, Lance Miller, Michelle Smith, John Stonehocker, Shawn Conradsen, Superintendent Lynne Peterson and Clerk Diana Miller

VISITORS: Owen Nelson, Angie Nelson, Alan Hoffmann, Jean Hagler, Sarah Tuttle, and by Skype Linda Nelson, Gary Nelson, and Gene Buxcel

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1.0 Diana mentioned the county's bank change from Wells Fargo to Stockman Bank She will also be changing the Student Activities funds there as well.
- 2.0 Diana then mentioned the two things that have changed with the election. Trustees will no longer need to get signatures to put their name on the ballot and there will be late registration for school elections.
- 3.0 Michelle mentioned that the gym floor needs to be more protected. People are walking on it and it is getting very slippery for our players. It is not safe. Lynne was directed to try to keep people off.
- 4.0 Shawn brought up the fact that the bus barn is not finished. We are wasting heat by leaving the way it is. He suggested that we ask James Kelsie to finish the job.
- 5.0 Shawn also brought up board meeting times. He wondered if we could meet earlier in the day like 4 pm or something similar. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA December Meeting Minutes-
Claims/Warrants-#17508,#17509-#17517,#952198-#952232,#86389-
#86429, #35313-#35346
Student Activities Report

There were some questions about claims and also student activities. After some discussion, Shawn Conradsen made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Michelle Smith seconded the motion. All voted yes.

5.0 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Angie Nelson is working on preschool program guidelines. Jill Madsen-Verhasselt and Vicky Prevost are helping. They want the guidelines done by the March preschool screening. One thing they would like is to have no out of district students. Sidney parents bring their students here when Sidney is full and because there is no cost for our Preschool. Preschool is not a requirement and therefore the District is not required to provide the program. The teachers are looking a different age cut-off dates and using other programs as resources to help with our guidelines. Winter testing of students is completed. A committee is working on fundraising and a senior trip guideline. This is ongoing as well.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 6.1 Evaluations are done except the final one for new teachers
- 6.2 There has been a suggestion to have a Parent/Teachers conference dinner and also having the teachers in the gym for those meetings so parents don't have to travel throughout the school. High school parent/teachers conferences are poorly attended so this may help increase the response.
- 6.3 The Calendar committee has been set with teachers, now they need a board member. Michelle Smith volunteered.
- 6.4 Walk in cooler parts have been ordered
- 6.5 The Heating and cooling system is not working properly, the preschool and kindergarten are too cold and the gym is too hot.

Frontier Heating and Cooling said that there may be a design flaw.

- 6.6 Lynne asked for some clarification about waived absences for orthodontist appointments. This has been a practice since 2006-2007 but is not in the handbook. This will be put on February's agenda.
- 6.7 There was Safety training for blood borne pathogens on Monday, January 18th. The Staff is now certified.
- 6.8 They were also training a little in handling special needs students
- 6.9 On Wednesday January 20th the staff attended Chrome book training with google docs.
- 6.10 Henry Huber has completed evaluations for football and volleyball coaches. They are signed and filed. He will report on them at a later date.
- 6.11 Many Board policy changes were never updated or formalized due to the oversight of the temporary superintendents. We need to get those updated as soon as possible.
- 6.12 On February 3 Lynne will be attending the Human Resources meeting in Glendive and on February 4th she will be attending NEMASS in Wolf Point.

7.0 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1 FOURTH GRADE TEACHING POSITION

Lynne has received 3 applications for the 4th grade teaching position. One of those has already accepted a job. Lynne is asking to either set up Board interviews or having a committee do the interviews with Lynne bringing the recommendation to hire to the Board. It was decided that a committee could do a preliminary interviews but then the Board on Lynne's recommendation would do the final interview before hiring for the position. Committee members would be Angie Nelson, the 3rd grade teacher, the 5th grade teacher, a specialty teacher and the Superintendent.

7.2 GYM USAGE POLICY

Owen Nelson presented the Sophomore class' proposal to use the Commons area for the Prom and the Gym for the Grand March. They feel this would work well with the amount of parents and participants that are involved. The rooms used would be more convenient. The Prom will be held on April 23rd, 2016. Michelle Smith made a motion to approve the use of the Commons area and the Gym for the Prom. Shawn Conradsen seconded the motion and all voted yes. The motion carried.

7.3 APPROVE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Lynne presented an application from a Gordon Capone for a Substitute Teacher position. Michelle Smith made a motion to approve his being a Substitute teacher pending a background check. Shawn Conradsen seconded the motion. Charlene, Lance, Michelle and Shawn voted yes. John Stonehocker abstained from voting. The motion carried.

7.4 APPROVE VOLUNTEER

April Verhasselt is volunteering to help Alan Hoffmann with the Elementary Girls' Basketball program. Michelle Smith made a motion to approve her as a volunteer. John Stonehocker seconded the motion. All voted yes.

7.5 RAISE \$5000.00 SPENDING LIMIT FOR SUPERINTENDENT

Lynne would like to raise her spending limit without Board permission from \$5,000.00 to whatever the Board would like. A suggestion was to make emergency fixes to keep the school operating properly. Lynne could spend up to \$8,000.00. Of course, all of these expenses would be reported to the Board. There was some discussion about liability for the Board and Lynne in expenditures. The Board would like to set up an approved vendor list so that will be looked at. No action was taken. Lynne will be sending this to MTSBA for reworking.

7.6 MTSBA RETAINER AGREEMENT

There was a lot of discussion about the retainer agreement for a lawsuit against Cucancic. It will cost \$175.00 an hour for Chris Goss to work on our case. Lance feels that we have been taken in by Cucancic and Spectrum with our building project. We want to find out if there is a case there. John would like to get a public lawyer who might work for a portion of any settlement. The rest of the board feels it is more important to have someone familiar with school law. Shawn Conradsen

made a motion to approve asking Chris Goss for an educated opinion paying him for eight hours of work. We will still have to sign the MTSBA retainer agreement. Charlene Jonsson seconded the motion. Charlene, Michelle, Lance and Shawn voted yes and John Stonehocker voted no. The motion carried.

7.7 **SENIOR TRIP POLICY**

There was a lot of discussion about the Senior Trip policy. The teachers and Angie Nelson are working on a fund raising commitment chart. Still some fine tuning needed for the policy so there was no action taken. This will be on February's agenda.

7.8 **MSGIA SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM ADDENDUM**

Lynne presented the Workman's comp program addendum that we have participated for some years. Michelle Smith made a motion to continue to participate in the MSGIA safety program. John Stonehocker seconded the motion. All voted yes. The motion carried.

7.9 **SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT**

Lynne handed out a paper showing what other superintendents in the area are receiving as their compensation package. She also included a list of the accomplishments that the Board and her have accomplished since she has been in her position. Lynne requested \$72,000.00 per year with the \$2600.00 contribution to her HSA. This is an increase of about \$1.50 an hour. Lynne also requested the day after Thanksgiving and the day after Christmas off without having to take vacation. There was a lot of discussion about compensation and the additional days off. At this point Lynne accrues vacation and sick leave at the same rate as the classified staff. This is set by state law for public employees. Classified employees have 6 paid holidays if they work year round. Adding the two days would be giving Lynne 8 paid days. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was to decide whether or not to offer Lynne a contract which is also mandated by law to be done before February 1st and to decide on the compensation package at the next meeting. After some more discussion, Shawn Conradsen made a motion to offer Lynne Peterson her Superintendent contract for the next year with compensation and length of contract to be decided at a later date. Lance Miller called for a second, once, twice and then three times. Charlene Jonsson seconded the motion. Lance called for more discussion. There was some more discussion. Lance called for a vote. Charlene, Lance, John and Shawn voted yes. Michelle Smith voted no. Following the vote there was some discussion between Lynne and Michelle. The motion carried and the meeting resumed.

8.0 **OLD BUSINESS**

8.1 **BUS CONTRACT UPDATE**

Cless Karren will be discussing the bus contract in the future. He is looking to replace the school busses with new ones. There may be an increase in mileage if certain outlying students begin to ride the bus. There was some discussion about the bus routes and who rode the bus. John Stonehocker asked if we could get certain bus pick up spots for parents to bring their students to meet the bus to cut down on mileage. No action was taken.

9.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

The next meeting was set for February 22nd, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. due to District Basketball Tournaments.