

OFFICIAL
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 281, ROBBINSDALE AREA SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
4148 Winnetka Avenue North, New Hope, Minnesota
March 16, 2009

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Bassett, Beugen, Green, Johnson, Tyrrell, Van Heel, Walsh, directors; Stan F. Mack II, Superintendent of Schools.

2. Additions to Agenda

Superintendent Mack noted that backup information was added for agenda items 4.01, 8.03, 8.04, and 9.02. Agenda item 9.05. Allocation of School Board Funds for School Welcome and Transition Events was added.

3. Acceptance of Agenda

Bassett moved to accept the agenda as amended. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Presentations and Special Reports

4.01. Arts Showcase

Students from Northport Elementary KidZone were present to share three of the diversity murals they have completed in KidZone. Northport Principal Gary Chesner, Pam Baker, KidZone Program Coordinator; Anna Sattler, KidZone Program Assistant; and Leah Hughes from the Minnetonka Center for the Arts were present to introduce the students and provide information about the murals.

Students included Liberty Forrest-Okey, Lindsey Rowe, Tiffany Fritz, Alejandra Lambarria, Melinda Xiong, Stephanie Collins, Alexandria Bronson, Sydne Morgan, Alexis Roberts, Megan Larson, Sheng Vang, Devante Escobar, Jesy Scherer-Radcliff and Tailyr Wells. Students who worked on the murals but are unable to attend this evening include Kenyatta Jackson, Nelcious Dahn, Vernon Blanchard, RJ Massie, Lindsey Rowe, Gregory Williams Jr., and Gustavo Mendoza.

4.02. Superintendent's Recognition – None

5. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included minutes of the March 2, 2009 board meeting, personnel information, including lane changes for 43 teachers, financial matters, contracts, change order 5.03.c.for Cooper High Security Door Package in the amount of \$1,338, gifts and other deposits in the amount of \$30, 859.01. Van Heel moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda items removed for discussion – None

7. Teaching and Learning

7.01. Strategic Action Plan 1C – Postponed

8. Business

8.01. Robbinsdale School District 281 Bid Awards

8.01.a. Green moved to approve administration's recommendation to reject bids for the Cooper High School Elevator Modernization project. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8.02. Robbinsdale School District 281 Change Orders - None

8.03. Budget Revisions 2008-2009

Van Heel moved to approve the 2008-2009 budget revisions. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8.04. Financial Report – February 2009

Bassett moved to approve the February 2009 Financial Report. Tyrrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8.05. Permission to Solicit Bids

Van Heel moved to approve administration's request to solicit bids for the Robbinsdale Area Learning Center Site Drainage. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Administrative Matters

9.01. Resolution Providing for Sale of General Obligation Taxable Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEM) Bonds

Tyrrell moved to waive the reading of the Resolution Providing for the Sale of General Obligation Taxable Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEM) Bonds. Green seconded the motion and a roll call vote was unanimous. The sale of bonds could have a positive effect to the district's budget of \$1.2 - \$1.4 million per year. Selling bonds comes from additional property taxes that would result in an increase of approximately \$47 per year on a home valued at \$250,000.

Chair Walsh provided information regarding the Resolution Providing for Sale of General Obligation Taxable Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEM) Bonds. The Other Post Employee Benefits (OBEP) bond will provide money to the general fund to cover district expenses for retiree medical and dental premiums. For employees that qualify, the district continues to pay the premium at the level at the time of retirement until the retiree reaches age 65. This is a direct expenditure of the district. The amount of this expenditure was \$981,000 in FY 2007, \$835,700 in FY08 and currently we have spent \$521,000 this year. This last amount is not in the budget this year as we expected to sell these bonds and fund the amount from the bond proceeds which will be placed in a trust.

Per state law, retirees may continue coverage under the district's medical and dental plans after they leave employment. They must, however, pay the entire premium unless they have a contractual agreement as stated above. They also must be included in the same pool as current employees. According to the actuarial report this group's claims exceed the amount of premiums they pay. The difference is the implicit cost.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statement numbers 43/45 require the district have an actuarial study every two years and stipulates the accounting treatment. The legislature last year passed legislation permitting governmental agencies to bond and set up trust for these liabilities. Because state law permits employees to remain in the district's medical pool, the district is incurring an unfunded mandate.

9.02. Surplus Property Divestiture Plan Advisory Committee

Green moved to approve the plan to create a Surplus Property Divestiture Committee. The plan would create a committee made up of community members, school board and district staff, and elected city officials who would advise the school board on divesting of surplus property. The committee would include community members with expertise in fields such as civil engineering, planning, developing, architecture and realty. Johnson

seconded the motion. Van Heel moved to amend the Declaration of Surplus Property Divestiture Plan 2009, item 8 to read as follows: “The Robbinsdale Area School board shall retain the right to dissolve the committee, or **dismiss** any member of the committee, at any time as it is by Minnesota Statute the responsible governance agency for school district properties and held accountable to the citizen/taxpayers of the Independent School District 281 for best use of facilities/land and financial resources. Bassett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9.03. School Board Calendar Work Session Date

Beugen moved to change the date for the April work session from Monday, April 13, 2009 to Thursday, April 16, 2009, 5:30 p.m. Van Heel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9.04. Resolution Approving Addendum to Lease Agreement with Prairie Seeds Academy at Olson School

Bassett moved to waive the reading and approve the Olson School Lease Agreement Addendum with Prairie Seeds Academy. Johnson seconded the motion and a roll call vote was unanimous. The resolution follows. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 281 as follows:

1. The attached Addendum to Lease Agreement by and between Independent School District No. 281 and Prairie Seeds Academy is hereby approved.
2. The Chair and Clerk of the School Board are authorized to execute said Addendum to Lease Agreement on behalf of the School District.
3. The Administration is directed to take appropriate action to implement the terms of the attached Addendum to Lease Agreement.

9.05. Allocation of School Board Funds for School Welcome and Transition Events

At the board work session on Saturday, March 7, the board discussed opportunities to assist in providing welcome events for students who will transition to new schools this fall. Tyrrell moved to approve expenditures from the board budget in the amount of \$300.00 per school for nine elementary and two middle schools. The total amount of the expenditure will be \$3,300.00. Principals at each of the schools will submit costs to the Finance Department for approval. Van Heel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

10. Board Reports

10.01. Legislative Update

10.01.a. Legislative Action Coalition (LAC) Report

Walsh noted that LAC reviewed items relating to shared services, action plans on No Child Left Behind, and effects of the Federal stimulus package.

10.01.b. Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) Report

Green attended the AMSD Executive and General Board meetings. AMSD met with members of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and agreed on three priorities to improve education. Priorities include Adequate Federal and State funding, enhancing teacher quality and providing strong leadership to close the achievement gap.

10.02. Intermediate District 287 Report

Johnson noted that District 287 continues work on transitioning from a 26 to 13 member board. They are reviewing budget matters and ideas for cost savings. They continue to evaluate options for north area buildings and land.

10.03. West Metro Education Program (WMEP) Report

Bassett reported that WMEP continues to address a number of concerns, including student enrollment in the two WMEP schools, efficiency of administrative structures, clear and transparent accountability, revenue and demographic information, concrete and measurable outcomes for all students and the possible reduction of the size of the WMEP board. She noted that Minneapolis has tabled their intent to withdraw from WMEP at this time.

10.04. March 7 Board Work Session Report

Van Heel reported that agenda items for the March 7 work session included a presentation by Don Lifto on Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB), an update on transportation and school schedule for 2009-2010, response to Beacon Academy proposal to lease Pilgrim Lane Elementary School, discussion regarding Ryan Development/Education Service Center and Bus Garage Relocation, the organizational structure for a Surplus Property and Divestiture Plan Advisory Committee, an update on West Metro Education Program matters, and update on the Superintendent Search process.

10.05. March 16 Board Dialogue Report

Bassett reported on a great dialogue with members of the Comprehensive Arts Planning Program (CAPP) The dialogue included a presentation on the history of CAPP. They talked about banners to highlight events, artists in residence and the Fall Musical Festival at Orchestra Hall. Dialogue also included conversation on options for partnering with the FAIR Schools to support the arts and opportunities to transition FAIR students to Robbinsdale Area Schools. Parents and other community members were invited to join the CAPP committee.

10.06. Communications Advisory Council

Van Heel noted that members of the Communications Advisory Council reviewed the Action Plan that will be presented to the board in March. They reviewed the MNSPRA Audit and look forward to scheduling a dialogue with the board.

10.07. Superintendent Search Update

Green reported that board members have received packets containing information from School Exec Connect on interview questions and guidelines; she encouraged board members to do their homework. She noted that feedback forms will be provided for all staff and community members to provide input on candidate interviews. She also noted that sample superintendent contracts were included in the packet.

10.08. Seven Dreams Foundation

Walsh reported that the Seven Dreams Foundation needs to get their data base package up to speed. Since they are now handling over \$350,000 dollars, there are legal requirements for an audit. Committee work includes identifying goals and purpose of each committee, fund development, alumni relations, special events, fundraising and ambassadors. They will connect with other Foundations to learn more about operating a foundation. They are in the process of reviewing grant applications.

11. Board Rapport

Van Heel wished everyone a safe spring break. Tyrrell thanked Northport students for their fabulous murals. She congratulated Johnson on her school board communication of the year award from MNSPRA. Johnson noted that as we move forward, we must continue to be accountable and communicate how we are spending referendum dollars. Mack congratulated Johnson on her MNSPRA award and thanked Jeff Dehler for his efforts to support her nomination. He noted that several parents and staff attended the Parents United Summit. Walsh complimented Northport students on their beautiful murals. He noted the Early Childhood Education 5K Run/Walk on April 25.

12. Announcements

13. Adjournment

Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. Van Heel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Bassett, clerk of the board

Approved April 6, 2009

Tom Walsh, chairperson