

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MOUNTAIN HOME BOARD OF EDUCATION**

December 16, 2010

The following members of the Board were present for the meeting: Robert Nelson, Neal Pendergrass, Jason Schmeski, Doug VanDolah, Lisa House, Ben Strider and Steve Bergman. Administrators, media and other guests were also present. At 6:00 p.m. Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Vanessa Thomas, Principal at Mountain Home Kindergarten, asked the students to introduce themselves. They then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Students that led the pledge were as follows: Ella Dover, Sloan Williams, Mallorie Drewry, Amelia Rucker, Sarah Freeland, Kelsey Roach, Meredith Denton, Tucker Davidson, Royce Dieckhoff, Daniel McLean, Audrey Young and Kayle Julson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Mr. Strider made the motion, seconded by Mr. Pendergrass, to approve the agenda as printed. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pendergrass made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bergman to approve the minutes of the November 18th, December 1 and December 6, 2011 meetings. The motion was unanimously approved.

RECOGNITIONS

National Board Certified Teachers

Dr. Myers stated that 2% of teacher nationwide are National Board Certified, only 5% in the State of Arkansas and 9.5% in the Mountain Home School District. He stated that our teachers know the content of the subject they teach, they are not afraid of new research and enjoy working with other people. He said that in Mountain Home we have the best of the best.

Dr. Gigliotti introduced each teacher:

Tom Chentnik is a graduate of Mountain Home High School. He attended Arkansas Tech on a music performance scholarship and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Tom taught band in the Russellville School District and in Texarkana, Texas and Texarkana, Arkansas. In all schools his students consistently earned All Region Band, All State Band. Tom returned to home in 2002 to serve as the Mountain Home High School Band Director. His motivation, organization, and dedication to high standards continue to move the music program to superior performances. The MHHS Band has achieved tremendous accolades and awards. A few are: 8 Sweepstakes Awards since 2002, finalist placement at ALL invitational marching contests, and superior 1st Division Ratings on the marching field and concert stage. The MHHS Band marched in the 80th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and performed at Walt Disney World and the Orlando Citrus Parade. Tom credits Bill Maxwell and Robert Nelson as the reason he chose to pursue music as a career. We are thankful Tom Chentnik is a vital part of the music program in our district and proud of this accomplishment.

Leah Coleman is a third grade teacher at Hackler Intermediate School. She is a 2003 graduate of William Woods University. At Hackler Intermediate School, Leah is an outstanding teacher. She has the role of team leader. She also is one of Hackler's afterschool tutors. Leah strives daily to ensure success for her students in all areas of their education: social, emotional, as well as their academic endeavors. Leah has given of her time away from the school as she coached the high school soccer team for years. In the classroom Leah motivates her students to perform at their very best. The Mountain Home School District is proud of Leah Coleman and thankful that she is a part of our team.

Rebekah Cruse is a Mountain Home graduate. She attended ASU where she graduated cum laude and received a BSE in Special Education. She received her Master's in School Counseling in 2004. Rebekah serves as Pinkston Middle School 7th Grade Counselor. Rebekah has been instrumental in implementing the 7th grade transition to junior high, student led conferences, and professional development for Benchmark testing. Teachers and students both know they can count on Ms. Cruse. Students know that Mrs. Cruse is someone they can trust and that she will help them in any way she can. She is very thorough in her job. Rebekah is a caring and compassionate individual that strives to bring the very best to her students and teachers. We echo the words from Pinkston when they said, "We are proud of her National Board accomplishment and look forward to supporting her in her next endeavor!"

Sherry Mohler is our music teacher at Hackler Intermediate School. She is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State University where she received her Master's in Music Education. Her love of music and passion for education have met in a successful music program at Hackler. In addition to Sherry's classroom duties she also co-teaches a volunteer choir of fourth grade students that perform periodically throughout the year. Sherry believes the overall goal of the music program is to help students build a relationship with music that provides them with enjoyment, satisfaction, personal growth, and an enhanced quality of life. Congratulations, Sherry, on being a National Board Certified Teacher.

Ms. Zwicker was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency. Dr. Gigliotti elaborated on Ms. Zwicker's accomplishments in her absence.

Deb Zwicker is a graduate of Minot State University in North Dakota. Deb's first teaching job was in a little town on the prairie. Mountain Home School District has had the pleasure of having Deb on our team since 1991. She has provided a passion for education mixed with dedication to students since that time. During those years she has triggered the twinkle in the eyes of students as they experience success. Mrs. Zwicker is a third grade teacher at Hackler Intermediate School. Mrs. Zwicker has a history of a being a teacher that desires to improve her skills in order to provide the best education to her students. Her passion for education is evident. She sets goals for herself in order to serve her students. Deb is currently a teacher leader in the third grade. Thank you for your dedication to students. Hackler Intermediate and the entire Mountain Home School District are proud of you for this outstanding accomplishment!

Dr. Gigliotti presented each teacher with a check issued by the district as the stipend for National Board status.

POSITIVE NOTES AND RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Nelson thanked Exxon/Mobil, through Magness Oil Company, who recently provided funding through their "2010 Educational Alliance Math and Science Grant" in the amount of \$750.00 for Nelson-Wilks-Herron Elementary, Hackler Intermediate School and Pinkston Middle School. The money can be used for classroom supplies. A special thanks to Melanie Magness who was instrumental in completing the grant applications on behalf of these schools.

Mr. Strider stated that the Fire Marshall, as required by law, recently completed our semi-annual review of facilities. Thanks to the conscientiousness of our staff, the District has again been issued a “no-violations” report. The District has had a perfect review since May 2008.

Mr. Bergman thanked Coach Grant Greenhaw, Coach Mitch Huskey and the junior and senior high basketball team members who provide clean-up on the stretch of road beginning at the United Methodist Church and continuing two miles north on West Road. The teams work with the City and bag trash six to eight times a year. They are presently in the application process to provide clean up on the new stretch of road bordering the Hackler Intermediate School.

Mr. Schmeski stated that Saturday, Dec. 4th Mountain Home hosted the AR State FIRST @Lego League Championship which was held at the high school. The Silver Spartans of Mountain Home were named FLL Champions and in April will attend the World Festival in St. Louis. They competed against 35 other teams from Arkansas and surrounding states. Those team members include: Kole Wilson, Logan Reding, Adam Fowler, Jonah White, Dylan Ryan, and Jonathan White. Thank you to sponsors, Greg Mills, John and Meredith Novak, MHHS, the maintenance staff, and everyone involved for their hard work in making this event a success.

Mr. VanDolah extended thanks to Author Margaret Peterson Haddix who visited Mountain Home Jr. High on December 9th. This interesting and engaging author was a hit with our 8th and 9th grade students as she explained how she became a writer, and where she got the information for her 27 books. She also gave students a sneak peak at her new book that will be coming out in August. Later she met with a smaller group of aspiring writers, and gave tips on becoming a writer.

Mr. Pendergrass stated that the MHHS Jazz Band performed at the Mountain Home Rotary Club as the guest of Rotarian of the Day, Dana Brown. The Jazz Band did an outstanding job! Members of Rotary commented that the band really put them into the spirit of the season.

Ms. House stated that the two recently purchased “reconditioned” buses from American Bus Sales arrived today. The 77 passenger buses, which were badly needed, are in excellent condition and will be used on the in-town routes with the most over-crowding.

Mr. Bergman mentioned that he attended the Madrigal Feast that was presented by High School drama and music students this past weekend. He was impressed with the degree of talent our high school students have.

REPORTS

Building Updates – Mr. Trey Carter, Baldwin & Shell

Mr. Nelson recognized Mr. Trey Carter of Baldwin and Shell. Mr. Carter had power point picture slides of the work that has been preformed at the High School. Among the slides were pictures of the new library/media center inside and outside as well as the vo-ag section.

He also showed slides of the dirt work that is taking place at Nelson-Wilks-Herron Elementary school and explained the phases of completion that will occur there. This is a difficult remodel and they knew it would be. They do feel the drainage problems that have been at Nelson-Wilks-Herron will finally be resolved. There are underground inlets all over the place and taking out “D” wing and “E” wing has helped substantially.

Financial Reports– Ann Harned

Ms. Ann Harned, Business Manager, referred Board members to page IIA for the Statement of Changes in Fund Balance ending November 30, 2010. We ended the month with total fund balances of \$15,010,606.67. Ms. Harned stated in Fund 4000 (Debt Service Fund) we paid just over 1.7 million for our bond payment.

November is a healthy month financially. We received 5 million in property taxes collected in October and we are doing a little bit better than we were last year in property taxes. The bonus checks that the Board approved will be going out with the regular checks on Friday, December 17, 2010. We also received \$25,000.00 in Game and Fish money early this week.

Ms. Harned went over the page on Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance for the month ended November 30, 2010. Current revenues and incoming transfers are the Teacher Salary Fund \$1,150,772.40, Operating Fund \$6,237,091.27, Building Fund \$6,228.76, Debt Service Fund \$1,734,171.88; Federal Grants Fund \$253,754.49, and Food Service Fund \$318,617.24 for a total current revenues and incoming transfers of \$9,700,636.04. Expenditures and outgoing transfers in the current column are Teacher Salary Fund \$1,150,772.40, Operating Fund \$3,876,211.47, Building Fund \$1,023,854.33, Debt Service Fund \$1,734,171.88, Federal Grants Fund \$315,988.23 and Food Service Fund \$157,720.34 for a total current expenditures and outgoing transfers of \$8,258,718.65.

Ms. Harned went over the Changes in Activity Funds and the Summary of Bond Issue Activity.

Mid-Year Report on BURST Curriculum and DIBELS assessment K-7 Update – Dr. Leigh Anne Gigliotti

Mr. Nelson recognized Dr. Gigliotti who spoke to the Board concerning recently acquired BURST Curriculum and DIBELS assessment packages for grades K-7. The new software has enabled teachers to receive immediate individual diagnostic assessments on students. They are now able to prescribe an intervention method immediately. There have been some technical problems they are working through, but all in all they feel that the new curriculum and assessment package is a good investment for student achievement.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Purchase of Convection Steamer for High School – Mike Walker

Mr. Walker addressed the Board concerning the purchase of a convection steamer for the high school. The steamer that had been used at the high school quit working about two months ago. It is a major piece of kitchen equipment and needs to be replaced. There were two bids received and the first bidder is \$.63 higher than the second bidder. However, the equipment from the first bidder is similar to the steamer that was purchased for Hackler Intermediate School. They have received great service for that equipment. The bid from the second bidder only includes delivery from the warehouse. Mr. Walker recommended that the Board approve the purchase from Bidder #1 in the total amount of \$13,281.39.

Motion to Approve Purchase of Convection Steamer

Mr. Pendergrass made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bergman, to approve the purchase of the convection steamer from Bidder #1 in the total amount of \$13, 281.39.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Update – Dr. Lonnie Myers

Dr. Myers stated that last year at this time he was applying for the job he now has. It is certainly a change, at this Christmas season, after 29 years in a different school district to be in Mountain Home. He thanked the Board for inviting him to serve as Superintendent and stated he has never felt more fulfilled in his work than he has here.

Mr. VanDolah thanked Dr. Myers for coming which was seconded by Mr. Strider. Mr. Nelson stated they felt they were moving in the right direction and thanked Dr. Myers for making the Board look good.

Resignation

Dr. Myers requested that the Board accept the resignations listed on the Classified Staff Recommendation sheet. Mr. Schmeski made the motion to accept the resignations of the classified employees. Mr. VanDolah seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Robert Nelson, President

Ben Strider, Secretary