



Knowing, valuing, and appreciating the uniqueness of every child

BOARD of EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Monday, June 8, 2009 · 7 p.m.
OMS/OHS Library

- Call to Order:** 7 p.m. by Paul Krause, President. Pledge of Allegiance followed by roll call; quorum established.
- Members Present:** Paul Krause, President; Stacie Stark, Vice President; Tim Burmesch, Clerk; Francis Kleckner, Treasurer; Kendall Thistle; Steven Baumeister; arriving later, Tom Hoffmann, Rick Hamm
- Excused:** Frank Parsons
- Others Present:** William Harbron, Superintendent; Walter Clarke; Kurt Bergland; Mike Skurek; Kevin Parker; Pam Warner; Barb Peterka; Roger Sinnen; Cindy Dallman
- Agenda:** Motion to adopt the agenda in print made by F. Kleckner, seconded by S. Stark. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Public Forum:** Mr. Paul Moore addressed the Board concerning two issues: 1) He asked whether teachers are working their contractual hours, and 2) several movies have been shown in some of his son's classes; his son is a senior. Mr. Moore stated this is not proper use of school time, and not of good educational value. He will provide the list of movies and the classes in which they were shown to Mr. Parker. Administration will investigate the matter as to whether the movies were shown in the proper context, such as to introduce a concept.
- Celebrations and Announcements:** C. Dallman thanked Richard Berends, Desert Storm veteran, for coordinating a demonstration of a military Blackhawk helicopter for the elementary students. A letter from Suzanne Skopek of Big Brothers Big Sisters was received by K. Parker, thanking the district and several students for their participation in the program. K. Parker also commended the Class of 2009 for a dignified graduation ceremony. P. Krause thanked K. Parker and R. Sinnen for their outstanding work to prepare for the graduation ceremony.
- Consent Agenda:**
- Motion to approve Consent Agenda Part I Business made by S. Stark, seconded by F. Kleckner. **Motion carried with one opposed.** K. Thistle requested corrections to the April 13, 2009 minutes. Motion to approve amended April 13, 2009 minutes as requested made by K. Thistle, seconded by R. Hamm. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 - Motion to approve Consent Agenda Part II Student & Personnel Recommendations made by S. Stark, seconded by T. Hoffmann. Pertaining to early graduation requests, R. Hamm stated some of the students' credits don't add up to the 27 needed. K. Parker responded that the transcripts don't reflect third trimester grades. Board members questioned the urgency of approving the requests, asked for updated transcripts, and questioned some students' C- average. Some students are taking summer school courses. K. Thistle stated that the students have a plan and there is parent involvement, as noted by parent signatures. Suggestion was made to include this as a topic for the June Board workshop. T. Burmesch suggested that the item be tabled since approval deadline is September 30. The policy can't be changed for these students; they applied based on the policy in effect. K. Thistle again stated that the letters were submitted with parental approval and we have to stand behind them. Course offerings should be reviewed, along with cost and level of interest. F. Kleckner stated that some of the students' plans will lead to other options in the future. T. Hoffmann stated that a student doesn't need a 3.0 or 3.5 average if they've earned the credits, versus excelling in school. F. Kleckner added that the Board shouldn't vote on the matter; it's up to administration to approve the requests. This topic will be addressed at the workshop.
- Discussion ensued concerning proposed new employees' salaries and benefits. K. Thistle stated the I.T. position salary is \$10,000 more than in the private sector and questioned whether administration looked into it. By comparison, the salary for Tina Busch, former part-time I.T. manager, was less than half that of the new employee. By hiring the I.T. personnel as district employees, the district will have control and direction. M. Skurek explained rationale for hiring the I.T. employees. Comment was made to keep benefits in mind from the taxpayers' perspective. T. Burmesch questioned how the salaries were determined. W. Harbron explained the use of Ventures for Excellence, a new hiring process in which applicants are evaluated using a point scale. The salary for one of the new hires is \$27,000 higher than budgeted, resulting in \$362,000 versus \$335,000 budgeted. Motion to withdraw original motion to approve Part II made by S. Stark, seconded by T. Burmesch. **Motion carried unanimously.** Motion to approve Part II Personnel Recommendations only made by S. Stark, seconded by P. Krause. **Motion carried unanimously.**

• Motion to state on record that Consent Agenda Part III Governance Policies were read and reviewed made by S. Stark, seconded by R. Hamm. W. Harbron stated that B/SR-5 and B/SR-5E do not apply to the superintendent. R. Hamm questioned the OMS block of time for math at 45 minutes versus 90-minute blocks for language arts, science, and social studies in EL-12. P. Warner explained that math is also addressed in RaM for more practice. T. Burmesch questioned the statement that math continues to be an issue in the virtual schools. W. Harbron explained that there is a need for change in the math curriculum; K. Bergland stated that additional interventions have been made. K. Thistle asked if we have data to show what is being achieved during early release and whether we are getting the results we expect. W. Harbron responded. Discussion followed concerning the Governance Policies relating to consecutive classes. W. Harbron stated that year-round school may be an option to be explored in the future. At a parent advisory council meeting, the school calendar was discussed, with 10-12 parents in favor of year-round school. This topic will be added to the Board Workshop agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion Items:

1. P. Krause acknowledged receipt of Frank Parsons' resignation from the Board and thanked him for his service. Frank had submitted a request that the costs and time involved in preparing the Board packets be reviewed, along with content of the packets. This information was included in the Board packet. W. Harbron feels it is our responsibility for the Board to be well-prepared. In the future, the Board may want to once again explore electronic Board packets with laptops provided to Board members. K. Thistle stated he would request the district provide him with a wireless connection, printer, ink, and paper so that he can print a copy of the packet to read during his family's trips up north. F. Kleckner feels some of the paperwork in the packets could be reduced. T. Burmesch feels the packet is worth the paper it's printed on. K. Thistle requested that Board members receive the packet two weekends before the meeting. He added that compiling the packets should be more organized; if information on a topic can't be provided in time, postpone including it until the next month. W. Harbron explained that, at times, there are delays and the paperwork can't be expedited. P. Krause stated there should be a certain amount of flexibility with last-minute information. W. Harbron stated he will continue to monitor to make sure the Board has the information it needs.

2. F. Parsons had also requested that the Board consider other avenues for NOSD employees to communicate with the Board beyond the scope of what is currently offered. P. Krause cited examples of means in which employees are afforded opportunities to communicate with the Board; e.g., Board dinner and conversation sessions, etc. Teachers could be asked if they want other options. There have been no requests from staff members and no complaints, indicating good communication. S. Stark stated the Board is always willing to talk. An employee survey could be conducted next year.

3. Discussion centered around what the Board expects as far as the superintendent's evaluation is concerned. The "evidence" provides history. It is information they need, but not too much. T. Burmesch and S. Baumeister like everything the way it is. Perhaps the Board should discuss what information is needed. Some members are okay with the way it is; others feel it could contain less. W. Harbron said he will try to keep the information concise. A separate meeting in late July or early August will be scheduled at the Board Workshop for the superintendent's evaluation.

Action Items:

Attachment E First & Second Policy Readings

• Motion to approve District Conflict of Interest Policy made by S. Stark, seconded by R. Hamm. Brief discussion followed. **Motion carried with one opposed (7-1).**

• Motion to approve Parent Groups, Athletic Clubs, and Other Community Support Organizations Policy made by S. Stark, seconded by P. Krause. R. Hamm feels the policy isn't needed. **Motion carried with one opposed (7-1).**

• Motion to approve Policy G-2 Employees' Prohibition of the Use, Possession, or Distribution of Illicit Drugs and Alcohol made by S. Stark, seconded by F. Kleckner. **Motion carried unanimously.**

• Policy B-1 Guiding Principle for the Board of Education, Compensation (revised): Motion to approve second reading of first paragraph in reference to "75 percent of the *eligible* regular Board meetings..." made by T. Burmesch, seconded by S. Stark. **Motion carried unanimously.** Discussion followed concerning the second paragraph on compensation of the Negotiations Committee members. R. Hamm suggested that the \$250 be removed and pay by meeting. Suggestion was made to approve as interpreted, unless the Negotiations Committee requests a change. Motion to return policy to Policy Committee to make wording more accurately reflect past practice made by K. Thistle, seconded by F. Kleckner. Roll call vote: T. Hoffmann, no; K. Thistle, yes; T. Burmesch, no; S. Stark, no; P. Krause, no; F. Kleckner, yes; S. Baumeister, no; R. Hamm, no. **Motion failed 6-2.**

Attachment F Preliminary Budget

W. Clarke presented the preliminary 2009-10 budget, stating it is the best estimate at this point. Variables include new hire salaries, per-pupil adjustment to \$200, and a 3.1% reduction in general school aid. Motion

to approve preliminary 2009-10 budget made by K. Thistle, seconded by S. Stark. Comment was made that administration should proceed very cautiously on spending. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Attachment G Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Awarding the Sale of \$1,500,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes; Providing the Form of the Notes; and Levying a Tax in Connection Therewith

Robert W. Baird representative, Lisa Voisin, addressed the Board concerning the Resolution. Motion to approve Resolution as stated made by F. Kleckner, seconded by S. Stark. Roll call vote: T. Hoffmann, yes; K. Thistle, yes; T. Burmesch, yes; S. Stark, yes; P. Krause, yes; F. Kleckner, yes; S. Baumeister, yes; R. Hamm, yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Attachment H First Reading of 2009-10 Student & Parent Handbooks

Board members questioned several items in the handbooks which were addressed by the principals.

Monthly Reports: Frank Parsons' resignation will be formally accepted at the Board Workshop. The procedure for appointing a new member was reviewed. Deadline for individuals to submit letter of interest is August 1. Candidates will be interviewed and appointment made at the August Board meeting to fill vacancy until the April 2010 Spring Election. P. Krause was unable to attend the CESA 1 annual meeting; he will distribute minutes when available.

Committee chairpersons reported on recent business. Board committees for 2009-10 are as follows:

- Student Learning & Achievement: Rick Hamm (chairperson), Tim Burmesch, Paul Krause
- Finance: Paul Krause (chairperson), Kendall Thistle, Francis Kleckner, Steven Baumeister
- Negotiations: Francis Kleckner (chairperson), Stacie Stark, Kendall Thistle, Rick Hamm
- Policy: Tom Hoffmann (chairperson), Stacie Stark, Steven Baumeister
- Ad Hoc Land Committee: Francis Kleckner, Tim Burmesch

Next Agenda: June 23 Board Workshop discussions and action will consist of items on the posted agenda.

Next Meeting: Board Workshop: Tuesday, June 23, 2009; 6:30 dinner followed by 7 p.m. meeting
Regular Board meeting: Monday, July 13, 2009; 7 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by F. Kleckner, seconded by S. Stark. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Timothy C. Burmesch
Board Clerk

TCB:vld

/s/

Paul Krause
Board President