

Maine School Administrative District No. 49

School Board Meeting Minutes

8 School Street
Fairfield, ME 04937
207-453-4200

February 4, 2010

The regular meeting of the M.S.A.D. #49 Board of School Directors was held on Thursday, February 4, 2010 at Benton Elementary School.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Stewart Kinley, at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum

Charles Dorr, Harry Fitzpatrick, Stephen Hatch, Lisa Irving, Stewart Kinley, Kara Kugelmeyer, Karen Kusiak (arrived @ 7:04pm), Clayton McLaughlin, Matthew Petrie, Richard Spear, and Elizabeth Ward. Absent: Shelley Rudnicki and Marie Strout.

3. Approval of Minutes

10-02-01

Motion by Mr. Spear, 2nd by Ms. Irving to vote to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2010 regular school board meeting. Passed 9-1-0.

4. Old Business

Chair Kinley reported that a Board Curriculum Committee will meet on February 24 at 3:00 pm in the Superintendent's Office. The group will discuss possible structure and purpose of the committee.

5. New Business

Second Reading of Policies

10-02-02

Motion by Mr. Fitzpatrick, 2nd by Mr. Spear to vote to approve the second reading on JFCK, Student Use of Cellular Telephones and Other Electronic Devices, as recommended by the Policy Committee. Passed 10-1-0.

10-02-03

Motion by Mr. Fitzpatrick, 2nd by Mr. Spear to vote to approve the second reading on JFCK-R, Rules for Student Use of Cellular Telephones and Other Electronic Devices, as recommended by the Policy Committee. Passed 10-1-0.

10-02-04

Motion by Mr. Fitzpatrick, 2nd by Ms. Kugelmeyer to vote to purchase a new school bus for the 2010-2011 school year for \$86,720.00. Passed 11-0-0.

10-02-05

Motion by Ms. Kusiak, 2nd by Mr. Fitzpatrick to vote to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations under 1MRSA § 405(6)D. Passed 10-1-0.

Time In: 7:10 pm

Time Out: 8:20 pm

Recess: 8:20 pm – 8:27 pm

10-02-06

Motion by Mr. Fitzpatrick, 2nd by Ms. Kusiak to vote to approve the administrators' contracts as negotiated. Passed 10-0-1.

Resignations:

Appointments:

10-02-07

Motion by Ms. Irving, 2nd by Mr. Spear to vote to authorize the Superintendent to offer positions to Janet Koller and Collette Savasukas, Food Service Assistants, as their probationary period is complete. Passed 11-0-0.

6. Committee Reports

7. Superintendent's Report

School administrators presented brief updates on progress toward the Instructional Improvement Plans for their respective schools. Progress is on track to achieve most objectives.

Dr. Baker reported that the Language Arts Curriculum Committee met with colleagues in grade level meetings for grades K-8 on the January 25 in-service day. The committee spent another half day on February 2 finalizing the distribution of the state Parameters for Essential Instruction (PEI) among the grade levels. Work will now turn to developing thematic integrated units with the lesson plans to implement them. The high school English and mathematics teachers spent two days working on the EPIC course syllabus project. Lawrence is a pilot school in using course syllabi to document the state required progression through the Maine Learning Results in grades 9-12. The Superintendent commended faculty for their serious attitude and skillful work in revising the language arts curriculum.

Mr. Fitzpatrick noted that the Mid Maine Technical Center donated a surplus upright freezer to the District. The food service program replaced a very worn freezer at Lawrence High School with the donation. The District is very grateful to the generosity of the Technical Center.

Recent testing on the Albion well water for lead and copper has come back at very favorable levels and the State announced a reduction in the required frequency of testing.

Dr. Baker distributed a letter from Elon Firmage on the value of co-curricular activities and a letter from Lawrence High School coaches on the positive effects of athletics for students.

Superintendent Baker discussed a potential reduction of \$30M in eligible billing for medicaid funds. Under new rules being proposed by the state that amount of money would be claimed by the state instead of being reimbursed to local districts.

Dr. Baker reviewed the projections announced by the Department of Education on reductions in state subsidy to M.S.A.D. #49 in 2010-11 in the amount of \$1,271,755.67. State subsidy has slid from slightly over one billion dollars announced for the current school year down to \$963 million. That will be followed by a reduction to \$911 million in 2010-11 with a further reduction of \$59 million in 2011-12 because of the end of federal stimulus funds.

The Superintendent reported that the first Lawrence Junior High School Winter Festival provided a free dinner and talent show for several hundred community members. Dr. Baker commended the volunteer efforts of Shelley Rudnicki in organizing the event and obtaining donations of all materials and funding.

Principal Massey reported that Brad Marin from the Masonic Lodge in China has asked Albion to participate in a reading incentive program that will run from February vacation until April Vacation. Each child will submit a form listing the books they read. 14 bikes will be given away on April 14. Each grade level will have a girl bike and a boy bike donated in this initiative. Albion teachers and reading specialists met to plan instructional strategies, interventions and progress monitoring to be implemented over the course of several weeks for non-special education students identified as the slowest progressing students who need extra instruction to accelerate their learning. Another meeting is scheduled for March 25.

Mrs. Massey also reported that Master Sergeant Mearl Salley, Albion's Afghan contact, returned from a year in Afghanistan. He visited the school and talked about some of the cultural differences. What stood out the most was the limited education, especially for girls. He brought in a burka to show the children. The burka is still worn by women to shield their identity.

Assistant Principal Packard reported that the Bento PTO sponsored the annual Father/Daughter Dance on January 15. The event was well attended and provided fathers an opportunity to spend quality time with their daughters. On January 23, the mothers and sons had their time together at the annual Mother/Son Bowling event. Benton also held its geography bee. The winner of the event was Courtney Powers from Steffanie McKinnon's classroom. Courtney is now eligible to compete in the state wide bee this spring.

Principal Soule reported that the high school jazz band performed at the Clinton January Student of the Month assembly. The children were excited to hear them play. He also reported that the Clinton Evening Extensions women's group generously donated \$150 toward the purchase of coats.

8. Other Business

Director Liz Foley-Ward reviewed a possible agenda for a board workshop on strengthening communication, professionalism and board identity and on strengthening board vision for the district. Members supported the concept by consensus and asked Ms. Ward, Chair Kinley and the Superintendent to plan for a workshop later in the year.

Adjournment

10-01-16

Motion by Mr. Fitzpatrick, 2nd by Ms. Irving to vote to adjourn the meeting. Passed 11-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean P. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'B'.

Dean P. Baker, Secretary to the Board

The next meeting of the M.S.A.D. #49 Board of Directors is 7:00 pm on March 4 at Fairfield Primary School.