

**Beaver Dam Unified School District
Board of Education Minutes**

January 18, 2010

The regular meeting of the Beaver Dam Unified School District Board of Education was held on the above date at the Educational Service Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President, Bev Beal-Loeck. Board members present were Bev Beal-Loeck, Kim Darst, Nate Dassler, Dan Feuling, Jean Hill, Marge Jorgensen, Lisa Panzer, Gary Spielman, and Joanne Tyjeski. No board members were absent. Nate Dassler left at 9:58 p.m.

President, Ms. Beal-Loeck, led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tyjeski moved, Jorgensen seconded, to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting on December 21, 2009.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Ms. Beal-Loeck welcomed visitors.

There were no requests from members of the public to participate in the public comment session.

Spielman, at the request of the President, announced the board may move into closed session following the regular meeting in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) to discuss the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; and 19.85 (1)(f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. The meeting will reconvene into open session for the possible transaction of business and adjournment.

Tyjeski moved, Spielman seconded, to adopt the agenda as presented.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Dr. Don Childs, Superintendent, reviewed the board's goal regarding facilities that was approved in August 2009. The goal includes a statement that by February 2010, a facilities plan will be completed incorporating program, space, and deferred maintenance needs. The administration did due diligence in preparing the report to address the goal.

The board requested to receive the budget update prior to proceeding with the facility discussion.

Mr. Andrew Sarnow, Director of Business Services, reported that enrollment is fairly flat for the January count and there has not been much change in the budget since the presentation in December. He explained that debt and an operational budget are two separate items. The projected deficit for the 2009-11 budget is at \$864K. Areas that can be cut without affecting the program have been identified.

There was discussion regarding a balanced budget, future budget concerns, and allowing referendum debt to expire to decrease taxes.

Mr. Sarnow said that while money would be saved by taxpayers, there is approximately \$13M-\$14M of maintenance items that need to be addressed. The current budget of \$200K-\$400K doesn't cover the needs. An additional \$1M per year would be needed, however that's not possible because that takes away from the classroom. A referendum is the only alternative to address the needs.

Dr. Childs explained that is it prudent to put the question to the community. It's their question to answer. It's the board saying this is the least worse time to go to referendum with the least impact on taxpayers and most likelihood of accessing inexpensive funds. Those funds will be gone after this Spring. The district has a large investment in facilities and wants to maximize their life cycle.

The possibility of giving the community two options; one to approve the priority items to fix the schools and a second one to add on to another school and close others was discussed.

There was additional discussion concerning the need for the board to be united on a referendum decision, the timing and process of a referendum, community discussions and feedback, lack of planning, and the facility list.

Building tour attendance, giving taxpayers the right to decide on maintenance, differences between the facilities study and Siemens facilities plan, and the priority items on the list were discussed.

Dr. Childs explained that the difference pointed out with the facilities study to the plan is the study assumed a kind for kind replacement. The replacements now are more efficient replacements.

Discussion focused on the cost of classroom additions, investing money in the rural schools, and perceived poor administrative decisions along with the referendum recommendation.

Dr. Childs explained that the board has been conducting meetings over the past 3 years that the public have been invited to attend and attendance has been low. He agreed that they don't have a sense of the community's view on this, but it isn't necessarily needed. There is sufficient time to go to referendum. The administration went through and tried to obtain the least-cost solution for the maintenance. As for the rural schools, if they are saleable, then money should be invested. Utility costs will continue if the buildings are allowed to decay. The recommendation is the administration's view of what there is with the buildings. Board members have been on the tours and have received the information to make a decision. There is a unique window of opportunity with the funding and construction costs at an all time low. The community will not get involved until the board takes action regarding a referendum.

Mr. Sarnow referred to the funding option information, which is attractive right now. In this situation, with 0% interest, there could be a savings of \$3.2M in interest. This opportunity ends in April. Those are the two reasons for recommending an April referendum. Some of the money could not be available if a referendum is delayed until November.

There was discussion regarding exploring options with government grants for the installation of solar panels or geothermals. Additional discussion focused on adequate classroom space relating to increased graduation requirements, the SAGE timeline and staffing, and high school locker rooms.

Mr. Steve Vessey, Director of Human Resources, said SAGE staffing has just begun to be reviewed and it doesn't look like there is a savings. The intent is to keep the same amount of staffing to keep class sizes similar.

Discussion focused on minimizing student waivers, the staffing implications of keeping special education students in their home schools, teacher travel time, teacher aid time, and space options.

Mr. Vessey explained that there is available space in the buildings and areas are constantly being reviewed. Additional space for grades K-3 can be found, but it has cost implications.

There was discussion regarding SAGE eligibility, a SAGE waiver, the need for SAGE, the impact of SAGE schools on non-SAGE schools, and the development of a planned schedule for maintenance.

Dr. Childs explained a planned maintenance schedule could be completed in a short period of time and would be speculative based on a successful referendum and completion of referendum projects. Without a referendum, when equipment fails it is difficult to find time to do planned maintenance. Operating in crisis mode doesn't lend to having a maintenance plan. A prospective plan could be created.

Discussion focused on the expense and funding of critical repairs, the implications of critical equipment failures during the school day, the accuracy of the project list, and allowing the community to make the decision to address maintenance needs.

Dr. Childs said it is incumbent upon the board to give direction as to what they want and the administration will get it. Meanwhile, facilities are rapidly deteriorating and need attention.

The need to improve communication with the community, the impact of a failed referendum, and the high impact repair items on the list were discussed.

Dr. Childs said the board can do whatever they are comfortable with. The administration created a list of items that they thought needed to be addressed and are in the most immediate need of attention. This is based on the presumption that the board has some level of trust with the administration, but it is the board's decision.

Mr. Sarnow explained that there no other non-referendum funds available for use on maintenance projects and that Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) are only related to referendums.

There was discussion regarding how the information needs to be explained and presented to taxpayers and communication with staff and the community.

Dr. Childs shared that board members don't give up their citizen rights to discuss their own views. However, as a school board member, they can not advocate for or against a referendum. They can only present information.

The superintendent transition was discussed in relation to a referendum.

Dr. Childs said an April referendum is driven by the need to address issues of district facilities at the least cost to taxpayers and that is done by the least cost of projects and lowest funding costs during the window of opportunity. It will extend the debt portion of the taxes, not increase them. That doesn't mean a tax bill won't increase, just the debt portion of the tax. This needs to be carefully stated to the community.

Discussion focused on the project list with regard to a long term plan and concerns with investing money in the rural schools.

Dr. Childs explained that a neighborhood elementary school study was completed in 2004-05 that included closing rural schools and Wilson Elementary School, but then the enrollment changed, thus changing the reality of closing those buildings. This study was taken into consideration with this recommendation.

There was discussion regarding the issues and time involved with the possibility of closing a school and discussing the issues with the community.

Dr. Childs said there's a level of commitment from the community to neighborhood schools. The current proposal is fair and reasonable, and a 10 year window is not unreasonable.

Ms. Beal-Loeck said that administration has heard there are additional pieces of information to bring back to the board. She asked board members to make sure to communicate the pieces they want to Dr. Childs.

Ms. Jorgensen, Chairperson of the Beaver Dam Education Association (BDEA) Negotiations Committee and the Beaver Dam Support Staff Association (BDSSA) Negotiations Committee, reported they recently met with the BDEA and the next meeting is scheduled for February 10th. The BDSSA submitted a proposal for review at the last meeting and the next meeting is scheduled for January 26th.

Panzer moved, Tyjeski seconded, to approve the following retirements: Robert Schwoch–District Events Coordinator–District (Retirement effective end of the 2009-10 school year) and Royanne Moon–Literacy Support Teacher–Middle School (Retirement effective end of the 2009-10 school year).

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Panzer moved, Jorgensen seconded, to approve the following leave of absence requests: Vicki Popp–4 Year Old Kindergarten Teacher–Prairie View Elementary School (Medical Leave extension from 1/28/10–end of the 2009-10 school year); Susan Lord–Reading Recovery/Literacy Support Teacher–Washington Elementary School (Medical Leave 3/18/10–end of the 2009-10 school year); Joe Lord–Custodian–Lincoln Elementary School (Medical

Leave 3/18/10–end of the 2009-10 school year); and Laurie Marchese–6th Grade Teacher–Middle School (Medical Leave 1/24/10–4/22/10).

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Tyjeski moved, Darst seconded, to approve the following appointments: Yvonne Kohn–Literacy Support Teacher–Middle School(MA, Step 5)(LTE–119 days); Tom Bock–8th Grade Science Teacher – Middle School (BA, Step 1)(LTE–41 days); Robyn Vockroth–Teacher Assistant–Prairie View Elementary School (LTE–37 days); Joy Bowser–EEN Teacher Assistant–Washington Elementary School (LTE–59 days); and Monica Janelle–EEN Teacher Assistant–Middle School (LTE–18 days).

The motion was adopted by the following vote: *Ayes* – Darst, Dassler, Feuling, Hill, Jorgensen, Panzer, Spielman, Tyjeksi, and Beal-Loeck,. *Nayes* - None.

The board expressed their thanks to Bob Schwoch and Royanne Moon for their service to the district.

Dassler moved, Hill seconded, to approve the payment of financial claims (Voucher #24, #25, #26, and #27, District Credit Card, Net Payroll, Payroll Related Voucher, Payroll Taxes, WI Retirement (Admin.), WI Retirement, WI Retirement (Adjustment), and WEA Trust Advantage for a total of \$2,379,617.77 (A listing of these vouchers can be found in the Accounts Payable Check Register.)

The motion was adopted by the following vote: *Ayes* – Dassler, Feuling, Hill, Jorgensen, Panzer, Spielman, Tyjeksi, Beal-Loeck, and Darst. *Nayes* - None.

Spielman moved, Tyjeski seconded, to move into closed session following the regular meeting in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) to discuss the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; and 19.85 (1)(f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. The meeting will reconvene into open session for the possible transaction of business and adjournment.

The motion was adopted by the following vote: *Ayes* – Feuling, Hill, Jorgensen, Panzer, Spielman, Tyjeksi, Beal-Loeck, Darst, and Dassler. *Nayes* - None.

During the closed session, updates were provided regarding contract negotiations with the BDEA and BDSSA, and personnel items and a board self-evaluation were discussed. No action was taken during closed session.

Tyjeski moved, Spielman seconded, to reconvene into open session.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

