

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

December 21, 2009

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 9:45 p.m. and Kim Darst left at 9:52 p.m.

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

Jorgensen moved, Hill seconded, to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting on November 16, 2009 and special meetings on November 24, and December 7, 2009 as presented.

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; 19.85 (1)(g) to discuss litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved; 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.

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

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. John Knappel and Mr. Paul Frantz of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP provided an overview of the 2009 fiscal audit. The district received an unqualified opinion, which is the highest that can be received.

Mr. Andrew Sarnow, Director of Business Services, expressed appreciation for their services.

Hill moved, Spielman seconded, to accept the auditor's report for the 2009 fiscal year.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Dr. Childs requested approval of early graduation requests for six students who have met the requirements.

Panzer moved, Darst seconded, to approve the six requests for early graduation contingent upon completion of all requirements as determined by the principals.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Dr. Childs presented a draft of language to regulate use of Web 2.0 tools, including collaboration software and social networking sites. This is for informational purposes and is intended to address specific issues and concerns of board members.

There was discussion regarding current handbook language, video usage, and cell phone usage.

Mr. Paul Buchholz, Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds, and Mr. Dave Mitchell from Siemens provided an update on the status of the facilities plan. An overview of a list of facilities projects was provided. The list differentiates between district and Siemens projects. Budgetary numbers will be presented at the January board meeting.

Discussion focused on the High School locker room area, cost estimates of the Siemens' items, the feasibility of an addition to Prairie View or Jefferson Elementary Schools, and room renovations based on future needs.

Mr. Buchholz explained that the facilities plan is to provide a long-range planning document for the future. Additional facilities information will be available in January.

Mr. Mitchell explained the process for obtaining budgetary figures and that it is difficult to provide solid numbers until projects are prioritized.

Dr. Childs said that Fund 41 is important when considering long-term needs. The purpose of the Fund is for unexpected emergencies and if there is a more strategic approach to facilities, the less likely there will be emergencies.

Mr. Mike Clark of Robert W. Baird reviewed options for funding a facilities plan without incurring an increase in the present tax burden. The district will have no referendum debt after next year which presents an opportunity to borrow funds and have tax debt remain the same. With the addition of zero percent debt, debt can be brought on board and there could be a tax decrease. There are many opportunities to bring debt on with no tax increase.

Mr. Sarnow provided a forecast summary for the current year and a four-year estimate. He explained that referendum debt is independent from revenue limits. It is \$15M referendum question. There is a great opportunity for very low financing. If it is a 10 year referendum, there are financing scenarios that will lessen the burden to the taxpayers.

Dr. Childs shared that the district is in the process of obtaining population trends to project future pupil population. This data will be used in the 5-year forecasts since funding is tied to enrollments. There will be more refined information available in January.

Concern was expressed regarding the timing of a referendum, lack of previous discussion, and communication with the community.

Dr. Childs explained that discussions can not occur without solid information. The board gave direction in October to begin discussions with Siemens and to develop a long-rang plan. Options to fund the plan are being presented for the board to make a decision in February.

There was discussion regarding educating the community and the projected budgeted deficit.

Dr. Childs explained that referendum funds would be specifically for facility needs and separate from a general budget deficit. Facility needs have to be addressed at some point and the community needs to be asked if they are willing to approve additional funds based on the information provided. It is necessary to have a fully formed plan first to present to the community.

There was additional discussion regarding a project timeline and the lack of referendum discussion.

Dr. Childs said the information on facility needs and funding options are being presented for the board to make a decision. There has been on-going discussion regarding facility needs and the board hosted building tours for the community to attend. The circumstances around school economy made the possibility of an April referendum a reality months ago. The board developed goals on a facilities study and directed administration to create a plan and present it.

Discussion focused on the timing of the presentation of funding options, referendum voting timelines, consequences of deferring maintenance, community linkage timelines, and the need for additional details prior to making a decision.

Ms. Jorgensen, Chairperson of the Beaver Dam Education Association (BDEA) Negotiations Committee and the Beaver Dam Support Staff Association (BDSSA) Negotiations Committee, reported that they did not meet in December and meetings are scheduled in January.

Panzer moved, Hill seconded, to approve the following resignation: Camille Pearson–Career Center Tutor–High School (Resignation effective 12/3/09).

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Panzer moved, Jorgensen seconded, to approve the following leave of absence request: Kasey Klug–Teacher Assistant–Prairie View Elementary School (Medical Leave 1/5/10-3/1/10).

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Panzer moved, Hill seconded, to approve the following appointments: Kyle Kahler–Teacher Assistant–Special Education Middle School (LTE-25 days); Kyle Kahler–Special Education Teacher–Middle School (BA, Step 1)(LTE–53 days); Laurel Lunde–Career Center Tutor–High School; and Amy Kowalski–Kindergarten Teacher–Washington Elementary School (BA, Step 1)(LTE–123 days).

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

Mr. Steve Vessey, Director of Human Resources, presented a request for retroactive approval of a grant-funded literacy support teaching (LST) position. The grant provides the funds for an additional LST for the remainder of the year.

Jorgensen moved, Tyjeksi seconded, to grant retroactive approval for the addition of a grant-funded middle school literacy support teaching position.

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

Dr. Childs recommended adoption of the policy revisions governing gifted and talented education. He explained that in the 421-Rule all references to first grade have been eliminated since kindergarten is now required for all students in the State of Wisconsin.

Panzer moved, Darst seconded, to approve revisions to and adopt the following policies governing gifted and talented education: 342.3 Rule–Gifted and Talented Guidelines; 342.4–Acceleration; 421 Rule–Procedures for Early Admission to Kindergarten; 531.13–Job Description, Gifted and Talented Coordinator; and 531.14–Job Description, Gifted and Talented Intervention Specialist.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Dassler moved, Jorgensen seconded, to approve the payment of financial claims (Voucher #17, #18, #19, #20, #21, #22, and #23, Net Payroll, Payroll Related Voucher, Payroll Taxes, WEA Trust Advantage, WI Retirement (Admin.), WI Retirement, and Insurance) for a total of \$5,200,736.11 (A listing of these vouchers can be found in the Accounts Payable Check Register.)

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

The daytime facility tour of Jefferson and South Beaver Dam Elementary Schools that was canceled due to snow was rescheduled to January 6th beginning at 10 a.m. at Jefferson Elementary School.

Spielman moved, Jorgensen seconded, to move into closed session 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; 19.85 (1)(g) to discuss litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved; 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* – Hill, Jorgensen, Panzer, Spielman, Tyjeksi, Beal-Loeck, Darst, Dassler, and Feuling. *Nayes* - None.

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

Hill moved, Panzer seconded, to reconvene into open session.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Spielman moved, Tyjeski seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

/s/
Beverly Beal-Loeck, President

/s/
Joanne Tyjeski, Clerk