

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING NOTES JUNE 4, 2013 7:05-10:02 pm Junior High Shared Common Area

The Special School Board meeting was called to order by Chair John Mazzola. Trustees Dianne Burke, Michele Bashor, David Weber, Jami FitzGerald, Debbie Lester, & Teresa Teagle; Supt. Randy Cline; Technology & Activities/Athletic Director-Mark McMurray (came at 7:20 pm); Maintenance Supervisor-Brian Roberts; and District Clerk-Cindy McMurray were also present. Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of the meeting was to review/take action on the following: (1) Summer & Future Maintenance projects; (2) Approve credit card signatories for Montana Educator's CU; (3) Individual Transportation Contracts; (4) Proposed Beckwith Road Railroad Crossing; (5) Ratify Resignations; and (6) Hiring.

Public Comment: Board Chair John Mazzola noted that this agenda item was for public comment on items not scheduled on the agenda. Due to privacy right issues, no comments can be made identifying students, staff or public members. Tricia Clarke provided the Board with a petition requesting reconsideration on rehiring a non-renewed non-tenured special education teacher for the 2013-2014 school year. In addition, the following individuals spoke highly of the non-renewed teacher and asked the Board to reconsider rehire: Candy Hartree, Sally Sharbono, Christy Jorgensten, Kimberly Womack, Karen Indreland, Melissa Hensen, and Jason Jorgensten. Supt. Randy Cline explained that the District non-renewed all 16 non-tenured teachers at the April board meeting due to budget reasons. The District will receive \$283,000 less money this year than last year. The Board ran a levy for \$68,000 to help offset this decrease and it failed. Because of this, only 4 of 16 non-tenured teachers have been rehired. A tenured special education teacher, who was on Leave of Absence in 2012-2013, is coming back. That means one of the four special education teachers will not be hired back. Supt. Cline also noted that the special education program is not being cut but actually is being expanded in the area of life skills. Vice Chair, Dianne Burke thanked the public for the professionalism in which they presented their request for reconsideration of rehire.

OLD BUSINESS

(1) Prioritizing Summer & Future Maintenance Projects-Two representatives from CTA Architects Inc., Nick Salmon & Nathan Ratz were present to discuss options, pricing & recommendations for two issues affecting the performance, operation & maintenance of the heat pump systems at the High School/Junior High complex. Over the past year the system has had issues with providing heat to various areas of the new portions of the High School. There are two heat pump loops in the system for the High School/Junior High. The first loop was built during the original construction of the High School Complex. The second loop was added during the building bond construction of 2009 that covers the Junior High and the expanded area at the High School. The *first issue* deals with fouling of the entire system. Heat pumps require chemical treatments on a maintenance plan to prevent corrosion and microbial growth. There aren't records that maintenance has occurred. The fouling in both loops appears to be the result of improper concentrations of corrosion inhibitors and biocides. Discussion occurred as to who should have either known this might have occurred and/or who was responsible for maintenance of the systems. The *second issue* is that the old system had a cooling tower to provide for heat rejection and cooling for the facility during warmer temperatures. During the remodel project the cooling tower was removed and replaced with a groundwater cooling system. To save costs a single cooling heat exchanger was provided to serve both the old and new heat pump loops. This created a path for fluid exchange between the two systems and therefore problems with maintenance and correcting system volumes and pressures. Discussion occurred as to whether the old system was flushed prior to the addition of the new system. Minimum recommendations from CTA include: A1-Flush both original & new heat pump systems to remove fouling from both heat pump loops; A2-Replace the new system heating exchanger HX-1. This is necessary to provide the required heating capacity for the new heat pump loop & facilitate cleaning it if future fouling occurs; A4-Add bypass chemical feeder to old system; B2-Basic connection of both systems to equalize the system pressures; B3-Replace the compression tank serving the old system to prevent further fouling and facilitate better control of system pressure & thermal expansion in original heat pump loop; & C1-Fully combine both systems to resolve problems with fluctuating pressures and unwanted transfer of fluid between the two heat pump loops. All recommendations would cost the District \$111,312. The options needing to be done this summer to deal with the fouling issue are A1, A2, A4 & B3. This would cost the District \$43,416. Correcting the pressure fluctuations and to obtain better performance of the system, C-1 should be done no later than next year. **Motion by Burke, seconded by Teagle, to approve proceeding with options A1, A2, A4 & B3 for the heat pump loop issues at a maximum amount of \$43,416.** Board comment-Board Chair John Mazzola requested that a documented maintenance plan be created so that monitoring would be put into place for the future. **Mazzola, Burke, Bashor, Romney FitzGerald, Teagle, Lester voted aye. Weber voted nay. Motion carried.** Trustee David Weber noted that he didn't believe this was the number one priority for the District at this time.

9:15-9:25 – Break

Supt. Randy Cline noted that the lowest bid for reconstruction of the West Entry road at the High School/Junior High complex was \$68,884.40. He figures that he has at least \$100,000 from the remaining funds for 2012-2013 to spend on summer projects. **Motion by Burke, seconded by Teagle, to approve awarding Knife River with the reconstruction of the West Entry Road project bid for \$68,884.40.** Trustee Debbie Lester noted that she is afraid that the voters will believe the District has money despite the request for a mill levy for the coming year. Board Chair John Mazzola noted that he felt this was a safety/liability issue which couldn't be put off. **Mazzola, Burke, Weber,**

Teagle & Bashor voted aye. Lester & Romney FitzGerald voted nay. Motion carried. Discussion occurred as to whether item #3-Upgrade building control system or item #9-making 4 sinks in Elementary handicapped accessible was next in priority. **Motion by Burke, seconded by Teagle, to approve funding item #9-handicapped sinks and change them to #3 in priority and then moving item #3-Upgrade building control system to item #4 in priority with the remaining items following as already prioritized. In addition, approving the Upgrade Building Control System project, if money is remaining since it is over \$10,000.** Supt. Randy Cline noted that if there isn't the money available, some of these projects would have to be done with next year's money, if available. Unan

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Credit Card Signatories: Supt. Randy Cline noted that with Debbie Tholstrom's resignation, we need to add Stacie Mether to our Visa signatory account. District Clerk Cindy McMurray & Supt. Randy Cline explained that accounting practices are followed in that all items must be pre-approved and other accounting requirements are followed. **Motion by Teagle, seconded by Romney FitzGerald to approve the signatory resolution for Montana Educator's Credit Union Credit card. Unan**

(2) Individual Transportation Contracts: Supt. Randy Cline noted that the District received 4 Individual Transportation Contracts to be approved for those individuals who live outside of the County approved roads. The State pays the parent or guardian for each day that their student is driven to school. Discussion occurred as to whether living outside the County approved roads warranted reimbursement for driving the students to school. All four of these contracts have requested they receive isolation status due to the severity of the roads. **Motion by Burke, seconded by Bashor, to approve the four individual Transportation Contracts. Mazzola, Burke, Bashor, Weber, Romney FitzGerald & Lester voted aye. Teagle voted nay. Motion carried.**

(3) Beckwith Road Railroad Crossing closure: Supt. Randy Cline noted that the County Director of Public Works is recommending closing Beckwith Railroad Crossing. He is requesting that the Board send a letter opposing this recommendation since that crossing is used by our school buses (as well as the public dropping off their students & commuters) and closing it would add to the morning traffic/congestion at the Ducharme/Mullan road intersection. This could cause safety issues for the students as well as making our students late for school. **Motion by Burke, seconded by Weber, to officially oppose the closing of Beckwith Railroad Crossing. Unanimous**

(4) Ratify Resignations: Supt. Randy Cline noted that the District has received 3 resignation letters from the following: Chelle Fry-teacher; Patti Dillree-paraprofessional; & Eli Field JH Football coach. **Motion by Burke, seconded by Teagle, to accept the letters of resignation as recommended. Unanimous**

(5) Hiring: Supt. Randy Cline noted that some Special Education IEP's require education during the summer months. These contracts are call Extended School Year (ESY). She is recommending hiring Sharmayne MacEwan as the ESY teacher and Tracy Barton & Susan Brown as the ESY paraprofessionals. **Motion by Burke, seconded by Romney FitzGerald, to hire Sharmayne MacEwan as the ESY teacher and Tracy Barton & Susan Brown as the ESY paraprofessionals for the 2013 summer program. Unan**

Adjourned.

Approved June 13, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John Mazzola
Chair, Board of Trustees

/s/ Cindy L. McMurray
District Clerk