

Palmyra R-1 Board of Education
Press Release
February 14, 2018

The regular meeting of the Palmyra R-1 Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. in the office of the Board of Education at 1703 South Main, Palmyra, Missouri.

The Principals gave their monthly reports on events in their respective buildings.

Kirt Malone reported to the board on the 75th Annual Tony Lenzini Basketball Tournament. The tournament attendance improved over last year which was the largest in the previous five years. The competition was at a high level on both the boys and girls side of the brackets. After all the tournament bills were paid, the net profit was \$3,473.

The board heard a legislative report from Kirt Malone. SB 612 would create a voucher tax credit program in Missouri and would take \$25 million out of the general revenue stream with money that likely would be used to fund public education. The major bill of concern for public education is HB 2247 which is designed to expand charter schools in Missouri. Charter schools are underperforming in Missouri. If the state gave "accredited" designation to charter schools, less than half of the current charter schools in the state would receive such designation. Between 1999 and the 2016-2017 school year, 21 of the 60 charter schools closed due to academic performance or financial issues. Over 620 million taxpayer dollars have gone to Missouri charter schools that have closed their doors. Charter schools are not run by locally elected officials, yet these individuals are permitted to oversee and handle millions of taxpayer dollars without the public accountability that accompanies a traditional public school board.

The board also heard a report from Larry Seago regarding curriculum work throughout the district as well as the A+ program. Last year, 68 students graduated with A+ distinction. Eight of those students used their A+ money mainly at Moberly Area Junior College, while two attended State Technical College of Missouri. We had many other students attend four-year universities who received a scholarship for completing the A+ program. This year we have 269 high school students enrolled in the A+ program. In order for students to receive A+ distinction they must fulfill academic, behavioral and attendance requirements.

The board adopted the 2018-2019 school calendar. (See attached)

The school board was recognized by MSBA and the Palmyra R-1 CTA.

Kirt Malone reported that employee health insurance premiums will increase 9.5% next year.

In new business, the board heard a presentation on a potential HVAC renovation project at the middle school. Most of the middle school heating and air conditioning units and their control systems are 20 years old and are near the end of their efficient and effective use.

The school board approved the process to select a qualified performance contractor for a project at the middle school to improve the HVAC system.

The board approved an agreement between the school and L.J. Hart & Co. for municipal bond underwriting services for the prepayment of \$250,000 of debt service bonds. The district will save \$3,750 of interest expense.

The board accepted the resignation of Lori Holstine, Middle School Computers teacher.

The board hired Travis Rice as custodian at the high school, replacing Janet Barnes due to retirement.

The board extended by one year the contracts of:

Brian Wosman, Activities Director/Transportation Director
Lora Hillman, Elementary School Principal
Larry Seago, High School Assistant Principal/A+ Coordinator
Kinsey Cissna, Special Programs Director

The board offered contracts for the 2018-19 school year to:

Jared Pontius, High School Principal
Bridgette Augspurg, Elementary School Assistant Principal
Steven Kerr, Middle School Principal