

**REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BYERS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 32J
January 15, 2015**

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Tom Thompson, President, in the Lecture Hall at Byers School District, 444 E. Front Street, Byers, Colorado.

Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum: Members present were Yvonne Olson-Sage, Becca Pope, Mike Pugh, Tom Thompson, Woody West

ABSENT: Jerry Sauer, Charlie Tucker

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Pugh moved, Mrs. Pope seconded, to approve the agenda as written

AYE: Yvonne Olson-Sage, Becca Pope, Mike Pugh, Tom Thompson, Woody West
Motion Carried 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Pope moved, Mr. Pugh seconded to approve the minutes from the regular meeting December 18, 2014; approve the financial report.

AYE: Yvonne Olson-Sage, Becca Pope, Mike Pugh, Tom Thompson
NO: Woody West
Motion Carried 4-1

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Public Address: Tammy Holland addressed the Board regarding the letter that was sent from the school regarding opting-out of assessments. She feels her child is being put in a stressful situation.

Martha Jones referred the 95% of students required to take assessments. She indicated that the District would not be penalized if we had a "good faith attempt."

Presentations: Diana Elliott, Tanner Despard and Rose Ashby presented on the students' participation in AmeriTowne. Tanner, Rose, and Tyler Kerns attended two days. They learned about money matters, job interviews, and preparing for life situations.

ACTION ITEMS

Final Budget: The final revised budget was presented to the Board. Mrs. Pope moved, Mr. West seconded to approve the final budget.

AYE: Yvonne Olson-Sage, Becca Pope, Mike Pugh, Tom Thompson, Woody West
Motion Carried 5-0

Resolution – State Mandated Assessments: A resolution was presented regarding state assessments. The Board discussed the wording of a couple sections. Mr. Pugh moved, Mrs. Pope seconded to approve the assessment resolution with the following revisions: add the online assessments of scantron and i-ready to the

local assessments noted in the third bullet under “therefore be it resolved”; use the working “we support a parents right’s within the scope of the law”.

Mr. West noted he would not support the resolution without the wording regarding not penalizing the school district.

Mr. Pugh made an amendment to the original motion, Mrs. Pope seconded, to change the wording to “we support a parents right’s within the scope of the law without penalizing the Byers School District 32J, for that local decision”

WHEREAS, the Byers School District 32J Board of Education is a public entity that provides educational services to the children in the Byers School District; and is empowered to set educational standards and priorities to meet the needs of the students of our district as described in Article IX, section 15 of the Colorado Constitution; and

WHEREAS, local control is a fundamental tenet of education in Colorado and is a critical factor in establishing and operating quality educational programs in our community; and

WHEREAS, Colorado state law CRS 22-7-409 (1) requires that assessments be administered that are aligned with state standards; and

WHEREAS, Colorado state law CRS 22-7-409 (1.5) requires that the assessments administered pursuant to the law be designed to generate results in a form that will enable students, parents or legal guardians, teachers, schools, and school districts to use the results as diagnostic tools to assist in preparing strategies for student academic improvement in specific areas; and

WHEREAS, the Byers School District 32J Board of Education is concerned that the law cannot be properly followed through the administration of PARCC and CMAS tests as mandated by the State Board of Education, specifically with respect to CRS 22-7-409 (1.5) and that the results from this mandate **will not** enable students, parents or legal guardians, teachers, schools, and school districts to use the results as diagnostic tools to assist in preparing strategies for student academic improvement in specific areas, and

WHEREAS, The Byers School District 32J already administers tests that are aligned with state standards, where such tests also meet the requirements of CRS 22-7-409 (1.5) in that these tests **will** enable students, parents or legal guardians, teachers, schools, and the school district to use the results as diagnostic tools to assist in preparing strategies for student academic improvement in specific areas, and

WHEREAS, the mandate to administer PARCC and CMAS tests imposes a significant resource burden on Byers School District 32J; the costs of this burden far exceed the benefit to the students of our district and to our local community; and the mandate further erodes the state constitutional requirement for local control of schools; and

WHEREAS, the impact of administering the many tests mandated by the State of Colorado deprives students and educators of substantial instructional time, without providing any meaningful or actionable data in a timely manner and forces school districts to focus more on high stakes standardized tests versus student learning and growth; and

WHEREAS, the legislated reforms and high frequency, high stakes standardized tests, though well meaning, create an environment of regulation rather than achievement, and given the previous 17 years of similar reform efforts have resulted in no measureable increase in student achievement across the entire state; and

WHEREAS, the Byers School District 32J Board of Education believes the professional staff employed by our school district is in the best position to design authentic assessments or select appropriate assessment programs that will provide valuable feedback to students and aid educators in determining student progress in all educational competencies; and

WHEREAS, the Byers School District 32J Board of Education believes the magnitude of legislated educational changes and unfunded mandates, none of which have yet to actually result in improved student achievement, has created an atmosphere in schools where teachers and students are not afforded the time and resources to develop and implement their own skills, strategies and ideas to improve student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has concurrently enacted multiple unfunded education reform measures which redirect resources from other local educational priorities, simultaneously reducing overall state funding via the implementation of a negative funding factor; and

WHEREAS, the Byers School District 32J, Board of Education believes a breaking point condition has been created due to the magnitude of rapid legislative changes wherein no single initiative has been afforded the deep, meaningful implementation required to do it well; and

WHEREAS, the Byers School District 32J, Board of Education believes that we must first give the teachers power to test what is most important and use observations from progress monitoring and benchmarking to guide instruction and commitment to academic standards; and

WHEREAS, the Byers School District 32J, Board of Education, district superintendent, and administrative and teaching staff are accountable to our students and community; then

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Byers School District 32J, Board of Education requests the State Board of Education and the Colorado Legislature act to limit unwarranted intrusion by state and federal agencies which encroaches upon the community's constitutional authority to set educational standards and priorities for our students, and which creates unintended consequences that degrade our ability to serve our students by:

- Adhering to the Federal requirements only;
- Using ACT as the High School level assessment in Language Arts and Mathematics;
- Utilizing Local Assessments such as NWEA/MAPS, DIBELS, i-Ready, Scantron and other valid and reliable progress monitoring tools as indicators of academic growth and success in Grades PreK-8;
- We support a parents right's within the scope of the law, without penalizing the Byers School District 32J, for that local decision.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Byers School District 32J Board of Education hereby petitions the Colorado State Board of Education for a 5-year waiver from PARCC and CMAS testing requirements. The current, nationally normed and validated assessment results already being utilized by Byers School District 32J in accordance with CRS-22-7-409 (1) are sufficient to meet requirements of SB-191 where PARCC and CMAS results might otherwise be required. This waiver is to be effective in the 2014-2015 school year and remain in effect through the 2018-2019 school year.

AYE: Yvonne Olson-Sage, Becca Pope, Mike Pugh, Tom Thompson, Woody West
Motion Carried 5-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Pope moved, Mrs. Olson-Sage seconded to move to executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss the superintendent evaluation/contract in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f). Mr. Turrell was invited to stay.

AYE: Yvonne Olson-Sage, Becca Pope, Mike Pugh, Tom Thompson, Woody West
Motion Carried 5-0

Mr. Pugh moved, Mrs. Pope seconded to adjourn executive session at 9:40 p. m.

AYE: Yvonne Olson-Sage, Becca Pope, Mike Pugh, Tom Thompson, Woody West
Motion Carried 5-0

Superintendent Evaluation/Contract: Mrs. Pope moved, Mr. Pugh seconded to roll the superintendent contract another year extending it to the 17-18 school year.

Mr. West noted that he disagrees with long-term contracts

AYE: Becca Pope, Mike Pugh, Tom Thompson
NO: Yvonne Olson-Sage, Woody West
Motion Carried 3-2

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Pugh noted that the BOCES would like to invite a Board member to attend the February 18th SAC (Superintendent's Advisory Council) meeting. It will be all day in Limon. It is a good opportunity to hear reports from CDE, CASE, CASB and see what the Superintendents are faced with.

Mrs. Olson-Sage met with the Tobacco grant directors to review policy. They looked at tightening it up. Changes will be made and presented to the Board on three readings.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday February 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall at Byers School District, 444 E. Front Street. Items for the next meeting include: preliminary calendar, principal's evaluation/contract, policy – 1st reading, director presentation, Senior class presentation, along with anything else that arises prior to that time.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mrs. Pope moved, Mr. West seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

AYE: Yvonne Olson-Sage, Becca Pope, Mike Pugh, Tom Thompson, Woody West
Motion Carried 5-0

President

Secretary