

Palmyra Board of Education  
Press Release  
March 14, 2019

The regular meeting of the Palmyra R-1 Board of Education was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the office of the Board of Education at 1703 S. Main, Palmyra, MO.

Ken Disselhorst, representing the Lewis and Marion Cattlemen's Association, reported to the board about a new program called MOBEEF for MOKIDS. MOBEEF for MOKIDS is a joint program of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri Beef Industry, and Opa Food Service, to increase the amount of Missouri-raised beef on school lunch menus. The beef used in the program would be donated by local farmers who raise cattle in the Palmyra R-1 School District and surrounding area.

Melinda Griesbaum and Trina Schindler reported to the board about the Early Childhood/Pre-K program at Palmyra Elementary School. They explained how our young Pre-K students are impacted by adult behaviors and need to be talked to, sung to, and read to from birth, by parents.

Ellen Stuhlman reported to the board on the District's gifted program (PACE). This year student projects focused on the history of education in Palmyra to celebrate the Palmyra Bicentennial. She discussed what the PACE program provides to students and highlighted the fact that this year PACE is in its 33rd year in Palmyra.

The principals gave their monthly report on happenings in their respective buildings.

Kirt Malone reported to the board on HB 581 that would expand Charter Schools in Missouri. This particular bill allows students to enroll virtually from anywhere in Missouri requiring the student's home school to pay for the courses. Charter expansion bills take state funding away from public schools.

The Board agreed to purchase a 2019 John Deere lawn mower and trade-in a 2010 mower.

Kirt Malone also reported to the board on the 2018-2019 school year budget. The District has received an increase in state formula revenues of approximately \$34,000 from this time last year, with flat funding from both local and federal sources.

The MSBA Spring Regional meeting will be held on Monday, April 15, 2019, at Palmyra High School.

In Old Business the board accepted Byrne and Jones Construction as the responsive bidder for design and construction services for the track and field project at Palmyra High School provided the No Tax increase bond issue passes which will be on the April 2 ballot.

Kirt Malone reported the District was awarded a 2018 Clean Diesel Program grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. This program is funded through the Volkswagen Trust with the goal of reducing dangerous emissions from diesel engines. Palmyra R-1 will receive \$22,000 toward the purchase of a new, cleaner burning school bus while agreeing to retire an older, less efficient school bus.

In new business the board approved the OPAA Management Agreement extension for the 2019-2020 school year.

The board accepted the resignation of Ali Paulsen, MS PE, Elementary Health, and MS Basketball.

The board hired Ashley Wilson as a special education teacher, Julie Vaia, as a special education teacher, Sarah Courtney as the middle school Art teacher, Destiny Kizer as an 8th grade ELA teacher and cheerleading coach, and Alexis Van Nostrand as middle school PE and elementary health teacher as presented.

Tara Claus was hired as the middle school Student Council sponsor as presented. Julie Thrower was hired as the Varsity Girls basketball assistant coach. Tiffany LaFoe was hired as a paraprofessional in the elementary.

The board also re-hired all tenured staff as presented.

The Board approved the updated substitute teacher list as presented.