

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District No RE-1 Valley, Logan County, Colorado**

**Board Workshop
Hagen Administrative Center
February 13, 2017**

The Board of Education conducted a workshop on Monday, February 13, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. and adjourned at 10:03 p.m. A ten minute break was taken at 8:35 p.m.

Director Ball opened the meeting with an outline of how the meeting would be run. Expressing that the 4 day week is just a piece of the budget cuts. It is an idea brought forth by staff to optimize what we are doing and minimize deeper cuts to staff and benefits.

Dr. DeLay provided a very brief explanation of the Boards responsibilities in regards to the budget processing, expressing that even if the board is divided in a vote, once an issue is acted upon, all members will support that decision as a whole. She then provided an overview of the Extra Duty reductions. The object is to reduce spending but keep opportunities for student participation. She also provided a brief overview of the possible savings from moving to a four day school week.

Director Westfall suggested that we brainstorm and develop additional revenue producing opportunities such as advertising on our buses. Other thoughts included: consider putting some schools on a 4 day week while leaving others 5 days, outsourcing some services, hiring an outside consultant, realizing cost and availability will be factors, and making sure there are no "sacred cows." Her most important point is that we need to work with the community not dictate to them. She also presented a 5 column matrix and has asked that all suggested cuts be presented in this format.

The Board heard from several community members Regarding the Four day School Week and the budget process. The overall consensus is that the budget process has not been transparent and the community doesn't have enough information regarding other budget cuts to support a Four Day School Week. The community would like to see all of the cuts being considered before such a big decision is made. They are also requesting a better system of notification of meetings and the dissemination of other district information.

The Board also heard from two teachers at Ayres elementary that are in favor of the 4 Day School Week. They feel it would be a way for us to hire and retain qualified staff, give teachers more time with students each day, and provide better opportunities for planning, training and collaboration.

After a short break Director Ball asked each board member to share which community meetings they attended and what their perceptions were. Overall perceptions were

positive, common concerns were day care issues, length of the school day and what other cuts would be made. He also asked each of them to share their ties to the community and whether or not they had any children in RE-1 Valley schools. All of them are committed to the success of RE-1 Valley Schools, some have current students, some graduates of the District, and some are simply serving the community. It was noted that of the members of the Board only two were elected. The others are filling positions no one else would take.

Principals shared their budget discussion process. They came to Dr. DeLay with the Four Day School Week idea because they see it as the best way to keep staff and smaller class sizes. They have been, and will continue, to look at all programs, activities, and other opportunities to save money. At this point cuts will have to come from positions, benefits, and people. The four day week saves some of those. The purpose in presenting the Four Day Week ahead of everything else is a matter of timing and efficiency. High Schools need to create schedules and get the registration process started, our staff deserves as much notice as possible about next year, and testing has to be the focus in April.

The Board asked the administration to provide their budget processes in as much detail as legally and ethically possible through the use of the 5 column matrix provided by Director Westfall. Administrators agreed to work very hard to complete this task in time for the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2017.



BJ Ball,
Vice President



Myra Westfall,
Secretary/Treasurer

kjh