

Palmyra R-1 Board of Education

Press Release

April 12, 2017

The regular meeting of the Palmyra R-1 Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. in the office of the Board of Education at 1703 S. Main, Palmyra, Missouri.

The board was re-organized with Oneta Crowe, Stephanie Bross and Doug Meyers taking the oath of office as newly elected members. Chuck Keller was elected President; Darin Redd, Vice President; Oneta Crowe, Secretary; and Stephanie Bross, Treasurer. Outgoing Board Vice President Roger Sutter was honored with a plaque of appreciation and recognition for fifteen years of service as a member and leader of the Palmyra R-1 Board of Education.

School nurses, Gigi Lehenbauer and Jennifer Jones, reported to the board on district student health services.

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

Eric Churchwell updated the board on the 2017-2018 Budget process. There are still questions yet to be answered by Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the state legislature concerning the FY 2018 budget. Mr. Churchwell met with the salary committee chairperson and will meet again before the final salary schedule is presented to the board. Currently, there is a \$500 increase to the base salary for teachers along with horizontal and vertical steps on the salary schedule built into the FY 2018 budget. Raising the base salary for teachers as well as non-certified staff, and continuing to contribute to employee HSA accounts are all priorities that will affect the budget. Other highlights in the budget include implementation of the 1:1 iPad initiative in grades K-12, a stipend for a technology coach in each building, a middle school cross country coach, an assistant wrestling coach, and the purchase of a 65 passenger school bus.

The board also discussed the district's sick leave pool and the possibility of employees leaving the district without accumulating 60 sick leave days, being able to donate their unused sick leave to the sick leave pool. This could help lessen the burden on current employees to donate days to the pool.

In old business the board discussed attending the MSBA Spring Regional Meeting held at Highland High School on April 24, 2017.

In new business the board set the date for PRIDE graduation for Sunday, June 4, 2017, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

The board had a first read on MSBA board policy updates.

The board approved the four year lease agreement with Apple Financial Services for the lease purchase of 1,100 iPads. This will implement the 1:1 iPad initiative for students in grades K-12 beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

The board hired (for the school year 2017-18): Nicole Hirner-MS Cross Country Coach, Camille Plunkett-MS Softball Coach, Leisa Hinkle-Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, and Alison Paulsen-MS/ES P.E./Health Teacher, MS Girls Basketball Coach.

The board re-hired all currently employed, non-tenured teaching staff as presented.