

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

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Location: Hagen Administration Center, Sterling, CO

February 27, 2023

6:00 pm

At 6:02 President Shinn called the meeting to order.

Present: Deb County, Dr. Marty Foster, Kelly Jo Harlow, Heather Harris, Dennis Klein, Ron Marostica, Joel McCracken, Ronda Monheiser, Michelle Sharp, and Steven Shinn.

Guests in person: Callie Jones and Scott Szabo.

Guests Remote: Dennis Klein (host), holloways and Melissa Moos

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Five members present, showing a quorum.

2. Approval of Agenda

Director Sharp moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Director Harris seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

3. Public Comment: None

4. SCHOOL/PROGRAM/COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS:

Mrs. Mauler was not available: This will be rescheduled for March 6th or 20th.

5. Communication

5.01 Staff Reports: None

5.02 Superintendent Report:

- Principal Positions

The interview committees for Sterling High School (SHS) and Sterling Middle School (SMS) met this week to screen Principal applicants. Both groups contain strong candidates. Originally five candidates were selected for interviews at SHS and four at SMS. Two candidates called today to say they had accepted other offers; one of them was to interview with both schools. On March 1, 2023, the SMS Interview committee will meet two candidates. On March 2, 2023, the SHS interview committee will meet four candidates. The goal is to have a recommendation from the hiring committees for each position at the March 6, 2023, Board of Education Meeting.

- Swat Call

On the morning of Wednesday, February 22, 2023, Chief Kerr, with the Sterling Police Department, called Dr. Foster to share information regarding a call received threatening a Fort Morgan School. There had been similar calls to other districts threatening violence in order to elicit police response while no actual threat exists; this is referred to as swatting. Dr. Foster and Chief Kerr came up with a procedure to use in the event that Sterling became a target. Directly

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following the conversation with Chief Kerr, Dr. Foster contacted each principal to share the plan and enlisted help from central office staff to make calls to all principals simultaneously. Information regarding the situation was also posted on the website. Just before 1:00 pm Sterling Police Department received a call warning that a person was going to bring a pipe bomb in the front door at Sterling High School. Sterling High School was immediately locked down, meaning lock all doors, all lights off, and everyone out of sight. All other district buildings were locked out meaning no one can enter or leave the building, but inside activities continue as normal. As it happened, police officers were already on site at Sterling High School so the search of the school was quick and efficient. Service from Sterling Police Department and the State patrol were immediate and effective. Dr. Foster also congratulated the Principals and staff for their strong, fast and composed reactions. Sharing: "I can't say enough good things about law enforcement and staff." Twelve Districts across the state were targeted in this event. At this time no arrests have been made.

- School Calendar

Dr. Foster thanked the Calendar Committee for their hard work. The group developed two school calendars. In each case, school starts after the Logan County Fair, and ends before Memorial Day. Spring Break is at the same time as NJC's, and 7 snow days are included. A survey, including options A and B, was sent to parents, staff, and community members. Survey results clearly favored calendar A, as did the committee. If the Board approves this choice, Dr. Foster will meet with principals to advise them of the choice and schedule a time to audit hours and bell schedules with each school to be sure the state requirements are met.

- Summer Maintenance Projects

Dr. Foster will begin discussions with the principals and the finance department regarding the summer maintenance requests. The district has not been able to perform much maintenance the last few years and is hoping to catch up on some things.

Hagen Early Education Intercom System: Mike Manuello has an estimate for an intercom system for Hagen Early Education Center that he will bring to the Board at the next meeting. Although we only have one estimate, he would like to move forward because Nebraska Fire and Safety has provided services before and therefore knows the systems in place, and, with no other distributors in the area, the cost of getting another estimate could be cumbersome.

- Financial Audit

The district has been waiting for months to find out where we stand financially and now the audit is complete. The work done by Deb County, Terry Buswell and Brook Quint has been arduous but they have done an amazing job. You guys are super! Says Dr. Foster, and now we have a starting point.

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5.03 Board of Director Reports

- Director Harris: Thank you to Law Enforcement and Dr. Foster for handling Wednesday's events so well. Congratulations Caliche Basketball for making a good showing at state. Sterling High School's FFA program is doing really fun things. Deb and her staff are Rock Stars, thank you Scott for being here tonight.
- Director Monheiser: Bus Driver Awareness Week was last week, a huge thank you to all bus drivers for helping transport our students. Your help in keeping the wheels going around is very much appreciated. This week is Dr. Seuss week at the elementary schools and many fun things are planned. Thank you Deb County for leading the way through the audit.
- Director Sharp: Read to your child day at the elementary was very fun. One little girl was afraid of me when I got there but by the end, I was her best friend. The first round of applications for the new Early Childhood Program have been submitted. Now the matching begins. Although things are a little hectic we are looking at it as a learning experience. Good job Deb and team.
- Director McCracken: Thanks Deb for coming back. Sterling Boys Basketball had a good season even though they were out sooner than expected. Good Luck Lady Buffs. The district pushed through a couple of tough days without using another snow day. Good turnout for SHS parent teacher conferences. Mrs. Schumacher at SHS has asked about the possibility of electronic payments for the concession stand. It seems students carry a card not cash which can be a problem. We have looked at it in the past but maybe more information can be obtained.
- Director Shinn: Reiterate all the appreciation; even though we may not see it we are grateful for the people who perform day-to-day operations across the District. Deb and her staff have done amazing things and now we can move on with solid information.

6. Discussion Items:

6.01 Audit Presentation, Lauer Szabo and Associates

Scott Szabo, Lauer Szabo, and Associates, reviewed the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2022. The audit was clean and there were no findings. Mr. Szabo credited Deb County, Terry Buswell, and Brook Quint with bringing together the information to make the audit possible. When asked about delays and how to avoid them in the future he stressed the importance of reconciling bank statements each month. He is confident that, with the people now in place, this delay will not happen again.

6.02 2023-2024 Superintendent Contract

As determined at the January 9, 2023, Board Business Meeting, the Board has pursued a contract for Dr. Martin Foster to lengthen his contract as interim superintendent. Tonight the Board will be asked to approve a contract extension to include the 2023-2024 school year. In support of this action Director Monheiser cited Dr. Foster's willingness to work with a team, his ability to customize the placement of human capital and his strong leadership skills. Dr. Foster is grateful for the support and cooperation

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from the Board. He looks forward to moving ahead in a positive direction and preparing the District for the next leader.

6.03 Proposed 2023-2024 District Calendar

Dr. Foster commented on the troublesome winter we've had and assured the Board that the new calendar will include 7 snow days. The calendar committee came up with two calendars that met contact hours required by the State and District expectations of starting after the Logan County Fair, ending before Memorial Day, and having spring break the same week as NJC. Surveys were sent to staff, parents, and community members who overwhelmingly chose calendar A. This is the option the Board is asked to approve later in the meeting.

6.04 Policy for Second Reading

Policy JH: Student Absences and Excuses, is presented for the second reading. As noted in the first reading, the only change to this policy is to give students two days to complete make-up work after an absence instead of one. When asked about getting this information to staff, Dr. Foster said he will share it with principals, and then principals will share it with staff. It will also be in the student handbooks that will come to the Board for approval prior to the beginning of next year.

At 7:17 p.m. the Board took a break

At 7:26 p.m. the Board reconvened

7. Action Items:

7.01 Consent Agenda

- Personnel Approvals
- Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2023

Action Items/Consent Groupings				
Monday, February 27, 2023				
Personnel				
Classified /	Resignation / Retirement	/ Work Agreement:		Effective Date
Jones, Iris	Resignation	Caliche Schools	Head Custodian	2/24/2023
Certified / Contracts / Reassignment / Transfer / Resignations / Disciplinary Actions:				
Classified /	New Hire / Rehire	/ Work Agreement:		
Whitlock, Amanda	New Hire	Six12Online/SHS	Admin Assist/Student Activities Bookkeeper	2/14/2023
Knight, Zachary	New Hire	Sterling Middle School	6th grade Paraeducator	2/9/2023
Montjano, Michael	Transfer	District Wide	SWAP Coordinator from CHS Para	3/6/2023
Clark, Laura	Transfer	District Wide	Family Community Coordinator from SHS	3/6/2023
Gerig, Charyl	New Hire	Sterling High School	Health Assistant	2/14/2023
Gosser, Lorie	Re Hire	Slx12Online	Paraeducator	3/6/2023
Hite-Swofford, Alyssa	Transfer	Sterling Middle School	Administrative Assistant from Campbell	2/7/2023
Certified /	New Hire / Rehire	/ Work Agreement:		
Cox, Bradley	New Hire	Caliche Jr/Sr High School	Substitute Teacher	2/14/2023

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Director Harris moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Director McCracken seconded the motion.

Adopted by unanimous consent

7.02 Summer Audit Presentation: Lauer, Szabo and Associates

Director McCracken moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 District Financial Audit as presented.

Director Harris seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

7.03 Proposed Superintendent Contract

Director Monheiser moved to approve Dr. Martin Foster's contract to serve as Interim Superintendent of RE-1 Valley School District for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

Director Sharp seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

7.04: 2023-2024 Proposed District Calendar

Director Sharp moved to approve the 2023-2024 District Calendar as presented.

Director Monheiser seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

7.05 Policy for Second Reading

- JH: Student Absences and Excuses

Director Monheiser moved to approve policy JH: Student Absences and Excuses, as presented, for second reading.

Director McCracken seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

8. Executive Session: None

9. Executive Session Action: None

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10. Closing Remarks:

Director Harris: Thank you to ALL the staff, a lot of hard work has been done and we have more to do, thank you for sticking with us.

Director Sharp: We should check on the status of the Francis Gillespie Awards. Mary Beth Skerjanec is the point person.

Director Shinn: Difficulty finding people willing to do the work of education in any capacity is common throughout the country. RE-1 has weathered an "imperfect" storm that, by no fault of previous boards or board members, has shaken confidence in our community and our District. Unease with our financial situation produced questions regarding the ability to provide financial security for staff and students. Now that we have tonight's audit report we can address many of those questions and move forward responsibly. The value of community allegiance is immeasurable. That, combined with the contributions of all RE-1 Staff, will be key in making critical decisions. Thank you for your efforts they do not go unnoticed.


Director Monheiser: This meeting was very important to build confidence throughout our community; we now have continued leadership with Dr. Foster and have a much greater understanding of where we stand financially.

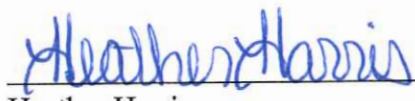
11. Adjournment

Director Monheiser moved to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the Hagen Administrative Center.


Steven Shinn
President


Heather Harris
Secretary/Treasure