

MENA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

June 18, 2009

MINUTES

The Mena School Board met in regular session on Thursday night, June 18, 2009 with the following members present: Robby Hines, Robert Crawford, Edd Puckett, Kyle Cannon, and Will Robbins.

The Board met in executive session at 6:00 to discuss personnel. At 7:00 the Board convened in open session. President Robby Hines called the meeting to order and asked Kyle Cannon to open the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the May and June 2nd special called board meetings were reviewed. Robert Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Will Robbins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

In the Superintendents report Dr. Gathright reported the following:

Mena High School

- ◆Work has begun on the new practice field for band and football behind Holly Harshman. The location was chosen based on the construction that is about to begin at the high school. We did not want our students to be in their construction zone.
- ◆Top dressing the game field, the side practice field, and the front practice field has begun using our staff.
- ◆Mark Shumate began on June 15 with the other administrators at DeGray for the DMEC sponsored administrators' summer training.
- ◆Bridgett Liles has begun her work with the Coordinated School Health position. She is coordinating the CATS Camp for students beginning the ninth grade. This will be a combination low ropes, academic orientation, extracurricular orientation, and general welcome to MHS. Several teachers and administrators will be trained June 29-30. Cliff Sherrer and Shane Torix will be the leaders of the program for the sessions on July 6-7 and 20-21. Next year the sessions will be for all incoming freshmen and will be for 3 days each session.
- ◆The contractor for the dirt work on the new high school will begin the week of the 15th. It will be exciting to see the project begin.
- ◆The revisions have gone to ABA for a revised final review and should be advertised in the next month.
- ◆The extension of the field in the front of the school is beginning. The 9th grade football team and the senior high team will practice on that field. The band will march on the practice field beside the school. The new field is being developed behind Holly with insurance funds to replace the practice field behind the damaged middle school field.

Mena Middle School

- ◆With the decision to keep 7th and 8th at Hatfield and 6th in portables at Holly, a great deal of activity has begun. We are waxing floors and painting at Hatfield. Bookcases are being built for the library. Roofing estimates are being gathered to repair both roofs and to replace ceiling tiles and insulation which has gotten wet. The grounds are being addressed to make the flow of water better and to facilitate the movement of students.
- ◆The request has been made to change the mascot name to Junior Bearcats and Ladycats.
- ◆The building will be moved to Hatfield from Lavaca within the next two weeks. It will be for special education and another classroom teacher. Filing cabinets have been ordered to replace those that were wet.
- ◆Demolition will begin on the cafeteria and auditorium within a week.
- ◆Prior to Dr. Ken James' resignation from the ADE, he and Dr. Gayle Potter agreed that our school improvement status would be frozen at the current level for another year. We will use prior test scores to develop instructional plans for the students needing additional assistance.
- ◆Teachers throughout the district are participating in professional development in Mena, at DMEC, and throughout the state. Four teachers from MMS and Dr. Gathright will attend the Model Schools' Conference in Atlanta at the end of the month.

Holly Harshman

- ◆Literacy Lighthouse was at HH on June 1-5. It was a combination event that allowed teachers to see effective, research-based strategies modeled with our students and professional development opportunities for our teachers in the afternoons to discuss the strategies. It was very well received by students and teachers.
- ◆Camp Invention was June 8-12 with around 80 students participating based on nominations from teachers at Louise Durham and Holly. It involved the students in outdoor activities and the processes involved in pursuing inventions of their creation. Mena teachers served as the instructors and can use some of the ideas in their classrooms next year.
- ◆Portions of the building that are not being used by the camps are being waxed and cleaned.
- ◆Additional work is being conducted on the playground and the new practice field to replace the one which was destroyed by the tornado. The road has also been cut to extend Geyer. The extension of the parking lot began June 8 to get the teachers in the lot rather than the road.
- ◆Master Gardeners have developed the plans for the outdoor teaching areas and gardens to fulfill elements of the State Farm Insurance grant. They should have the beds ready for the students by early July.
- ◆The five portables and one toilet will begin to arrive at the Holly campus for 6th grade during the next two weeks. They will be set-up and ready by the middle of July.

Louise Durham

- ◆Summer school will finish on June 17th. They have had a good group of students. They also offer lunch to the students and to those in the community.
- ◆Repairs are being conducted and floor work will begin the week of June 15.
- Kindergarten enrollment is in line with that of the past few years.

- ◆ Stimulus plans are being developed by Kimberly Pymn and Dr. Gathright based on input gathered by teachers throughout the district and from the community's input.
- ◆ The administration offices are being repaired. New windows have been installed. The siding will be replaced. Bids are being taken for painting the interior and exterior of the building. Carpet is being ordered. New walls are being added to divide the space for the business manager and accounts payable to provide them with a workplace with fewer distractions. Chairs will be ordered to replace those that were damaged during the tornado once insurance totally clears the purchase of that equipment.
- ◆ The meeting with the insurance representatives will be June 18 to get additional insight into the fate of MMS. The gym is being repaired.
- ◆ Insurance for individuals will be \$84.70/month. It was \$112.36 last year.

Ms. Judy Burnett, Mena Middle School Literacy, made a presentation.

The proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year was presented to the Board for approval. Will Robbins made a motion to adopt the attached Proposed Budget of Expenditures with Tax Levy for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 to and including June 30, 2011 as printed. Kyle Cannon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

School building insurance bids were opened. There were 3 bids. Steve Standridge Insurance bid \$48,658 (without general liability and terrorism) \$58,795 (with general liability and terrorism), Mena Insurance Agency, Travelers Insurance, bid \$50,946 (without flood) \$59,905 (with flood) and the Arkansas School Board Association bid \$57,816. Will Robbins made a motion to appoint a sub committee to compare the bids and report back. Kyle Cannon seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion, Will Robbins rescinded his motion. Robert Crawford made a motion to go with Mena Insurance Agency, Travelers Insurance, without the flood insurance. Edd Puckett seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion, Robert Crawford rescinded his motion. Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept Mena Insurance Agency, Travelers Insurance, based on a committee that consists of a board member and their approval. Robert Crawford seconded the motion and the motion carried.

School board policies were presented to the Board. Will Robbins made a motion to accept the school board policies as presented. Edd Puckett seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Student handbooks were presented to the Board. Edd Puckett made a motion to accept the student handbooks as presented. Kyle Cannon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Edd Puckett made the motion to change the name of the mascot at MMS to Junior Bearcats rather than Bearkittens and Junior Ladycats rather than Lady Kittens. Will Robbins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Kyle Cannon made the motion that, due to the increased price of food and transportation, school lunch prices will increase to \$2.00 for all students. Breakfast will be \$1.00, guest breakfast will be \$1.25, Reduced lunch \$.40, Reduced breakfast \$.30, and extra milk \$.30. Student extra trays are \$2.00. Guest lunches are \$2.50. Will Robbins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financial reports were reviewed. No action was necessary.

After reviewing the May bill list, Edd Puckett made a motion that bills be paid. Kyle Cannon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

In personnel matters Dr. Gathright made the following recommendations:

To hire:

- Robyn Shotzman Holly Harshman Principal
- Beverly Wiles 6th Grade Teacher
- Monica Griffin Vocational Teacher

Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept Dr. Gathright's recommendations. Robert Crawford seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dr. Gathright gave the board an update on the meeting she had with Traveler's Insurance.

Kyle Cannon made the motion to adjourn. Robert Crawford seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robby Hines, President

Will Robbins, Secretary