

MENA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
March 17, 2009

MINUTES

The Mena School Board met in regular session on Tuesday night, March 17, 2009 with the following members present: Robby Hines, Robert Crawford, Edd Puckett, Kyle Cannon, Will Robbins and Clint Montgomery.

The Board went into executive session at 6:00 to discuss personnel. Clint Montgomery and Edd Puckett left after executive session.

President Robby Hines called the meeting to order and asked Will Robbins to open the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the February and special called meetings in March 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 architect and engineers are slated to have the plan to Little Rock by March 20. It will take about a month for the review. We will then go to bid. It is looking like we will have more than 20 segments for bids so that a company could get several parts but not all of the package unless it was low bidder on each part.

State testing is being conducted at all schools between now and May 13 for different groups of students.

Coach Jeff Weaver will report to work at Mena on March 30.

Multiple grants have been submitted by various people throughout the district for a variety of needs.

Legislation is going fairly well since there is not much money. A summary will be developed for your information at the end of the session. Continue to contact Rep. Abernathy and Sen. Teague. New information has not been released about the impact of the Stimulus Package on our school. We should get additional funding in special ed and Title I. Hopefully, we will get funds for renovations and repairs to existing buildings.

Enrollment numbers are down to 1954 on March 10 from 1964 last year. That is almost \$60,000 less for next year due to enrollment declines.

The cafeteria audit report was very positive for our district, especially to Cordia Sprague and Sherry Newman. It did highlight that we were not to provide free meals to adults who were not directly employed in the preparation of food or operating the computers.

Congratulations to Heather Clark and Jerry Foster in taking the Ladycats to the state tournament in Pine Bluff.

Many student athletes are involved in spring sports. Take the opportunity to see a baseball or softball game, a soccer match, or track meet. We have excellent spring sports and students needing support. Spring football will begin later in April.

Supplemental Services is being conducted at MMS and is being coordinated by Kimberly Pymn. It is going well.

#### Mena High School

The students listed below received these awards and are eligible to compete again at the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Little Rock on April 7-8. Molly Lindsey is the FBLA sponsor. Pat Flannigan and Karen Purvis also teach business classes with these students. Larry Lindly is the EAST teacher.

Olivia Padilla, 6th in Business Communications  
Jordan Fuchsberger, 6th in Business Procedures  
Lucas Gandy, 5th in Computer Problem Solving  
Jalisia Hickman, 5th in Word Processing II  
Dani Lindsey, 3rd in Word Processing I  
Danielle Skinner, 1st in Business Calculations  
Victoria Bell, 1st in Computer Applications  
Colby Conatser, 1st in Introduction to Technology Concepts  
Amber Brewer, 1st in Personal Finance

Other students placed in the top ten in these events but are not eligible to compete at state.

Mena, 7th in Largest Chapter Membership Marketshare  
Emily Callahan, 9th in Business Law  
Rachel Roberts, 7th in FBLA Principles and Procedures  
Holly Brewer, 10th in Public Speaking I  
Holly Brewer, 5th in Talent Show

Lindy Foster has received two awards. She received the AAA All-Star Cheerleader and the All State Cheerleader Award which was selected by the Arkansas Activities Association. Lindy will participate in the All-Star game representing Mena High School. The AAA All-Star Week will be June 22-26, 2009, at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas. This past Cheerleading season is the first time the Arkansas Athletic Association recognized Cheerleading as an official sport. The Mena High School Cheerleading Squad placed fifth at the State Competition held in Bryant, AR.

Cheerleaders for 2009 - 2010 school year are as follows: Sammy Jo Billingsley, Lacey Brown, Carrie Baker, Leslyn Graves, Holly Brewer, Alyvia Castillo, Alexa Craig, Ashlyn

Godfrey, Clancy Johnson, Amber Lane, Danielle Moore, Devyn Purcell, Adrienne Rose, Celina Walker, Flannery Wilson, and Brittany Willard - Mascot.

Along with the leadership winners below, the Ag Mechanics & Electricity teams both placed 4th and qualified for state for the first time in about six years. Creed 1<sup>st</sup> Britain Morris; Extemp 1<sup>st</sup> Megan Maye; Prepared 2nd Marsha Burns; Opening and Closing Ceremonies 3<sup>rd</sup> Mena; and Parliamentary Procedure 2nd Mena. State competition for Ag Mech & Electricity will be on April 9th & 10th. State for leadership is in June at the state FFA convention.

Mike Collins was chosen to assist the Arkansas Department of Education by serving on the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Selecting Committee for career and technical education.

Jessica Kropp's theatre arts class partners with Linda Collins at Louise Durham to present character skits to go along with the word of the month. The last presentation was Feb. 5th, and the next one will be presented during the following week. Ed the character bee and his friends, Lacy and Theo, explained how kindness is important. The characters were played by Michael Berry, Theodore Schoeppey, and Lacy Colbert.

Congratulations to Stephanie Stroud, TJ Schoeppey, Roger Judkins, and Matt Horner for earning a Superior at the 2009 EAST Partnership Conference in Hot Springs. James McGee, Thomas Wallace, Taylor Rook, and Colby Conatser earned Difference Maker Awards. Larry Lindly is their sponsor.

MHS FBLA raised \$1000 for Arkansas Children's Hospital by sponsoring a Mr. Ladycat Pagent. Molly Lindsey is their sponsor.

Theatre arts students just finished their 2 one-act plays, *Paper and Plastic?* and *Tracks*. They performed March 7 and 8 at the Ouachita Little Theatre. The reviews are in, and everyone agreed that they were excellent.

The Mena Chess Club will be participating in a co-op tournament this week. There are 3 from the High School, 5 from Holly, and 2 from Middle School.

Mike Collins is working on his National Board Certification.

A team from UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health will come to Mena High School on April 9 to interview us about our policies and practices related to physical activity and nutrition. They are studying the changes that public schools have made related to physical activities and nutrition since the passage of Act 1120 of 2003. The team will be lead by Dr. Jim Raczynski and Marcha Phillips from UAMS and Dr. Judy Weber from Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute.

The high school Bearcat Chorus, Spotlight Singers (auditioned ensemble) and middle school Bearkitten Singers attended the Southwest Region choral performance assessment

at Benton High School on Friday, February 27. All three choirs scored Superior in sight reading (studying a piece of music they've never seen before for 3 minutes then singing it before a judge). The Bearcat Chorus and Bearkitten Singers scored Excellent on their three prepared pieces. The Spotlight Singers scored Excellent R on their prepared music. Excellent R means they are recommended for state competition. All students were extremely well-behaved and represented Mena with pride and honor. Tammy Taylor is their director.

#### Mena Middle School

The 6th grade math students raised \$1,891.36 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. They worked very hard to accomplish this goal.

Mena Middle School is participating in a "Penny War" for the upcoming Polk County Relay for Life. Each grade is competing against each other to raise the most money. The grade level that ends up with the most "positive pennies" will get to watch an afternoon movie after benchmark testing. All proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society/Relay for Life. Results will follow.

The Mena Middle School EAST Lab received a Superior rating at the National EAST Partnership Conference at the Hot Springs Convention Center March 3-5. They were given the opportunity to interact with their EAST peers from other EAST programs from Arkansas, California, Illinois, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Iowa and Pennsylvania.

Mena Middle School FCCLA has started a new project called "Fire Station Renovation". The project will include a complete renovation of the Mena Fire Station. Students and parents are volunteering their time to paint, bring in new furniture, new appliance, window treatments, and bed frames/mattresses. This will be a three phase project.

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 28 members of the MMS FCCLA attended the annual spring District 6 Meeting at the Reynolds Theatre on the UCA campus in Conway, AR. MMS Chapter President, April Ganster presented a check in the amount of \$120.00 to the Arkansas Children's Hospital. Money for this donation was raised by our chapter of FCCLA by have a "Crush" sale.

MMS Bearkitten Singers attended the Southwest Region Choral Performance Assessment at Benton High School on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup>. The Bearkitten Singers scored Excellent on their three prepared pieces and Superior in sight reading (studying a piece of music they've never seen before for 3 minutes, then singing it before the judge).

Five teachers at MMS are working on their National Board Certification. They are Judy Burnett, Tommy Johnson, Jamie Williams, Lee Smith, and Lynn Ashley.

#### Holly Harshman

Five teachers are working on their National Board Certification. They are Paula Cox, Teri Evans, Vicky Maye, Doris Wells, and Marsha Riley.

We raised \$179 on yoohoo's for Valentine's Day.

The Papa Pabalano's total was over \$300 since it was 10% of the profit. The crowd was large and very supportive.

Teachers are eagerly anticipating departmentalization for next year and are planning their professional development to address the areas that they will be teaching.

Four teachers are trained to perform Classroom Walk-throughs.

Parent/Teacher conferences are Monday, March 16 at 3:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Buddy Bean is donating time and equipment to clear the tree line at the back of the playground.

Playground relocation began on March 12.

Ray Miller and Melba Head have announced their retirement.

Louise Durham

Louise Durham students are selling candy bars as a fund-raiser. The sale ends Friday, March 13th. PTI sponsored the fund-raiser.

2nd Grade Parent Night was March 10. Parents and students will work on a math activity after teachers make presentation

The word of the month is responsibility. An assembly will be held on March 12 at 1:45 p.m. in the cafeteria to introduce the character word.

Mrs Genung's 1st grade class will sing at Big Bear's Saturday Night Opry on March 14. Show time is 7:00 p.m. Physical education coach Dale Myers is also performing.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are March 16th and 17th from 3:30 - 6:30p.m.

Spring Pictures are March 19.

Author Angela Johnson will speak to Louise Durham students on March 31 at 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Students will be able to purchase her books.

Linda Collins is working on her National Board Certification.

Financial reports were reviewed. No action was necessary.

Kyle Cannon made a motion to change the April board meeting from April 21 to April 20. Robert Crawford seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Kyle Cannon made a motion that due to the decreased gas prices the district rate of mileage reimbursement will be decreased from forty -five (45) cents per mile to forty -two (42) cents per mile as of April 1, 2009. Will Robbins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financial reports were reviewed. No action was necessary.

After reviewing the February bill list, Robert Crawford made a motion that bills be paid. Will Robbins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dr. Gathright recommended accepting the resignations of Rebecca Sprague, Special Ed Teacher at Holly Harshman, and Jeanie Karle, Paraprofessional at Middle School. Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept Dr. Gathright's recommendations. Robert Crawford seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dr. Gathright recommended the renewal of certified personnel contracts for the 2009-2010 school year as listed. Will Robbins made a motion to accept Dr. Gathright's recommendations. Kyle Cannon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dr. Gathright recommended the renewal of certified contracts for Tammy Irons, Scott Bohlman, Patty Pate and Emily Hornbeck conditioned upon their completion of their certification requirements. Robert Crawford made a motion to accept Dr. Gathright's recommendations. Will Robbins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

With no further business, Kyle Cannon made a motion to adjourn. Will Robbins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robby Hines President

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Will Robbins, Secretary