

MENA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

JULY 23, 2013

MINUTES

The Mena School Board met in regular session on Tuesday night, July 23, 2013, in the Administration Building Board Room, with the following members present: Clint Montgomery, Brian Kesterson, Edd Puckett, Will Robbins, Judith Roberson, Robert Hines and Kyle Cannon.

President Montgomery called the meeting to order and asked Edd Puckett to open the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from previous Board meetings were reviewed. Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept the minutes. Judith Roberson seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Weston reported on several upcoming meetings and activities throughout the district: bus driver's will be attending a state and local bus driver meeting, athletic physicals, annual coaches meeting, master plan meeting at the COOP, an administrators retreat, AAEA summer conference in Little Rock, local E-School training, Data Day in Little Rock, employee/spouse welcome back gathering at the Mena High School parking lot / commons area, professional development and building days for teachers and the first day of school August 19th.

Mr. Weston continued with concerns over monies possibly being cut from NSLA funds by the Governor and will attend meetings to continue working on formulas districts use to distribute the funds.

The Polk County County Clerk's office contacted Mr. Weston for approval of the upcoming school board election ballot. Mr. Weston thanked Kyle Cannon, Clint Montgomery, and Brian Kesterson for their service on the board and their desire to continue to serve the district by filing for re-election. All three candidates are unopposed and Mr. Kesterson will not appear on the ballot since his signatures were not submitted on time. With no opposition, Mr. Kesterson is considered a hold over and will serve a three year term. We will hold an election with one box open on election day.

President Montgomery moved to new business. Mr. Weston stated two letters were mailed to insurance companies for bids on school vehicle and bus insurance. One bid was received from Farm Bureau Insurance and opened by President Montgomery. Farm Bureau made a total annual premium bid of \$16,897.72. Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept the bid from Farm Bureau Insurance in the annual premium amount of \$16,897.72. Brian Kesterson seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

Robert Hines made a motion to approve the building petty cash and change funds. Kyle Cannon seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

With no discussion, Will Robbins made a motion to approve the District Board Policies. Robert Hines seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

Will Robbins made a motion to approve building handbooks. Judith Roberson seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept the athletic handbook. Robert Hines seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Marshall presented quotes for athletic insurance. After discussion, Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept Bollinger, Inc. with a quote of \$38,264.00 that includes an increase in physiotherapy from \$50 per visit to \$150 per visit. Brian Kesterson seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Weston contacted Life Touch Photography, our current student photographer, in regard to activity pictures. Life Touch has agreed to begin setting up and prepare for district activity pictures in the future. Due to previous schedules, some activity pictures will be taken this year by a previous photographer. No action was taken.

Will Robbins made a motion to pay bills. Judith Roberson seconded motion and motion carried 7-0.

In personnel matters, Clint Montgomery read the following:

RESIGNATIONS:

Greg Hendrix - Secondary - Social Studies - Mena High School - Head Junior Football, Girls Soccer

Theresa Young - Paraprofessional - Louise Durham Elementary

Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept the resignations. Judith Roberson seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

HIRE:

Andrea Hughes - Secondary - Coach

Mysti Gates - Secondary -

Glenn Edward Kelley - Secondary - Coach

Aaron Pennington - Secondary - Coach -

Tonia Smith - Elementary -

Kimberly Webb - Secondary -

Michaela Van Pelt - Custodian -

Judith Roberson made a motion to accept the hires. Robert Hines seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Weston asked Paulette Sherrer to elaborate on the new elementary ALE program. Mrs. Sherrer informed the board that she and Mr. Sherrer had visited a similar program at Dardanelle Public Schools. Our program will serve ten students in grades 1st thru 6th thru a recommendation process made by the teacher, administration, and parent. The Little Cat

Learning Lab will meet student needs and educate them in a positive climate. Our goal will be for students to re-enter in to the regular education program after six weeks in the ALE classroom. After 6 weeks, the committee will reconvene to reevaluate the student.

Before continuing with restructuring, Mr. Weston informed the board of Gene Hawk's resignation as Maintenance Supervisor, effective August 31, 2013 and recommended the board to accept his resignation. Mr. Weston also proposed and recommended the district hire Gene Hawk Consulting, LLC at a reduced rate for a term of one year.

Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept Mr. Weston's recommendation and proposal. Judith Roberson seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

RESTRUCTURE:

Mr. Weston recommended Joe Bunch as Director of Student Support Services - from 11 months to 12 months. Mr. Bunch will transition in to duties previously provided by Ronnie Duckett, Ricky Clark, and Gene Hawk, who have left our district this year. Mr. Bunch would also direct other student services as they arise. Mr. Bunch will transfer some of his athletic duties to Coach Tim Harper over the coming school year.

Robert Hines made a motion to accept Mr. Weston's recommendation. Judith Roberson seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Weston stated two nurses in our district have been contracted for 8 hours per day for several years and recommended aligning all nurses in the district to 8 hour work days. Mr. Weston recommended the following nurses be increased from 7 1/2 hours per day to 8 hours per day:

Sherry Wood - Nurse -
Norma Foster - Nurse -

Judith Roberson made a motion to accept Mr. Weston's recommendations. Kyle Cannon seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.

With personnel concluded, Mr. Weston recommended the board set pay rates for our substitute teachers, sub paraprofessionals, and sub secretaries hired through SubTeach USA. The pay scale would be as follows:

Substitute Teachers:
High School Diploma: \$65.00 per day
Four Year Degree: \$70.00 per day
Certified Teacher: \$75.00 per day

Substitute Paraprofessionals and secretaries: \$61.00 per day

Kyle Cannon made a motion to set the substitute pay rates as Mr. Weston recommended. Brian Kesterson seconded and motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Weston asked for a special called board meeting for personnel only on Monday, August 12, 2013 at 5:15 p.m. in the Administration Building Board Room.

With no further business, Judith Roberson moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Montgomery, President

Will Robbins, Secretary