

MENA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 30, 2014

MINUTES

The Mena School Board met in regular session on Thursday night, January 30, 2014, in the Administration Building Board Room, with the following members present: Will Robbins, Edd Puckett, Clint Montgomery, Judith Roberson, Robert Hines and Kyle Cannon. Brian Kesterson was absent.

President Robbins asked Judith Roberson to open the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from previous Board meeting were reviewed. Judith Roberson made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Robert Hines seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Weston read a Proclamation signed by Governor Mike Beebe and Secretary of State Mark Martin proclaiming January as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month. Mr. Weston also read highlighted portions of an article in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, published January 12, 2014 and titled State Schools Cash in on Success. After reading the article, Mr. Weston asked Jimma Holder, Principal of Louise Durham Elementary and Paulette Sherrer, Principal of Holly Harshman to present the guidelines on how the reward money could be used. After committees were formed at each building, consisting of the principal, teacher representatives and parents, the guidelines were reviewed and each school elected to receive non-recurring bonuses. Bonuses would be paid to each staff member of Louise Durham Elementary and Holly Harshman Elementary. Mrs. Sherrer stated paper work has been submitted to the department of education for review and final approval before money would be disbursed to the school district.

President Robbins moved to new business.

Paulette Crawford gave a MEA update. At the Louise Durham Elementary carnival, if parents wanted ID cards and finger prints of their child made, resource officer, Joe Quinn was on hand to make them. MEA is in the process of electing officers as well as planning the MEA banquet some time during the week of May 5th – 9th.

Mr. Weston discussed the 5 days missed due to bad weather, December 6th, 9th, and 10th, also January 8th and 9th. Mr. Marshall, Assistant Superintendent stated staff recently was given 4 options to vote on with no clear winner. After discussion, Kyle Cannon made a motion to add the 5 days on to the end of the school calendar with June 2nd being the last day of school. Clint Montgomery seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Weston advised Board members their Statements of Financial Interest are due in the County Clerk's office by January 31, 2014 and can be turned in to the County Clerk or the administration office.

Mr. Marshall stated our district recently secured the Regional 4A Softball Bid to be held May 8th, 9th, and 10th. Mena also will host District Softball and Baseball May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. District Softball and Baseball rotate each year between the 8 participating schools.

The State Softball bid was awarded to Monticello. We decided to withdraw our bid for state Volleyball tournament in 2014 and Lonoke was awarded the bid with State Finals being awarded to Hot Springs Convention Center, Summit Arena.

The School Rewards Program for Louise Durham Elementary and Holly Harshman Elementary was presented in the Superintendent's Report.

Mr. Weston added a couple of informational items: the district's bus inspection is finished. Our Auditors have completed their audit and we should receive their comments and/or findings in a few weeks at which time the board will receive a copy.

Mr. Weston added school liability insurance to the agenda. Mr. Weston received notice of \$5,291 for our liability insurance premium which would run February 1, 2014 thru February 1, 2015. Last year we paid \$5,166. We were offered an additional general liability endorsement at a cost of \$625 with a million dollar limit per occurrence with tort immunity. Mr. Weston recommended the premium of \$5,291 and study the general liability endorsement. Kyle Cannon made a motion to accept Mr. Weston's recommendation. Robert Hines seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Weston reminded the Board of the FFA auction Saturday, February 1st.

Edd Puckett made a motion to pay the bills. Judith Roberson seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

Judith Roberson made a motion to extend Mr. Weston's contract as Superintendent for a term of one year for 2015-2016. Robert Hines seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

In personnel matters, Mr. Weston made the following recommendations:

Resignations:

Tisha White – Paraprofessional Aide – effective 01-31-2014

Amanda Foster – Paraprofessional Aide – effective -1-31-2014

Clint Montgomery made a motion to accept Mr. Weston's personnel recommendations. Kyle Cannon seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Will Robbins, President

Kyle Cannon, Secretary