

Board of Education Regular Meeting
December 20, 2010 07:30PM
Schuyler Central High School Media Center

Present Board Members: Richard Brabec, Jim Mejstrik, Chuck Misek, Virginia Semerad, and Larry Wennekamp; absent Clint Parr

Meeting was called to order by President Wennekamp at 7:38 PM. Those present were Principals Grammer, Baumert, Vrba and Comley, Assistant Principals Cunningham and Cline, Superintendent Stevens, School Counselor Johnson and Curriculum Administrator Gibbons. New 2011 board members, Lumir Jedlicka and Brian Vavricek were in attendance. Student representative Cesar Gonzalez was absent.

All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Wennekamp declared the meeting was preceded by advance notice and declared to be an open session.

Motion to approve the consent agenda passed with a motion by Richard Brabec and a second by Chuck Misek.

Board Requests/Reports

Blueprints have been completed for the roofing project at SMS (Schuyler Middle School) and will be viewed at the January, 2011 meeting. The project consists of putting an entirely new-sloped metal roof on the middle school. The project has been put out for bids.

The entryway-remodeling project has been delayed, as the steel supports originally ordered were deemed not strong enough; reordered beams are scheduled to be delivered in January. In addition, two teachers and one staff member have been relocated to different areas to prepare for construction work planned for the last week in December.

Miss Johnson, school counselor, and Principal Baumert presented proposed changes in the courses to be offered in 2010-2011. Their presentation-included courses added or deleted, changes to the course description book, and an increase in the required mathematics courses. Also discussed were courses offered at SCHS through Central Community College and OdysseyWare to further challenge students.

As the new year begins with two new board members a strong rural/satellite system will be maintained or even made stronger. It was requested by Superintendent Stevens that the new school board develop a philosophy and core beliefs that can be used to direct the administration as the district is led forward.

Board members toured all buildings in the SCS district during two days in December. Comments included: impressed with the facilities, interest in the NIFDI Reading Program at the SES (Schuyler Elementary School,) interest in seeing adequate storage built into the new building on the SES campus, an overall welcoming positive experience, compliments to the maintenance staff, and a suggestion that board meetings might be held at other SCS sites.

A check to SCS was received from Cargill in the amount of \$100,000, the fourth of five scheduled donations.

Action Items

Motion, Mejstrik; second, Semerad to accept all requested curriculum changes for grades 9-12 for the 2011-2012 school year. Motion passed.

Motion, Brabec; second, Mejstrik to accept the resignation of SCHS Principal Joyce Baumert effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Motion passed.

Motion, Brabec; second, Semerad to accept the early retirement incentive payment for Joyce Baumert. Motion passed.

Administrative and Other Reports

Principal Grammer met with the four different Operating Councils over the past two months. District 504R and the Richland School discussed being on the NDE (Nebraska Department of Education) "Needs Improvement list" and the facilities plan involving the building of the K-5 building at the SES site. District 24 discussed replacing cafeteria tables and ways to accomplish this goal. The SMS Operating Council toured the new tech lab and Family-Consumer Science classroom and discussed future facility needs.

Principal Baumert presented the board with graphs from the past five years depicting the percentage of freshman entering 9th grade who needed reading intervention. Programs have been initiated at SES and SMS to address this challenge. SCHS has had a program in place since 2004 to prepare 9th graders for academic discourse at the high school level.

Assistant Principal Cunningham attended a cyber-bullying conference with Mr. Beebe on Monday December 13, 2010. It was hosted by the Anti-Defamation League in Omaha.

Curriculum Director Gibbons reported that SCHS has been labeled a Tier I Persistently Lowest Achieving School because it is a Title I school that is in the Needs Improvement category and that has one of the five lowest set of proficiency averages among the Title I schools that are in the Needs Improvement category. SCHS must make an action plan concerning how we are going to improve scores in order to make the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals and complete an accountability application. An accountability compact team must be assembled; it was requested that some members of the board volunteer to be on this team.

The athletic office has a uniform rotation purchase plan that has been in place since the spring of 2004. This year SCHS will purchase football uniforms for the 2010-2011 season.

Principal Vrba reported at the November 19th in-service, groups of educators from every school and grade-level were encouraged to tour downtown Schuyler and experience our small town, but incredible diversity culture. Teachers were welcomed into 29 different businesses. Principal Comley was approached by representatives from Central Nebraska Community Services Headstart, who would like to make a presentation to the SCS Board in February about their new facility in Schuyler. It was suggested that the school board might be interested in touring the new facility, also.

Plans for the Schuyler Community Resource Center are continuing. The United Way will be contacted about cooperating with us on providing services and personnel for the center. Interviews are scheduled for the director position on January 11th; with the position filled by the 18th of January. The Center, located on the SMS campus, is expected to be operational in first week of March.

Superintendent Stevens stated letter from Principal Joyce Baumert was received on November 29 announcing her retirement from SCS at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. EMC Insurance Company and Folda & Company thanked SCS for placing our insurance business with them. Due to the good claim experience by SCS, a dividend check was received from them. January is School Board Appreciation Month. During the weeks of January 3 thru the 14 public service ads on Fremont radio station KFMT will air ads conveying appreciation to the area school boards. Superintendent Stevens added his special thanks for the service to our school district that our board members provide. A thank you was received from Ken and Jan Kracl and their extended family for condolences received.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Brabec and seconded by Mejstrik to enter into executive session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation and contract to the 2012-2013 school year. Motion passed.

A motion was made to exit executive session at 10:55 PM with a motion by Brabec and a second by Mejstrik. Motion passed

A motion was made by Mejstrik and seconded by Brabec to extend the superintendent's contract through the 2012-2013 school year. Motion passed.

Motion Mejstrik, second, Semerad to adjourn at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathie Marking,
Recording Secretary