

## **Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – May 11, 2015**

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a regular meeting on May 11, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library Room. Board Members present were Melvin Stene, Justin Oswald, Clinton Kramer, Dawn Blain, Brad Stephenson, Corie Mydland and Sharon Songstad. Also present were Jeff Bermes, Superintendent, Sheryl Roberts, District Clerk/Business Manager, and Marilyn Vukonich, High School Principal. Visitors included Christine Bergum, Russ Salo, Jessica Arlian, Kathy Grewell, Doug Whitehead, Jeromey Burke, Hallie Rowlison, Evelyn Fischer, Monica Salo and Patty Bergum.

Melvin Stene, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Additional item added to the agenda was: under New Business, Student Handbooks, First Reading and move Personnel up in the agenda to before New Business.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Mr. Stene explained and asked for public comment. There was none.

### **III. Reports**

#### **a. Negotiation Update**

Mr. Bermes reviewed the proposed agreement with the teachers for the district to contribute \$600 toward health insurance for each teacher for the 2015-16 school year.

#### **b. Building Update**

Mr. Bermes reported that the bleacher maintenance is scheduled for May 28, the gym floors are scheduled for July 28 or 30 and new carpet in the main entrance and Mrs. Fischer's room is planned after school is out.

### **IV. Correspondence** – a thank you note to the Board was passed for trustees to read.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **a. Graduation Updates**

Marilyn Vukonich reviewed how many students are in jeopardy of not graduating for the middle school and high school. After discussion on whether one student should be allowed to walk and receive an empty diploma until after coursework is finished, it was decided the student will not be allowed to walk.

#### **b. Teacher Negotiation**

**Motion made by Clinton Kramer to accept the negotiated agreement with the JTA on health insurance contributions for 2015-16. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **c. New Bus Purchase**

Mr. Bermes recommended purchasing the Bluebird conventional bus at a purchase price of \$95,500 minus the trade-in value of \$14,500 (Bus 2 = \$3,000 and Bus 9 = \$11,500) for a total of \$81,000.

**Motion made to trade in Bus 2 and Bus 9 on a new bus made by Corie Mydland. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion made by Clinton Kramer to purchase a Bluebird conventional bus at a cost of \$95,500 less a total trade-in of \$14,500 for a total of \$81,000 with 60% of the bus purchase coming from high school depreciation fund and 40% from the elementary bus depreciation fund as this new bus will be designated as the main high school activity bus when not used on route. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Finalized Preliminary Budgets

Mr. Bermes reviewed preliminary budgets for next year.

Item VII. Personnel was moved up at the next topic.

**VI. Personnel**

a. Resignations

Mr. Bermes has received resignations from Betsy Suckow, Nicole Means and Jeromey Burke. Mr. Burke addressed the board and said he has really enjoyed teaching at Joliet and will miss his students. As far as his coaching experience, he really enjoyed coaching the teams; however, he worries that “the best interest of the kids” focus is being lost to some degree and that is not beneficial to the team as a whole.

Motion made to accept the resignations of Betsy Suckow, Nicole Means and Jeromey Burke made by Justin Oswald. Clinton Kramer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Hires

c. Mr. Bermes recommended Roberta O’Connor for the high school English position.

Motion made by Sharon Songstad to hire Roberta O’Connor. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bermes recommended hiring coaches as follows:

Head Volleyball	Collette Webber
Assistant Volleyball	Meagan Bleile
MS Volleyball Head	Hallie Spoklie-Luoma
Cross Country Head	Doug Hatten
MS Boys Basketball	George Warburton
Asst. MS BB	Jessie Arlian

Motion made by Corie Mydland to hire coaches as recommended. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Classified Recommendations

Mr. Bermes recommended classified staff hirings as follows:

Janitor	Christine Bergum – 40 hours/week; 2080/year Tammy Taylor– 40 hours/week; 2080/year
Maintenance	Russ Salo– 40 hours/week; 2080/year Dale Limberhand– 40 hours/week; 2080/year plus OT for night security
Bus Drivers	Allen Eik, John Fischer, Sam Smith and Dee Dee Preshinger
Kitchen	Linda Mickle, Head Cook – 40 hours/week starting August 18, 2015 through May 25, 2016 Helen Biorn, Assist Cook—35 hours/week Kelly Songstad, Cook—32 hours/week

Motion made by Clinton Kramer to hire as specified. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Summer School Teachers

Mr. Bermes recommended hiring Lucy Jensen and Carri White as the summer school teachers as they taught last summer. If less than 10 students attend, Miss Jensen will be the only teacher; if between 10 and 20 students, there will be two teachers. He also recommended that students who are not required to attend summer school be charged \$30.00; scholarships will be offered to students who cannot afford to pay.

Motion made by Dawn Blain to hire Lucy Jensen and Carri White for summer school teachers as outlined and to charge \$30.00 per student if attendance is not required by Joliet Schools. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**VII. New Business**

a. Classified Salary Increase

Mr. Bermes recommended a 2% salary increase for all custodial, bus drivers, kitchen workers and teacher aides.

Motion made by Corie Mydland to increase classified salaries by 2% as recommended. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Head Maintenance Salary Increase

Russ Salo has requested a salary increase to \$22.00 per hour. He has compared duties with head maintenance people at neighboring schools. He feels his ability to do more maintenance in-house saves the district money. Discussion followed with the trustees. Melvin Stene recommended the item be tabled until the June meeting. Corie Mydland recommended that the job description be reviewed.

c. Driver's Education Fee Increase

After researching what other schools are charging, Mr. Bermes recommended an increase of \$25.00 to \$175.00.

Motion made by Dawn Blain to increase the driver's education fee to \$175.00. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

d. OdysseyWare Renewal

Mr. Bermes recommended renewing the subscription at a cost of \$9,000 to provide online classes and credit recovery for students.

Motion made by Dawn Blain to renew OdysseyWare at a cost of \$9,000. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

e. High School and Middle School Class Schedule — tabled until the June meeting.

f. Summer Hires

Mr. Bermes requested permission to hire the best applicants for the part-time summer positions depending on experience at about \$9.25 per hour for 32 hours per week.

Motion made by Justin Oswald to allow Mr. Bermes to hire summer help and bring the list back to the board at the June meeting. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

g. High School Principal Salary Proposal

Mr. Bermes recommended a 205-day contract with a salary of \$69,000 plus two-party insurance paid by the district for the 5-12 Principal, Marilyn Vukonich, for the 2015-16 school year.

Motion made by Justin Oswald to approve the salary for Marilyn Vukonich as recommended. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

h. Canvass Votes of School Board Election

Brad Stephenson was presented with a thank you gift for his many years as a trustee. The thank you gift for Clinton Kramer is not complete, but is in the works and will be provided at a later date. Mr. Bermes thanked the outgoing trustees for their service. Chair Melvin Stene read the vote totals from the May 5, 2015 election:

Kathy Grewell	277
Linda Hayden	155
Debran Ivey	77
Clinton Kramer	156
Justin Oswald	186
Douglas A. Whitehead	198

Motion made to accept the election results as presented made by Dawn Blain. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

i. New Trustee Oath of Office

Kathy Grewell, Justin Oswald and Douglas A. Whitehead were sworn in by Clerk Sheryl Roberts and they took their seats.

j. Appointment of Clerk

Mr. Bermes recommended Sheryl Roberts as Clerk of the Board.

Motion made by Justin Oswald to appoint Sheryl Roberts as Clerk of the Board. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

k. Board Re-Organization to Include Committees

Mr. Bermes welcomed the new trustees and provided information to them on training opportunities. Any costs will be paid by the district.

Motion made by Sharon Songstad to nominate Melvin Stene for Chair. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. Motion made by Kathy Grewell to nominate Corie Mydland for Chair. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. Corie does not feel she has the time to fulfill the duties of Chair and declined the nomination. Melvin Stene was elected unanimously.

Motion made by Sharon Songstad to nominate Justin Oswald for Vice-chair. After discussion, Melvin decided to appoint Justin Oswald as the Vice-chair.

Committees were re-organized as follows:

Activities:	Justin Oswald, Sharon Songstad, Dawn Blain, Doug Whitehead
Building/Grounds	Dawn Blain, Sharon Songstad, Justin Oswald
Policy	Melvin Stene, Corie Mydland, Justin Oswald, Kathy Grewell
Insurance	Melvin Stene, Corie Mydland, Doug Whitehead
Transportation	Sharon Songstad, Corie Mydland, Dawn Blain
Negotiations	Justin Oswald, Melvin Stene, Kathy Grewell
Hiring	Melvin Stene, Sharon Songstad, Kathy Grewell

Mr. Bermes reminded the Hiring Committee that teacher interviews are scheduled for tomorrow. An Activities Committee meeting to fill coaching positions was set for May 20. A workshop on the Open Meeting Law is being held May 18, if anyone wishes to attend. Mr. Bermes will check with Mr. Weldon about scheduling an in-house trustee training for later. Chairman Stene cautioned trustees of the problems that can develop because of comments made on social media.

I. First Reading of Teacher Handbook and Student Handbook

Mrs. Vukonich handed out copies of the Teacher Handbook and Student Handbook to the trustees. She reviewed her recommended changes in the handbooks. Discussion followed. The second reading will be at the regular June meeting.

VIII. Superintendent/Principal/Business Manager Reports

Mrs. Vukonich handed out her report and reviewed the items.

Mr. Bermes reported that he would like permission to offer the Head Football contract to Garth Forney and then bring it to the June meeting. Permission was granted. Trustees who wish to sit on stage for graduation need to be here by 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Eight grade graduation will be Tuesday at 5:50 p.m., so be here at 5:00 p.m. if you wish to sit on stage. He hopes to have final determinations for the elementary teachers soon.

Patty Bergum-Nafts handed out the AD report, sports schedules and the district basketball tournament finances report and reviewed them.

IX. Items for the next agenda

- Item #1 Head Maintenance Salary Increase & Job Description
- Item #2 Summer Workers
- Item #3 Bus Routes
- Item #4 Final Budget Expenditures
- Item #5 Summer Projects

The next regular board meeting will be held on June 8, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Library.

Dawn Blain made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Corie Mydland seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

Approved 6-8-2015

Clerk Sheryl Roberts

Chairman Alicia R. Stone