

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Board Meeting  
De Soto Middle/High School LMC 6:30 P.M.  
Monday, April 20, 2015

MEMBERS

Present	Absent
Rick Pedretti, President	
Jess Boardman, Vice President	
Dan Fladhammer	
Geri Fox	
Kirk Holliday, Treasurer	
Jeff Long	
Dean Penkalski	
Kevin Walleser	
Tarasa Lown, Clerk	
James Kuchta, Superintendent	

The Regular meeting of the De Soto Area School District Board of Education was called to order at 6:32p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2015, by Board President Rick Pedretti. All Board members were present.

The meeting was publicized by posting on the school doors, banks and post offices in De Soto, Ferryville, Genoa and Stoddard, Pedretti's in Genoa, Pronto in De Soto, and Red Mound Store on 4/17/2015, printed in the Broadcaster on 4/16/15 and broadcast over WVRQ Radio.

Motion was made by Tarasa Lown and seconded by Geri Fox to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Public comment time:

1. Amy Hysel – Expressed concerns regarding staff's inability to talk about how they feel without being punished.
2. Jenny Jaekel, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Stoddard – Concerned about talk of key teaching positions being cut.
3. Allison Aakre, 2<sup>nd</sup> year in district – Expressed concern for quality education De Soto can offer. Take stuff before staff.
4. Mary Radke – Concerned about backlash of speaking out.
5. Michelle Tryggestad – Urged Board to cut stuff not staff. Consider each option on list. One librarian cannot create a culture of learning if split between 3 buildings.
6. Cheryl Russell, concerned parent – Expressed concern about lack of trained staff in the library and impact on children.
7. Lynn David, Volunteer at library – Recommend trimming budget somewhere other than staff.
8. Ronda Nelson – Noted Linda Townsends 23 years in the district. Noted that voice at times feels lost. Relies on librarian for classroom resources.
9. Kristen Gamer, Two children in district – Concerned about decision to take staff without consideration of other options. Noted value of "Battle of the Books". Noted if many positions are pulled her children will go to another district.

Committee and other reports:

Sandy Malliet and Diane Pertzborn presented on the Baird Forecast Model.

Jim Kuchta, District Administrator, reviewed the Administrative Team proposal for cuts which were recommended to the Personnel & Finance Committee on April 16, 2015.

Jeff Springer and Clay Sterling presented information on Dairyland Power Solar Project.

The Building and Grounds/Transportation Committee met on April 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss Bus Contract, Bulk Diesel Fuel, Track & Field and Lighting Upgrade. The Personnel & Finance Committee met on April 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2015-16 School Budget and Personnel items.

Motion was made by Dan Fladhammer and seconded by Dean Penkalski that the receipts and expenditures, vouchers #40623 - #40743 in the amount of \$486,584.06 be approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jess Boardman and seconded by Jeff Long that the minutes of the March 16, 2015 board meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Community members involved with creating community walking trails discussed the project and requested a letter an easement to have the path cross school owned property. Motion was made by Jeff Long and seconded by Dan Fladhammer to approve an easement for the Community Trail. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Tarasa Lown and seconded by Jess Boardman to approve Michael Chapes for volunteer Track coach, Mike Jungblut for JV/Freshman Baseball coach for 2015 and Kirsten Jandrin for PK-12 Guidance Counselor starting for the 2015-16 School Year. Motion carried.

The 2015-16 School Calendar will be adjusted to remove Early Release days. One will become a full student day and the remaining 2 will become full inservice days for teachers. Motion was made by Kevin Walleser and seconded by Geri Fox to approve the change to the 2015-16 School Calendar. Motion carried.

Newly elected Board Members; Shirley Alton, Daniel Fladhammer and Dean Penkalski; took the Oath of Office. Although the oath was administered, the term of office begins on the fourth Monday in April.

Policies – First Reading:

The following policy was presented:

141 Board Officers

Motion was made by Dean Penkalski and seconded by Tarasa Lown to approve the first reading of policy 141 Board Officers. Motion carried.

Policies – Second Reading:

Motion was made by Jeff Long and seconded by Jess Boardman to approve the second reading of policy 173 Board Organizational Meeting. Motion carried.

Additional bids were requested for Student Accident Insurance and presented for review. Motion was made by Tarasa Lown and seconded by Dean Penkalski to approve the quote from Student Assurance Services Inc. for Student Accident Insurance for 2015-16. Motion carried.

School Board Attorney Shana Lewis is part of a new firm Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy, S.C. as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. She has retained all of the De Soto Area School District records and will continue to serve our district as she has for many years.

Motion was made by Jess Boardman and seconded by Geri Fox to approve the Youth Options request from Jessica King for the 2015-16 school year. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Walleser and seconded by Tarasa Lown to approve the Minnesota Coaches Transportation Agreement 1 year extension at a 4% increase for busing for 2015-16. Motion carried.

Updates were given for long range planning that has begun as part of Vision 2020/2025.

Superintendent Jim Kuchta provided the Board with a survey link to complete a ranking of the current list of Core Values. All staff have been asked to rank the same items.

Motion was made by Dan Fladhammer and seconded by Tarasa Lown to adjourn to Closed Session WI Stats. 19.85(1)(c) – Personnel and Consideration of Non-Renewal. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Dan Fladhammer and seconded by Kirk Holliday to reconvene into Open Session. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeff Long and seconded by Dan Fladhammer to rescind the issuance of teaching contracts as noted in the March 16, 2015 Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Geri Fox and seconded by Kirk Holliday to approve the Special Education Director, Technology Director, Bookkeeper and Alternative Education Coordinator job descriptions. Motion carried.

Tarasa Lown presented an update regarding the Ready Camp program.

#### Reports

**Principals' Reports:** Kelly Olson, Prairie View Elementary, reported that both elementary schools held reading challenges during the month of March. 519 hours of reading were recorded between the 2 schools. Mr. Olson also shared information about Reflex Math, a new program designed for 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Over 1.4 million math facts have been correctly answered by De Soto students this school year on the Reflex Math Program.

Linzi Gronning, Middle/High School Principal, reported on results of the recent Forensics State competition. She also shared that High School students recently participated in the UW-Platteville Engineering Bridge Competition.

**Directors' Reports:** Caron Malin, Special Education Director, reported on state testing for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades taking the ACT Aspire test. She also shared that Educator Effectiveness evaluations are being completed and teachers are adding artifacts due by May 8<sup>th</sup>. The special Education duties are being reviewed.

**District Administrators' Reports:** Jim Kuchta reported that the administrative team should be commended for the excellent input and discussion regarding the difficult budget deficit facing the district. He also commended the school board for scheduling an additional meeting to listen to staff and community input on Wednesday, April 22.

Items for the May 2015 board meeting: Nothing reported.

Motion was made by Tarasa Lown and seconded by Geri Fox to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Tarasa Lown, Clerk