

SOUTH NODAWAY R-IV SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 16, 2011

A quorum being present and due notice having been published according to Section 610.010 & 610.022 RSMo, the regular meeting of the South Nodaway R-IV Board of Education was called to order by President Lori Murphy on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 7:04 p.m. in the lunch room at the high school in Barnard, Missouri.

Members Present: Lori Murphy – President;– Steve Farnan - Vice President; Chris LaMaster – Member; Shawn Beck – Member; Rick Holtman – Member; Janet Hilsabeck – Member; and Macia Kemper – Member. Other School Personnel Present: Darbi Bauman, Elementary Principal; Shawn Emerson, High School Principal; Kyle Collins, Superintendent and Tracy Skoglund, Board Secretary and patron Nathan Langford.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda and/or additions

Approval of Minutes (October 19, 2011 regular & executive meeting minutes)

Approval of Principals’ and Superintendent’s Reports

Approval of Warrant #5

Approval of John T. Belcher Scholarship Nominee: Matt McConkey

Approval of 2011 Free and Reduced Lunch Verification Report: 40% F&R

Approval of Elementary and High School Facilities Safety Reports

Approval of Board of Education Filing- “The District will have two board openings (three year terms). Qualified applicants need to file the necessary forms with Board Secretary at the Barnard school building during the following times: December 13, 2011 through December 21, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; January 4, 2012 through January 13, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. and January 17, 2012 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The office would be closed should school be cancelled for inclement weather.”

Lori Murphy motioned and Steve Farnan seconded to accept the consent agenda. The motion carried 7-0.

Teacher Representative Comments

Dorothy Nelson, High School Special Education Teacher gave members a written report and highlighted items for them. She commented on what a wonderful addition her new paraprofessionals; Judy Ross and Darlene Conover are to her department. She talked about preparing our students to transition from the school environment to the real world and the process this involves. Mrs. Nelson is now a member of the NOCOMO board and strongly believes in helping these types of work opportunities stay open and available for students after high school. She also talked about how we are one of a few districts that have our students lead their own IEP meetings.

Elementary, High School, and Superintendent’s Reports

Elementary Principal Darbi Bauman commented in her written report that ADA – 90.6 (97.7%). They had launched a new volunteer program for dads called Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students). They had 65% of all of our children in attendance with their dad, step dad, grandfather, brother, friend, or an uncle on October 26 for our first “Dads and Kids Pizza Night”. The 5th and 6th graders traveled to Camp Farwesta on Friday, November 11, to participate in the Peace Unlimited Challenge Course. The day

involved a variety of activities that focused on team building, encouraged thinking outside of the box and problem solving. Bullying issues was also an element of the program. “Reading is Out of this World” was the theme of the Elementary reading fair on Monday, November 7th. Students were greeted by Princess Leia (Vikki Spire) from Star Wars. Students attended a story telling session until 7:00. Then children and parents were entertained by Will Stuck of the St. Joseph Library. Our “Library Ladies”, who volunteer at the high school, handed out free books to children. Book Clubs and Literacy Events are currently taking place after school in Kindergarten, third grade and sixth grade. Mrs. Bauman shared with the Board this quote, “Though the facilities for learning may move from one place to another, education goes on. The things that happen to the hearts and lives of the students make a difference where ever they go. Memories carry people into the past but the things learned are a part of today and tomorrow.” This quote was written by Winnifred Nelson Negaard and Mary Ethel Oliver Pugh about the formation of the South Nodaway School District and can be found in the front hall of the elementary in the school history section. She stated we are doing the right thing for our school district but more importantly we are doing what is right for our students. A quote from one of our sixth graders this past week stated, “I want my children to go to South Nodaway so we need to keep it.”

High School Principal Shawn Emerson gave the board a written report showing that the November attendance was 96.4%. The football season finished 3-7 but we were pleased to congratulate Cody Burden, Tom Fletchall, Zach Hilabeck who were named to the All-Conference Team, Matt McConkey was named honorable Mention Zach Hilsabeck was named all District on both offense and defense. Brooke Wolf also received post-season honors and was selected All-State-2nd Team catcher. Our band placed 2nd in Northwest Homecoming parade on October 22 and our Choir participated in the PVC Choir on November 7. Principal Emerson had attended a Rural Advocates meeting on the 24th that discussed using the ITV more than it is currently used. He also attended an A+ meeting in Trenton. The state has added that students must be proficient or advanced on Algebra 1 test as part of new regulations for A+ beginning with the class of 2015. Recent events for the high school included the Veteran’s Day Assembly on November 11th, a blood drive on November 14, and the fall Sports Banquet on November 22nd at 6:00 p.m. The junior high and high school music concert date has been set for December 20th.

Superintendent Kyle Collins reviewed with the board that the flyers were sent to the patrons and the media had completed news stories on our building consolidation issue. We appreciate all the positive coverage from the media. Dr. Collins had developed a hypothetical financial view of what could happen in the event this issue does or does not pass. Dr. Collins attempted to paint a “worst case scenario” in the revenue side of this projection by predicting a 20% reduction in state aid for three years, a 10% reduction for two years a 5% reduction for one year and then a return to normal funding after six. By doing this it clearly shows that we could not afford to do repairs to either building and we would be out of money by the 2018-19 school year if we attempted to keep both buildings open.

The hypothetical did not assume any pay raises, increased insurance cost or any other budgetary considerations beyond the 1% increases, so it is a very conservative estimate of what the savings actually may be.. The hypothetical did not reflect capital outlay for any repair or renovation issues. Even though this is hypothetical, he felt it painted a very good and accurate picture of the possibility for savings. The reserve balances are much harder to predict because they are based entirely on assumptions regarding state funding levels and makes no attempt to figure added costs to

other areas of the budget. However, it is important to note that the savings of closing the building will be there regardless of the level of state funding.

He emphasized that the board must continue to do what they believe is right for the students of this district and that is what really counts. We simply cannot afford the repairs, it will continue to deteriorate and we need the savings. Keeping both buildings open is not a sustainable long-term option. This is not an issue about “wants”; this is an issue about “needs”. Even if funding was at normal levels, it would be inadvisable to spend the kind of money required to repair a building that old and in that condition. If the district wishes to have a sustainable school system for the next twenty years this issue must be addressed now. South Nodaway is at a crossroads. One path leads to a sustainable vibrant school district with a school and facilities the community can be proud of. It is a path that will highly increase the likelihood that whatever happens with the economy and school planning over the next several years South Nodaway will be a key player. The other path leads to an unsustainable operating budget with more and more of the budget each year going to repair and maintenance of aging facilities. This condition will lead to program cuts, staff reductions, and teachers, administrators and support personnel leaving the district for better paying jobs. Eventually and inevitably the South Nodaway R-IV School District will cease to exist.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vote to place a General Obligation bond on the ballot in April 2012 in the amount of \$1.1M for the purpose of constructing an elementary classroom addition to the high school facility and making repairs and renovations to the high school facility

Dr. Collins had informed members that Larry Hart from LJ Hart & Associates (our bonding company) had called and we cannot do a Lease Purchase agreement for a simple majority when the levy will be over \$6.00. Instead, we must now do a general obligation bond. Shawn Beck made a motion to place a general obligation bond on the ballot in April 2012 in the amount of \$1.1 million dollars for the purpose of constructing an elementary classroom addition to the high school facility and making repairs and renovations to the high school facility. Rick Holtman seconded the motion and the motion carried 7-0. The Board instructed Principal Emerson to meet with the students at the high school to explain the issue. Dr. Collins handed out a sample survey to the board that he would like to give to all the patrons of the district. The board asked him to add some items to the survey and send it out as soon as possible after checking with the attorney. The board instructed Mrs. Bauman to add instructions on where to take the survey to her newsletter. The survey will be on the website and we will develop flyers to catch the patrons who do not look at our website.

Transfer of Funds from General to Capital Projects

Chris LaMaster made a motion to transfer from the General (Incidental) Fund to the Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$162,326 for capital outlay expenditures Per Section 165.011, RSMo and that the Board resolves to use said funds for the purpose of repairs to the high school roofs, walls, foundation repair, chimney removal, and project management fees associated with this work. It is estimated that this work will begin in fall of 2011 and continue until repairs have been completed. Anticipated date of completion is summer of 2012. Macia Kemper seconded this motion and the motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Discussion of Architectural Plans for Elementary Addition

Dr. Collins had given board members a copy of the architect’s design for the elementary addition in their packet. Some discussion was held. Mrs. Bauman indicated that she is planning to have students plan the playground. The Board instructed Dr. Collins to meet again with the architect and get more finalized plans that included where the playground area will be etc.

Review Scope of Work and Timeline for Repairs scheduled for the High School

Dr. Collins commented that he had contacted Steve Roberts of Complete Roofing Source that had completed the envelope audit earlier on the building. Steve would be conducting the bid meeting and supervising the repairs at the High School. According to the plans, repair bids should start in November.

Superintendent Evaluation Process

The Superintendent evaluation process had been reviewed last year and changes were made. A new evaluation form along with an official superintendent job description had been adopted. The board was given again copies of these documents in preparation for Dr. Collins evaluation in January and the new procedure was reviewed.

Compliance with Board Policy FC on School Closings, Consolidations, and Reorganizations

Dr. Collins had given the members a copy of Board Policy FC which requires us to have a public hearing for the purpose of discussing any proposed facility closing. He stated that we need to set a date and discuss a format for this hearing. Chris LaMaster made a motion to have the public hearing on December 7, 2011 at 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Rick Holtman seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0. The board planned a working board meeting for December 4, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. to finalize preparations for the public hearing.

Adjournment

Lori Murphy made a motion to adjourn and Janet Beattie seconded the motion. It carried 7-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m. The next regular board meeting was scheduled to be at 7:00 p.m. December 21, 2011 with a working board meeting on December 4, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. and a public hearing on December 7, 2011 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium

Approved by the South Nodaway R-IV Board of Education.

President

Secretary