

PALMYRA DISTRICT OR-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: October 11, 2011

**A.** A meeting of the Board of Education of Palmyra District OR-1 Public Schools was convened in open and public session on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library at the Palmyra District OR-1 Public Schools 425 F Street Palmyra, Nebraska. The roll was called and the following Board members were present or absent:

Present: Members present: Jaimi Calfee, Mark Clem, Clayton Maahs, Larry Royal and Kevin Schroder and Doug Church.

Also Present: School Administrators Superintendent Robert Hanger, Elementary Principal Steve Robb and Becky Hall.

Absent: None

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. The Secretary of the Board maintains a list of the media requesting notification of meetings and advance notification to the listed media of the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be discussed at this meeting was provided. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the Agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public .

**B.** Meeting called to order by Board of Education President Maahs at 7:31 p.m.

Announcement of Open Meetings Act Posting.

At the beginning of this meeting, the Chair announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the South wall of the meeting room.

Motion by Clem, seconded by Church to approve all items on the consent agenda including minutes of the last meeting, claims and financial reports. After discussion and roll call vote:

\$60,890.94 General Fund

\$339,220.19 Payroll

\$331.00 Activity Fund Reimbursement

Voting Yes: Calfee, Clem, Maahs, Royal, Schroder, Church  
Voting No: None  
Absent:  
Motion Passed: 6-0

**C. Scheduled Audiences: None**

**D. Unscheduled Audiences: None**

**E. Action Items**

1. Motion by Royal, seconded by Church to amend Policy 402.01 Equal Opportunity Employment.

Voting Yes: Calfee, Clem, Maahs, Royal, Schroder, Church  
Voting No: None  
Absent:  
Motion Passed: 6-0

2. Motion by Schroder, seconded by Church to amend Policy 501.0 Objectives for Equal Educational Opportunities for Students.

Voting Yes: Calfee, Clem, Maahs, Royal, Schroder, Church  
Voting No: None  
Absent:  
Motion Passed: 6-0

3. Motion by Calfee, seconded by Royal to amend Policy 103 Equal Educational Opportunity.

Voting Yes: Calfee, Clem, Maahs, Royal, Schroder, Church  
Voting No: None  
Absent:  
Motion Passed: 6-0

4. Motion by Calfee, seconded by Schroder to amend the 2011-2012 negotiated agreement and accept the Educators Health Alliance premium holiday as presented.

Voting Yes: Calfee, Clem, Maahs, Royal, Schroder, Church  
Voting No: None  
Absent:  
Motion Passed: 6-0

## **F. Discussion Items**

1. The Board reviewed and discussed feedback from the School Community Essential Planning process.

## **G. Communication**

None

## **H. Elementary Principal's Report**

October 11, 2011

### **MAPS Assessments**

We are completing our first round of MAPS Testing this week. Things have gone fairly smoothly. We are now learning how to access and read the data from these assessments to help teachers make instructional decisions for the school year. The data from these assessments correlates to very closely to our NE. State Standards in Reading, Math, and Science. We will be doing another round of assessments in January, to start measuring growth for our students. We will start assessing the K.G. and First Grades in January also.

### **Fire Safety Week**

The week of Oct. 10 – 16 is Fire Safety Week across the country. Our Bennet Fire and Rescue Dept will be on hand to conduct the annual fire safety day assembly and fire drill on Wednesday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Protect Your Family From Fire!" They will be helping our students to look for common fire hazards in the home. The Bennet Fire Dept. will host its Open House on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Station. There will be a pancake breakfast along with many displays and demonstrations. It is a great chance for our students to thank a fireman in person for all of their hard work.

### **iPod Lab**

We are getting our iPod lab up and running. Mrs. Hanger, Ms. Winter and Mr. Brown are getting apps installed on each of the iPods. When loaded with the apps the iPods will be able to be checked out to classrooms. There will have a variety of skills and subject area apps for all different grade levels.

### **End of 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.**

The first quarter ends on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>! It's hard to believe that we have one quarter of the year already past us! Report Cards will be going out on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Our P-T Conferences were a success again this year. We had almost 100% attendance either at the conferences on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> or with follow up meetings after conferences. Our Boosters provided a fine lunch for the staff. Staff reported that conferences with parents went very smoothly.

## **Playground Project**

Our Playground Project is about to get underway. Dirt work will start next week. The sprinkler system and sod will be installed before the end of the month if the weather holds.

## **I. Secondary Principal's Report**

October 11, 2011

### 1. End of First Quarter

October 14 is the end of the first quarter and rapidly approaching. We are making every effort to help kids pass the first quarter, and to inform parents of those who are struggling.

### 2. Fall Testing

MAPS testing is underway. This is our first attempt at testing kids electronically. We are working out the kinks as we go. Overall, not too bad. Mr. Brown, Mr. Smidt, Mrs. Kai have been very helpful in this process. The other staff involved are: Mr. Pollock, Mrs. Buescher, Mrs. Church, Ms. Schmidt, Mr. Maas, Mr. Jensen. They have been very patient, and cooperative. Finally, from all reports the students have made the kind of effort, so far, that we expect.

### 3. Palmyra FFA at Southeast Area Land Judging Contest

Palmyra FFA and agriculture students competed in the Southeast Area Land Judging Contest

Tuesday Oct. 4 at Beatrice: There were 160 students from area schools comprising 43 teams,

determining slope, soil textures, erosion, how to use the land and what treatments to apply to the

land. Palmyra had 5 of the top 9 individuals in the contest with Coleton Lovell placing 1st, McKenzie Reynoldson 3rd, Steve Wilson 6th Nick Wensel 8th and Derik Vogt 9th.

The team of Coleton Lovell, Brandon Brown, Michael Roath and Jamie Hillman were the 2nd place team, qualifying them to compete at the State Land Judging Contest in Wahoo,

Nov. 2. Palmyra members did very well at the contest earning 7 of the 18 team ribbons and 25 of the 36 members won individual ribbons awarded at the contest.

### 4. Graduation Requirement Survey

Included with my report is a survey conducted by Conestoga and shared with me by their principal. As you can see, we are very similar to most schools, in the 225-250 credits

required range. As you can also see, Conestoga is proposing moving to a 270 credit requirement.

#### 5. Parent teacher conferences

This was an excellent turn out!

7<sup>th</sup> – 29/38 – 76%

8<sup>th</sup> – 25/29 – 86%

9<sup>th</sup> – 19/23 – 69%

10<sup>th</sup> – 30/37 – 81%

11<sup>th</sup> – 19/28 – 66%

12<sup>th</sup> – 19/33 – 57%

**Total – 137/187 – 73%**

#### **J. Assistant Principal/Activities Director Report**

October 11, 2011

The Board of Education reviewed upcoming events and activities.

#### **K. Superintendents Report and Recommendations**

October 11, 2011

1. The 2011 NASB State Education Conference is scheduled to be held November 16, 17, 18 at the La Vista Conference Center. Registrations are due by October 20<sup>nd</sup>. Please let me know if you would like to attend and we can complete the registration process.
2. The Board reviewed Last Friday in September enrollment report submitted to NDE showing a total enrollment of 442 in Pre K through grade 12.
3. The annual Safety inspection was conducted on October 1, 2011 and is indicative of our efforts to maintain and improve conditions at both campuses. The report shows improvement as well as some areas where we can improve and is included for your review.
4. The Nebraska Department of Revenue has reached a settlement with Black Hills Nebraska Gas Company regarding their appeal of the 2010 certified taxable value. Pursuant to State Statute Section 77-1736.06 the County Treasurer is required to refund the amount of overpayment resulting in District OR-1 refunding \$6718.28 from the General Fund and \$655.22 from the Bond Fund. This amount will reduce our September collection correspondingly.
5. Building and Grounds: Bid for the elementary playground dirt work, sprinkler and sod project has been awarded with modifications made to the dirt work and the inclusion of a

booster pump for the sprinklers. Total project cost is under what was originally estimated including the change orders.

6. The Nebraska Department of Property Assessment and Taxation annually determines the value of property within given political sub-divisions. The Nebraska Department of Property Assessment and Taxation whose calculations are used by NDE school finance in calculating local resources, adversely affects a school district in the school finance formula when a county assessment of property is less than the figure that is determined by the Nebraska Department of Property Assessment and Taxation. In addition to the resulting loss in state aid, the district is able to generate property tax dollars only at the value of property values as determined by the county assessors. As indicated in the following chart, the assessments for 2002 thru 2011. The figures indicate the difference between the county assessor's total valuation and the value as determined by the NE Dept. of Property Assessment & Taxation. The difference this year between unadjusted and adjusted property assessments has been set at \$3,897,622 up from \$1,843,937 in fiscal 2010.

#### **L. Board of Education Development**

1. The Board reviewed dates for the NASB conference and the registration process.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was duly adjourned at 9:08 o'clock p.m. on October 11, 2011.

**Next Board Meeting-** Regular Meeting November 14, 2011 Work sessions October 24, November 7, 2011.

This is a draft copy of the Board of Education minutes that does not become official until approved by the Board.