

PALMYRA DISTRICT OR-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: December 13, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Education of Palmyra District OR-1 Public Schools was convened in open and public session on Monday, December 13, 2010, 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: Clayton Maahs, Mike Powers, Kevin Schroder and Lori Bruss. Mark Clem arrived at 7:35, Jami Calfee arrived at 7:50.

Also Present: School Administrators Superintendent Robert Hanger, Elementary Principal Steve Robb, Secondary Principal David Bottrell. Also in attendance were Richard Powers, Abigail Powers, Mary Powers, Cheryl Gerstenschlager, Doug Church, Larry Royal and Kim Svoboda.

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.

Meeting called to order by Board of Education President Maahs at 7:30.

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 Bruss, seconded by Clem to approve all items on the consent agenda as provided. After discussion and roll call vote:

\$86,582.55 General Fund

\$332,380.14 Payroll

\$ 207.52 Activity Fund Reimbursement

\$ 293,192.50 Bond Fund

\$1,948.00 Building Fund

Voting Yes: Bruss, Clem, Maahs, Powers, Schroder
Voting No: None
Absent: Calfee
Motion Passed: 5-0

Scheduled Audiences:

Board Vice President Mike Powers addressed the Board in reflection of 16 years of service to the patrons, students and staff of District OR-1 sharing a gift and advice for each Board member.

Unscheduled Audiences:

Richard Powers expressed his gratitude and thanks for service offered by the Board and by Mike Powers recognizing the amount of time offered to District OR-1.

E. Action Items

1. Motion by Schroder seconded by Clem to accept the 2010 Audit Report.

Voting Yes: Bruss, Clem, Maahs, Powers, Schroder
Voting No: None
Abstain: Calfee
Motion Passed: 5-1

2. Motion by Calfee, seconded by Bruss to approve the Annual Performance Report.

Voting Yes: Bruss, Calfee, Clem, Maahs, Powers, Schroder
Voting No: None
Motion Passed: 6-0

3. Motion by Clem, seconded by Bruss to approve Superintendents contract.

Voting Yes: Bruss, Calfee, Clem, Maahs, Powers, Schroder
Voting No: None
Motion Passed: 6-0

F. Discussion Items

1. Board members discussed the NASB conference held in Omaha November 18-19. Highlights included sessions related to technology, character development, board relations and student economics courses.

G. Communication

1. Becky Hall and staff thanked the Board and Administrative team for recognizing the efforts of our instructional and support staff during American Education Week.

H. Elementary Principal's Report

December 8, 2010

1. Bennet Winter Music Program

A full house was on hand Tuesday, November 30th for the annual Bennet Elementary Winter Music Program. Students in grades K-3 performed "Winter Fun", while grades 4 – 6 performed "Holiday of Music." In addition, the Bennet Singers, a group of fifth and sixth grade students sang two seasonal tunes, and of course the fifth and sixth grade bands performed several holiday songs. The kindergarten class was a big hit as always when they sang "Ginger Bread Cookies." The fourth grade did a great job with their number, "Clumsy Reindeer." The Bennet Singers did wonderfully with the tune "Do You Hear."

Thanks to all the parents, grandparents and patrons who attended the programs. And finally, to all the students: GREAT JOB!

2. Movie Matinee a Success

We had 90+ students show up for a movie matinee on Sunday, December 5th. This year we had three movie selections for the students to choose from. We used our new flat screen televisions in the cafeteria, library and art room. They worked wonderfully. Breaking the students up into smaller groups made for a more enjoyable listening experience. They seemed to be much more interested in the movie and were easier to manage. The Bennet Elementary Boosters were on hand to help out. Students were treated to hot dogs and pop corn by the boosters. Everyone pitched in and helped with the clean up and we were done in no time at all. We also had three big boxes of non-perishable food items to deliver to our local food pantry.

3. End of First Semester Activities

It doesn't seem possible but we are already looking at the end of the first semester. It has gone by fast. This week and next we are conducting our mid-year DIBELS benchmark testing with all of our students. We have conducted our first school wide writing prompt with students and will be scoring those before break.

Of course we will be hosting class Christmas parties on Wednesday afternoon the 22nd of Dec. before we break for the Winter Holiday.

4. Parking and Traffic Flow Changes Working

The recent changes we made in parking and traffic patterns seem to be working. By shifting where we have our staff members park and requesting that parents use the delivery driveway for student drop-offs in the morning and after school it has created a smoother and safer situation before and after school.

5. Science Assembly Coming on Dec. 20th

Dr. Christian Binek, a professor of physics and astronomy will visit our school on December 20th to present a science assembly. He is part of the UNL speakers bureau, a group of staff and faculty members that give presentations and demonstrations to schools across the state. He will demonstrate several interesting physics concepts in an entertaining format for our students in a program entitled, "Physics Between High-school and High-tech." We are looking forward to his visit.

I. Secondary Principal's Report

December 13, 2010

1. Blood Drive

47 donors seen and 40 units collected. See letter from Nebraska Community Blood Bank.

Next blood drive will be March 28, 2011.

2. Online School Data

We alluded to this data tool last month during our State of the Schools report. Article in LJS, Wednesday, December 08, 2010. Brings up some interesting points. Copy included with my report as well.

http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/article_693f72fb-fd4c-53ba-acae-5029031cf59d.html

3. Excessive Absenteeism

I will have a brief description of the reporting requirements for this new policy for the BOE at the meeting.

4. Winter Vacation

We will dismiss on the 22nd for Winter Vacation, and start second semester on Jan. 5th.

We've had an excellent 1st semester! I can't believe it is almost over!

J. Assistant Principal/Activities Director Report

December 2010

The new look of the Website has our Public's attention.

Sound System upgrade has made the Public very happy. Wrestling fans from other Schools noticed the difference from last year to this year.

The Palmyra Junior Senior High Chorus performed at the Douglas Community Center on December 8th.

The Palmyra Show Choir will perform at the Palmyra Senior Center on December 15th.

Event Schedule the Rest of December 2010

- December 14th BB with Johnson County Central
- December 15th MUDECAS Basketball Seeding
- December 16th Junior High BB at Raymond Central
- December 17th BB at Weeping Water
- December 18th Wrestling at Johnson County Central
- December 18th JH BB at Elmwood
- December 20th Music Booster Spaghetti Supper and 7-12 Winter Concert
- December 28th BB at Freeman
- December 29th BB at Freeman
- December 29th Wrestling at Fillmore Central

K. Superintendents Report and Recommendations

December 2010

1. The State of Nebraska Boiler inspection in the Palmyra building is complete and no major deficiencies were noted.
2. The district has received the annual ACT profile report for the school year 2009-2010. The report provides a snapshot of information and comparison of ACT performance at the local and state/national level. As our scores indicate we traditionally score well in this assessment.
3. Information related to the quarterly budget report for fiscal 2010 was reviewed.

L. Board of Education Development

1. February 7-8 Labor Relations conference in Kearney
2. March 24-25 NRCSA conference in Kearney
3. Board Self Evaluation Instrument: Will be completed for discussion in January.

M. Topics for Next Months Agenda

Re-organization of the Board and election of officers, committee assignments, new Board member orientation.

Adjournment

1. The meeting was duly adjourned at 8:53 o'clock p.m. on December 13, 2010.

Next Board Meeting- Tuesday January 11 at 7:30 p.m. Palmyra High School Library. This is a draft copy of the Board of Education minutes that does not become official until approved by the Board.