

PALMYRA DISTRICT OR-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: March 14, 2011

**A.** A meeting of the Board of Education of Palmyra District OR-1 Public Schools was convened in open and public session on Monday, March 14, 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, Activities Director Mark Oltman, Staci Dowding, Cathy Fick, Mike Powers and Christy Merryman.

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 7:30 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 Schroder to approve all items on the consent agenda including minutes of the last meeting, claims and financial reports. After discussion and roll call vote:

\$50,770.83 General Fund

\$323,443.42 Payroll

\$11,794.68 Building Fund

Voting Yes: Calfee, Church, Clem, Maahs, Royal and Schroder.

Voting No: None

Motion Passed:

**C. Scheduled Audiences:** Christy Merryman reported the current status of the TeamMates program

**D. Unscheduled Audiences: None**

**E. Action Items**

1. Motion by Church, seconded by Clem to authorize the Superintendent to issue contract renewals to the certified staff in accordance with terms to be determined by the outcome of collective bargaining.

Voting Yes: Calfee, Church, Clem, Maahs, Royal and Schroder.

Voting No: None

Motion Passed:

2. Motion by Schroder, seconded by Church to accept door replacement proposal from DSI for replacing entrance doors in the Bennet and Palmyra buildings.

Voting Yes: Calfee, Church, Clem, Maahs, Royal and Schroder.

Voting No: None

Motion Passed:

3. Motion by Clem, seconded by Church to accept the electronic keyless entry proposal for the Palmyra building from DSI.

Voting Yes: Calfee, Church, Clem, Maahs, Royal and Schroder.

Voting No: None

Motion Passed:

4. Motion by Church, seconded by Royal to revise Policy 503.09 on first reading.

Voting Yes: Calfee, Church, Clem, Maahs, Royal and Schroder.

Voting No: None

Motion Passed:

**F. Discussion Items**

1. The Negotiations Committee discussed the status of the negotiations process and potential dates for meetings.

### **G. Communication**

1. Larry Royal and Rob Hanger attended the Foundation for Knowledge meeting in February and reported the addition of a new Scholarship provided by the Foundation. The Board wishes to express sincere thanks for the benefits provided by the Foundation to our students and staff.

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

**March 9th, 2011**

#### **NESA Testing**

We are in the middle of scheduling and test preparation for the NESA Assessments in Math-Reading and Science. Our math and language arts cadres have been conducting practice assessments in reading and math with our students. They have set up a class competition to see if we can get each of our classes over the 80% mark for class averages on the practice assessments. The test window runs from March 28<sup>th</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be utilizing our computer lab and mobile lab to conduct the assessments. Mr. Brown is working to make sure that we have enough computers in good working order to complete the assessments. Materials arrived this week from the Dept. of Education. They will need to be reviewed and inventoried. Our staff is really engaged in making sure our students know how important the upcoming assessments are. April promises to be a busy month.

#### **Boosters to Conduct Club's Choice Fund Raiser**

Our elementary booster group will be conducting our Club's Choice Fundraising activity this month and into April. This is one of the major fund raising projects of the group and has been very successful in the past. They are looking at using the money to make some improvements on the playground and soccer field areas this summer, along with continued support for our students and staff members in the classroom.

#### **Staffing Positions**

We are currently accepting applications for a full-time cafeteria worker and the K.G. position opened up with Mrs. Stilwell's retirement. We are receiving a number of inquiries and applications for both positions. We will be working on filling the cafeteria spot next week.

#### **Title I Audit Completed**

We recently completed our 3-year Title I audit with the State Department of Education. There were no major errors found in the audit. However we do have a few areas that we need to update and correct in order to be checked off by the State Education Department. One of them is a policy update of our homeless policies, which we will have before you at this month's meeting. The other items were the public notification of highly qualified staff and our year-end Title I self review. These will be done this spring and sent into the Department of Education. I need to thank Abbie Swartzendruber for her help and

assistance in getting ready for this visit and Mr. Hanger for supplying many of the board polices and documents that were required for the audit.

### **Celebrating Dr. Seuss at Bennet Elementary School**

by Mr. Smidt

Every year, schools across the country celebrate the birthday of Theodore Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss on March 2nd. Bennet Elementary began celebrating by having a family reading night on Tuesday, March 1st from 5-7. Parents and students came to the elementary school and read Dr. Seuss books along with other AR books and were able to take AR tests until 7 that evening. Students could read in the main lobby, library and computer lab. Laptops were set up at tables in the library and the computer lab was open for AR testing. **The Bennet Elementary boosters held a soup supper as well, raising over \$225.00 for the booster organization. It was a successful evening.**

On Wednesday, March 2nd, the elementary school had volunteers from various businesses in Palmyra and Bennet, and students from Palmyra High School, stop in and read to students in each classroom, including the preschool. We would like to thank the following people for taking time out of their busy schedules and to make a difference in our school community:

Val Sturdy	Mr. Rob Hanger	Dave Hall
Trevor Stewart	Karen Stoner	Roger Smith
Austin Jones	Lance Collier	Lee Anderbery
Ashley Vlcek	Kerry Dawson	Dillon Jones
Jared Brinkman	Julie Wallace	Barb Mullinax
Brandi Focken	Moritz Braun	Levi Hilman
Marlene Schroder		

### **Is Spring Coming?**

We are ready for Spring to be here. It seems like we have been cooped up inside for recess forever! The kids need are ready to get outside. It will get here eventually I am sure.

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

#### **March 9th, 2011**

##### 1. NeSA Spring Testing

March 28 to May 26 is the testing window for Reading, Math, and Science (pilot).

Mr. Brown, the teachers involved, and SPED staff where necessary, and I will be meeting to plan out specific test dates for each area in the near future.

##### 2. FFA Happenings – From Mr. Malone

FFA members are making plans with the village and contacting business for information to start the Community service project in the Palmyra park with the Monsanto American Farmers Grow Communities grants.

During the National convention, Palmyra had American Degree recipients this year, with Dalton Ringland, Matt Wallen and Quinn Beecham receiving the award.

Palmyra FFA hosted the District FFA State Degree interviews and test. Brittany Schroder and Dustin Schroder passed the interviews and test and will receive the State FFA Degree in April at the State FFA Convention in Lincoln.

Emma Bremer has been selected to represent Palmyra FFA in the State FFA Choir in April during State convention.

The chapter celebrated National FFA week, Feb. 22 with displays placed in businesses and cookies delivered on Monday (after the snow storm) . A slide show was presented at lunch to the students and at the end of each day there were Agriculture Trivia questions with prizes for the winners.

Eleven chapter members and Mr. Malone attended the Made For Excellence Conference in Kearney Feb. 25-26. It is conducted by past National Officers and provides an excellent base for leadership skills and training.

At the Career Development Events contest at Beatrice March 1, the Welding team placed 4<sup>th</sup>, Meats team placed 1<sup>st</sup> and Agri-science team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and qualified to compete at the State Contest in Lincoln coming up in April. The scores are not in for Senior livestock judging team yet, may qualify.

We will be conducting our second Blood Drive, March 28. We currently have just started contacting donors. We hope combining the total collected on March 28 and the drive last November will provide a scholarship close to or over \$1000 for a Palmyra student. Scholarship forms will be available to students at the end of March and during April so the selection can be made before Awards night.

On a note for CPR Training for Staff we our scheduling classes during the week of March 14 and 21<sup>st</sup>

### 3. Pre-registration 2011-2012

We are in the process of completing the master schedule, and pre-registering students. We will be adding at least 3 courses – Power Academy, Composition 1 & 2 for dual credit, and a Drama offering. We also anticipate changing/adapting our Panther Pause Advisory program by adding 8 to Great next year.

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

#### **March 9th, 2011**

- March 14<sup>th</sup> District Speech at Malcolm
- March 14<sup>th</sup> JH Wrestling at Falls City
- March 16<sup>th</sup> ECNC JH Quiz Bowl at Elmwood Murdock
- March 17<sup>th</sup> Elementary Music Contest at Malcolm

- March 18<sup>th</sup> Elementary and JH Music Contest at Malcolm
- March 21<sup>st</sup> ECNC HS Quiz bowl at Conestoga Palmyra Host
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> MUDECAS Music in Adams
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> MUDECAS Quiz Bowl at SECC Beatrice
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> HS Golf at Woodland Hills
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> Youth Leadership at Table Creek near Nebraska City
- March 24<sup>th</sup> Main Stage Play
- March 25<sup>th</sup> State Speech in Kearney
- March 25<sup>th</sup> Main Stage Play
- March 26<sup>th</sup> Honor Band at UNK 14 Students
- March 28<sup>th</sup> JH Track starts
- March 29<sup>th</sup> HS Track at Yutan Relays 44 track competitors at the High School Level
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> State FCCLA in Lincoln
- April 5<sup>th</sup> UNL Spanish Forum
- April 5<sup>th</sup> HS Track at Malcolm
- April 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention and Contests
- April 9<sup>th</sup> Prom at Crooked Creek
- April 9<sup>th</sup> JH MUDECAS Track at Tecumseh
- April 11<sup>th</sup> JH and HS Spring Concert
- April 11<sup>th</sup> JH MUDECAS Quiz Bowl
- April 12<sup>th</sup> HS Track at Yutan
- April 13<sup>th</sup> Golf at Milford
- April 14<sup>th</sup> JH Track at Raymond Central
- April 15<sup>th</sup> District Music at Nebraska City
- April 15<sup>th</sup> FFA Banquet
- April 16<sup>th</sup> District Music at Nebraska City
- April 16<sup>th</sup> HS MUDECAS Track at Pawnee City

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

1. State Aid for District OR-1 has been amended by school finance to include Federal Edu-Jobs funding in the amount of \$93,638.90 bringing the total amount of State Aid to \$721,746.36. The Department of Education recommends expending the Edu-Jobs funds during fiscal 2010-11 and carrying over an equal amount of this year's Aid as Certified in March 2010 in the form of cash reserve. The intent is to provide the additional state aid in fiscal 2011-12 to offset the loss of ARRA stimulus funds which expire in August 2010.
2. Current legislation affecting school finance for fiscal 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 is still progressing through committee work. Currently the legislature will attempt to reduce state aid to a total of approximately 810 million due primarily to a loss of stimulus dollars which had been divided over the previous two years in the form of ARRA funds. In

addition to reducing State Aid the legislature is also considering proposals to limit budget growth for school districts in the next two years. This has the potential to impact our district negatively in the form of reduced budget authority. This is an item of interest that we need to watch closely over the next 30-60 days.

3. Title IV funds have been secured to help offset cost associated with Character Education programs in District OR-1. When combined with the Southeast District Health Department grant we will be able to fund a substantial amount of training and curriculum work.

4. Strategic Planning is underway with a series of interviews including Board of Education members conducted the first two weeks of March. The process will begin to take shape and provide District OR-1 with a road map, and vision for the future. This is only the initial phase of the project. In subsequent months the process will involve more of the District's stakeholders.

5. I have included an updated financial planning spreadsheet for potential building projects. I am continuing to develop proposal and pricing information related to each project and need. This will be an opportunity for the Building and Grounds Committee to begin to establish priorities of projects contained on the list. Also we will generate more ideas as a result of the Bennet building study later in 2011. That will include presentations related to the concept of "performance contracting" for some of the more costly projects listed as needs. I will arrange for those presentations to take place in July/August as they will impact our 2011-2012 budget process.

**L.** Motion by Royal, seconded by Calfee to enter into closed session at 9:25 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues for protection of the public interest.

Voting Yes: Calfee, Church, Clem, Maahs, Royal and Schroder.

Voting No: None

Motion Passed:

Motion by Clem, seconded by Schroder to exit closed session at 10:23 p.m.

**M. Board of Education Development**

1. March 24-25 NRCSA conference Kearney.
2. Reivew of policy 205.2 and 205.3

**Adjournment**

1. The meeting was duly adjourned at 10:27 o'clock p.m. on March 14, 2011.

**Next Board Meeting-** April 18, 2011 7:30 p.m.

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