

PALMYRA DISTRICT OR-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: December 12, 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, December 12, 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: Rebecca Gill, School Administrators Superintendent Robert Hanger, Elementary Principal Steve Robb, Secondary Principal David Bottrell and Activities Director Mark Oltman.

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

\$82,692.21 General Fund

\$320,395.12 Payroll

\$283.18 Activity Fund Reimbursement

\$3300.00 Building Fund

\$295,897.50 Bond Fund

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

**C. Scheduled Audiences:**

Miss Gill presented information from secondary Spanish classes including examples of coursework and various technology applications utilized by 7-12 students.

**D. Unscheduled Audiences: None**

**E. Action Items**

1. Motion by Calfee, seconded by Royal to accept the 2010 Audit Report.

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

2. Motion by Clem, seconded by Schroder to approve the Annual Performance Report.

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

**F. Discussion Items**

1. The Board reviewed information from the School Community Essential Planning process and discussed the culminating presentation from the FGR group to occur in January. From that information the Board will prioritize recommendations and establish benchmarks and a timeline for implementation. The Board also expressed thanks for the amount of participation from the committee members.

**G. Communication: None**

**H. Elementary Principal's Report  
December 7, 2011**

**Play Ground Project**

The sod is laid and the sprinkler system has been working great! We are pouring on the water to get the rooting established. With the advent of snow and colder weather, we'll

have to see how the sod makes it through the winter. There is a guarantee on the sod. Right now it looks very nice!

### **Winter Concert**

Our Winter Concert was a success. The K-3 program was quick and to the point. The 4-6 program was very entertaining. Our Bennet Singers, a group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students that meet twice a week before school, sang a beautiful song about our armed services being home for the holidays. The sixth grade sang a cute song about fruitcakes! As usual, the programs were well attended by parents grandparents and friends. A big thank you goes to Mrs. McCreight and Ms. Murphy for their preparation and time, in putting together another winter program. I like having the program early in the season. We avoid the chance of bad weather, and with the program out of the way, our students and staff have one less thing to focus attention on as we approach the holiday break.

### **First Semester Almost Complete!**

Our first semester will come to a close with the break for the Holidays on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will have an early dismissal on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for students. Staff members will work on grades for the second qtr. and semester that afternoon. Report Cards will go home on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Scott has plans to steam clean the carpets in the hallways and cafeteria, since we weren't able to do our summer steam cleaning due to the cooling and heating project.

### **Planning for Spring Assessments**

We are planning now for our spring assessment schedule. This year besides the NESAs assessments in Reading, Math and Science, we are also trying to work in a spring MAPS assessment. This will give us a fall to spring growth measurement of our students with MAPS data. We have a committee working on building an assessment schedules, along with practice times, a motivation/incentive program etc. Our staff and students are very motivated to continue to do well on the NESAs assessments.

Bennet Elementary and Youth Frontiers are proud to offer the Youth Frontiers Kindness retreat for our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This retreat is scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 15, 2011, from 9:00 – 1:30 in the school gym at Bennet Elementary School.

Over the last two decades, Youth Frontiers has built an organization on the idea of fostering safe, positive school communities where students and educators can thrive emotionally, socially and, therefore, academically. Founder of Youth Frontiers, Joseph Cavanaugh says, "We are not succeeding as a society if our children receive an 'A' in Math... and an 'F' in life."

The Youth Frontiers Kindness Retreat helps build a more caring school community by engaging students in activities that demonstrate the painful effects of bullying and emphasize the value of kindness. Elementary school students experience the positive effect of the kindness boomerang during a high-energy day with classmates. Students learn that, like the golden rule, if they want to catch kindness, they've got to throw the

kindness boomerang out there! The retreat also teaches students how to be a hero by treating others with kindness and challenges them to reduce bullying in their school.

### **Goals of the Kindness Retreat:**

Set a positive tone of kindness and build community among your students

Help students identify and act on opportunities to show kindness to others

Reduce incidents of bullying and improve the way students treat each other

Every Youth Frontiers retreat includes a dynamic mix of activities, designed to have the greatest possible impact on participants. Our schedules have been refined through years of contact with more than a million students and educators. **Listed below is the general outline of the retreat experience.**

- Welcome and group-building activities
- Introduction to the theme of the day: *Being kind will make your school a better place*
- Small-group activity: time to process the message from the presentation
- Large-group activity
- Presentation: topic based talk
- Small-group discussion: processing time
- Lunch
- Large-group activity
- Presentation: *Be a Hero–Be Kind*
- Small-group discussion: processing time
- *The Boomerang Challenge*. Participants commit to take action based on the day's retreat topic
- Closing: participants commit to take action based on the day's retreat topic.

For more information on Youth Frontiers, go to their website at [www.youthfrontiers.org](http://www.youthfrontiers.org)

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school at: 402-782-3535, and ask for Mr. Robb.

### **I. Secondary Principal's Report December 7, 2011**

#### **1. Blood Drive**

See letter from Nebraska Community Blood Bank.

Next blood drive will be March 13, 2012.

#### **2. Palmyra FFA Receives Blue Jacket Award from Waverly-Palmyra Coop**

Palmyra FFA members received a surprise Blue Jacket Award letter from the National FFA Foundation informing them of their selection for a free FFA Jacket and a \$500 check. The letter informed the chapter that Syngenta, a world-wide company providing crop protection, genetics and environmental quality to agricultural, donates to the National FFA Foundation for an opportunity to have the Standard Blue Jacket Program

awarded to an FFA Chapter of their choice. The Waverly-Palmyra Farmer's Cooperative nominated the Palmyra FFA to Syngenta and the National FFA foundation to receive this award. This award was used to help 10 new FFA members purchase their FFA jackets for half the cost, this year. Bill Moates, manager from Palmyra Farmer's Cooperative presented the check to the Palmyra High School, Intro to Agriculture class.

### 3. Winter Vacation

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

## **J. Assistant Principal/Activities Director Report December 7, 2011**

- December 12<sup>th</sup> JH Boys BB at Weeping Water
- December 13<sup>th</sup> Basketball at JCC (Tecumseh) 4 games
- December 14<sup>th</sup> Choir at Douglas Senior Center (Lunch)
- December 14<sup>th</sup> MUDECAS BB Seeding Meeting in Beatrice
- December 15<sup>th</sup> JH Boys BB vs. Raymond Central
- December 16<sup>th</sup> High School BB vs. Weeping Water at Palmyra 4 contests
- December 17<sup>th</sup> High School Wrestling at JCC Invite (Cook)
- December 17<sup>th</sup> JH BB tourney at Elmwood
- December 19<sup>th</sup> 7-12 Music Concert and Spaghetti Supper
- December 21<sup>st</sup> Choir at Palmyra Senior Center (Lunch)
- December 29<sup>th</sup> BB at Freeman Tourney (Adams)
- December 30<sup>th</sup> BB at Freeman Tourney (Adams)
- December 30<sup>th</sup> Wrestling at Fillmore Central( Geneva)

## **K. Superintendents Report and Recommendations December 7, 2011**

1. The district has received the annual ACT profile report for the school year 2010-2011. The report provides a snapshot of information and comparison of ACT performance at the local and state/national level. As our scores indicate in the chart below, we traditionally score well in this assessment. Scores for this year are above the state average. The district continues to focus on best practice in order to prepare our students for all assessments including the ACT. We have recently added the Explore test as an additional precursor to students taking the ACT.

2. The Board reviewed information related to the first quarterly budget report for fiscal 2011. Fiscal 2010 figures were provided for comparison.

**L. Board of Education Development**

1. Legislative Issues Conference January 22-23 Cornhusker Hotel.
2. Labor Relations Conference Kearney February 6-7.
3. Board Leadership Workshop February 22 Cornhusker Hotel.
3. Nebraska Rural Community Schools Conference March 22-23 Kearney.

**M. Topics for Next Months Agenda**

Reorganization of the Board

**Adjournment**

- I. The meeting was duly adjourned at 9:04 o'clock p.m. on December 12, 2011.

**Next Board Meeting-** January 16, 2012

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