

Regular Board Meeting of February 6, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Whitehall School District 4, 47 and 2 of Madison and Jefferson Counties was held on February 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Whitehall Middle School Library.

Board Members:

Gina Ossello – Vice-Chair
James Reiff
Sharon Howard
Sue Pullman
Paul Shaw

Administrators:

John T. Sullivan - Superintendent
Britt McLean – Elementary Principal
Hannah Nieskens 6-12 Principal
Patti Drake – District Clerk

Visitors: Jack Smith, Diane Larsen, Todd Breitenfeldt

AGENDA

ITEM:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-chair, Gina Ossello

Flag Salute

Approval of Agenda

Sharon Howard made a motion to approve the agenda.
James Reiff seconded the motion.
In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman,
Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Visitors

The visitors were welcomed to the meeting and were told that a public comment period for matters of a general nature would be held later in the meeting.

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Minutes

Sharon Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 regular board meeting.
Sue Pullman seconded the motion
In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman,
Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Paul Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 special board meeting.
Sharon Howard seconded the motion.
In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman,
Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal

(See attached)

High School Principal

(See attached) Currently the ACT Aspire is offered to sophomores, the cost is paid for by the students and is optional. The ACT college readiness exam is administered to all juniors at no cost to the student. The PSAT is not currently offered by the school district but is offered by other school districts in the area. If the PSAT is taken in the fall of the student's junior year a student may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship. After some lengthy discussion it was agreed by the board that the district will pay for the ACT Aspire and all sophomores will be required to take the test. The PSAT will also be paid for by the district and offered to all juniors, but it will not be mandatory for all juniors to take the test.

Superintendent

(See attached)

OLD BUSINESS:

Negotiations Committee

Julie Kieckbusch and Holly Harper are the representatives for the teachers for negotiations. They have approached Mr. Sullivan on starting negotiations. The committee needs to set a date to begin negotiations. Mr. Sullivan would like the committee to meet before meeting with the teachers. The committee will discuss after the board meeting to set a date for the pre-negotiation meeting and a date for the first negotiation meeting.

Activity Bus

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that he has meet with Dan McGree of Tucker Transportation concerning the purchase of an activity bus. Mr. Sullivan showed Mr. McGree our current contract with Harlow's and Mr. McGree showed Mr. Sullivan the current contract they have with the Anaconda School District. Mr. Sullivan presented the board with some background information on our current activity bus. The bus was purchased in 2009, the district made 45 payments of \$2,614.00. There was a grant for \$40,000 through Department of Environmental Quality that was received and turned over to Harlow's. Harlow's gave us credit for the payments but we cannot find any paperwork telling us how or when the credit was applied. Harlow's did make the balloon payment of \$44,735.28. Harlow's also maintains the current activity bus. If we were to buy an activity bus through Tucker Transportation some of the costs beside the cost of the bus is: cleaning the bus \$20/hour, \$100/month for storage, \$100/hour for mechanic, insurance is around \$6,000/year, office staff \$2,200/year, gas, license and tires. After you purchase the bus there is always some maintenance work that needs to be done and a logo needs to be put on the bus. The cost for the maintenance work is usually \$5,000 to \$7,000 and the cost of the logo is approximately \$3,000. The initial cost for the activity bus will be the cost of the bus plus around another \$10,000. Mr. McGree said our fees for the activity bus with Harlow's is a good deal but he can beat the daily route fee by \$1.00. We currently have a negotiated cost for our routes with Harlow's for next year, but the following two years we do not, those prices will have to be negotiated. Dan McGree will send us a proposal for the cost of a bus and the expenses. Mr. Sullivan will bring the proposal to the board as soon as he receives it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Teacher Resignation

Amy Severance and Todd Breitenfeldt have both turned in their retirement letters. Mr. Breitenfeldt was present and informed the board that it was with much trepidation that he submitted his letter. He would like to continue to use the school for the Weed Project, he said there is an agreement between the Weed Project and the District, he will bring it to the administration. He is also asking for a FOB for the weight room free of charge for the rest of his life or 34 years which ever comes first. The board did not have a problem with this. Mr. Sullivan read Amy Severance's letter.

James Reiff made a motion to accept Amy Severance's letter of retirement.

Sharon Howard seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

James Reiff made a motion to accept Todd Breitenfeldt's letter of retirement.

Paul Shaw seconded the motion.

Discussion: Paul thinks some language should be written about the requirements for receiving a FOB. Mr. Sullivan said he will take care of it. The board thanked Todd for his years of service. Mr. Sullivan said he will advertise for Todd's position next week; it will be advertised until filled. After his position is filled he will advertise for Amy's position.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Coaches Resignation

Julie Kieckbusch has submitted a letter of resignation from Middle School Girl's Head Basketball Coach.

James Reiff made a motion to accept Julie Kieckbusch's letter of resignation.

Sharon Howard seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Election Notice:

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that we have two current positions up for re-election, Paul Shaw and Angie Davis. Angie has informed Mr. Sullivan that she will not be seeking re-election. Paul Shaw indicated he will be seeking re-election. Patti informed the board that they need to make a resolution to hold a trustees' and levy election this year. Even if we do not run a levy we need to include it in our resolution in case something happens and a levy would have to be run.

Sue Pullman made a motion to approve the Resolution to hold an election for two trustee positions and a possible levy.

James Reiff seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Substitute Staff

Tyler Herndon has put in an application to be a substitute for the Kitchen and Janitorial.

James Reiff made a motion to add Tyler Herndon to the Substitute List. Sue Pullman seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Non-Tenured Teacher Evaluations

Ms. Nieskens reported the teachers she evaluates are Rita Brown, Caitlin Chiller, Herman Gerving, Lauren McDonald, Malcolm Neill, Ally Reamy. She does have some concerns, the teachers are aware of her concerns, she has given them some guidance and hopefully they are working on them. She wanted the board to now that she does not have concerns with all six of the teacher's she evaluates. Mr. McLean reported that he evaluates Stefanie Forcella, Kirsten Wirth, Brennan Hayes, Kelsey Stoker, Dana Grob and Casey Harris. He gave some suggestions, but all around he has no concerns.

Claims and Accounts

The Claim Approval list was presented to the board.

Claims

Sharon Howard made a motion to approve payment of the high school claims for February as submitted.

Sue Pullman seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw

Opposed: None

Motion carried

James Reiff made a motion to approve payment of the elementary claims for February as submitted.

Sharon Howard seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Paul Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

James Reiff seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, James Reiff, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw

Opposed: None

Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Signed:

ATTEST:

Chairman

Clerk