

Minutes of the Swan Valley School District #92 School Board Meeting
May 9, 2013

Present: Chairman Tara Hicks, Vice-Chair Joseph Lundquist, Trustee Bill Steffes, Superintendent Dan Keck, Clerk Fran Howell

Patrons: Ron Peterson, Joy Ghetia, Chenoa Allen, Michael Allen, Mike Kopp, Rayni Kopp, Belle Beam, Anna Griffel, Steven Griffel, Kelly Jacobson, Lanae Jacobson, Cecily Martinez, Linda Sargent, Mark Lundquist, Laurie Hamlin, Shawn Hamlin, Tom Walsh, Babette Thorpe, Joy Jacobson, Sharon Hunter, Scott Hunter, Daryl Hunter, Colby Jacobson, Ann Walsh, Jeff Forsman, Daniel Lundquist, Pauline Ricks, Penny Ricks, Jessica Poole, Judy Thomas, Laura Baarda, Melissa Dickerson, Blaine Stavn, Katie Williams, Chelsea Lundquist, Jake Jacobson, Michael Jacobson, Kitty Traughber, Pam Traughber, Jamie Pruett, Brandy Urrutia, Mateo Urrutia, Joet Zohner, Joanne Hincks, Jared Johnson, Kate Johnson, Audi Sutheimer, Jenny Lundquist, Josh Dalley, Shirlee Hunter, Darcy Lundquist, Ben Lundquist, Shannon Anderson, Erica Price

Mrs. Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:04 and she led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Steffes moved to adopt the agenda with the inclusion of Action Item #2: Resignation of Mrs. Thomas and Information Item #1 Update on Idaho Falls Public Library Contracts. Mr. Lundquist seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the April 23, 2013 board meeting were ordered to stand as read.

The board reviewed the accounts payable. It was brought to the attention of the board that an invoice had been missed for Ms. Ghetia, and a petty cash check will be issued the next day to expedite payment to her with reimbursement to the petty cash fund from the general fund in June. Mr. Steffes moved to pay the bills. Mr. Lundquist seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the budget and there were no questions.

Mr. Keck has met with Robert Wright from the Idaho Falls Public Library again and contracts to create a branch library at the school are being reviewed. The project will begin in the middle of the summer.

The board set a board work meeting on May 13, 2013 at 7 PM to work on the 13-14 budget.

Mr. Keck gave the board two bids for the proposed security system. Peak Alarm has a bid of \$2500.00 and Tyco's bid is \$3500.00. The board reviewed the bids and asked a few questions. They would like a security system installed by next school year.

Clerk Howell presented to the Chairman a citizen petition requesting additional school days on the already adopted 13-14 calendar. The board reviewed them. Mr. Steffes stated to the patrons that this type of calendar has been in place a long time, that our teachers are adequate, and the board has always made a concerted effort in approving the calendar. He stated that Mr. Keck has done what the board asked him to do when he was hired regarding changes. He acknowledged that this calendar may need a little adjustment, but that in the future the calendar may need to be extended

when future test scores and other data is analyzed, as well as other adjustments that subjects such as iSchool implementation, etc. may cause. If the board comes to the conclusion that a longer school year is needed, they would be willing to adjust. He also stated that the state of Idaho requires hours, and not days, which leads to quality time. He says we have met and exceeding the state minimum. He feels the district is in a better position for preparing students for high school. Mrs. Hicks agreed with Mr. Steffes. She feels comfortable with the calendar but also wants to get a better process next year to get valley opinions for the future. Mr. Lundquist also agreed, and stated that our school is great and that we are ahead of other schools. Mr. Keck added at this time that he is not opposed to more days in the calendar. He said that the staff spent a lot of time on developing the calendar, and also feels that research wouldn't show that 158 vs. 173 days make a difference. He feels the difference is the quality of the teacher, and also feels frustrated with the process some patrons used to express a difference of opinion. He wants the community to be tied together again, and that good work has been done in the school this year.

Chairman Hicks opened up the meeting for public comment, and asked that statements be limited to 2-3 minutes with no personal attacks.

Ron Peterson: Mr. Peterson referred to our mission statement and would like more days added. He agrees that we need quality instruction time. He suggested that we reduce the Thanksgiving break. He also reserved his time for a future comment on other issues.

Mark Lundquist: Mr. Lundquist expressed appreciation to the board for having the kids in mind. He feels the students are better prepared and that the staff is here for the kids. He feels that his family, who went to school here, has been successful in their educational careers, and that anyone who wants an education can get it here.

Belle Beam: Mrs. Beam asked if there were snow days built into the calendar. She wondered why we were at the minimum, to which Mr. Keck responded. She stated the school went 170 days all of the time, and that kids have been successful and it's a good school. She thinks the school year needs to be extended. She also feels that kids need to believe in themselves and a longer school year would help that.

Mike Allen: He stated that no one disagrees that quality and quantity are mutually exclusive. He feels that more time equals a better education. He questioned that recesses were being cut out. He said that after two hours kids are zoned out, and that it's important to have breaks.

Chenoa Allen: She feels that taking our afternoon recesses away is not working. She is afraid that the kids are falling behind because they won't have a break. The fourth graders need recess. She is also afraid that the implementation of the core curriculum and the introduction of iSchool will not work and will not be seamless. She thinks kids will lose out with the time it takes to implement. She feels a need for more excellence in education.

Audi Sutheimer: Ms. Sutheimer is concerned about recess and feels they shouldn't lose afternoon recess. She values recess as a time to get centered and calmed down. She feels a negative against 158 days is that the students will not be focused. She doesn't see any negatives to adding a few days to the calendar. She stated that the petition proves that with 2/3 of the valley support a longer

calendar year. She says the petition wasn't meant to be offensive and didn't intend to provide misinformation and that the statements on the petition were all factual. She feels we can do better, and that the present calendar doesn't work. She also stated that policies she's been told about are not enforced. Teachers are not at school when they should be and that teachers should be accountable. She is concerned about the arts program future funding. She says the district is not meeting the requirement for school counselors. She finally wanted to know about the security plan and how that's going to work with the public library.

Joy Jacobson: Mrs. Jacobson felt she needed to make comments as she was offended by prior comments. She gave reasons why teachers leave early. She feels every child is a top priority in school, that we have a wonderful school, and that every child is accommodated. Everyone needs to be behind the staff and teachers. She says it's amazing here.

Lanae Jacobson: She seconded Joy's comments. She's been an aid to every teacher and is amazed at how concerned the teachers are and and they put in a lot of time. She feels the community needs to back the teachers and by doing so the students will be the education that they need.

Ann Walsh: asked to have her time saved for general comments.

Laurie Hamlin: Mrs. Hamlin stated that she is new in the community this year and that her son is in Ms. Ozburns' class and is thriving. She feels the teachers have stepped up and are working with parents. She agrees with extended school days and thinks they are needed. She feels you can't get too much education. She recognizes that breaks are needed. She also stated that we should be grateful for what we have here because it's nowhere else.

Joy Ghetia: Ms. Ghetia reserved her time for a later comment.

Tom Walsh: Mr. Walsh says it was good to see support and beliefs in education by the crowd. He stated that he is a proficient statistical analysis person. He shared some stats about Idaho's ranking in the nation, that kids need breaks, and that SD #92 proficiency drops from Kindergarten to the 3rd grade. He quoted our ISAT scores being lower than the surrounding area in general, and that we have a 4 out of 10 star rating. He feels our greatest resource is our youth, and that we can't be minimalist, but the best. He feels we need a serious examination of our curriculum, methodology, hours, and resources. We need to consider statistics and not sentiments and emotions.

Pauline Scholes: She is grateful for our school and the extra attention our students get, and attributes it to the teachers. She feels we need 7 more days added to the calendar. She also feels that kids need recesses and we should really consider having breaks.

Mr. Keck interjected at this point and said this was the first year the 4th grade lost afternoon recesses. He said that teachers understand the importance of breaks and that he understands breaks. He stated that no one is trying to take recesses away and that teachers use their discretion when a break is necessary. A break instead of a recess may be all that is needed, and that 90% of problems happen at recess. He again reiterated that no one is trying to take recesses away.

Jeff Forsman: Reserved his time for a later comment.

Daryl Hunter: reserved his comments for a future meeting agenda item.

Daniel Lundquist: Passed on commenting.

Judy Thomas: Ms. Thomas stated she is a teacher here and that it is wonderful that there is so much interest and is thankful for the comments already made. She stated that the quality and quantity of time is up to the board and the superintendent to provide education. She is not against adding extra time, but wants to do it for the right reasons based on data and the need of the students. She stated that the staff spent a lot of time looking at student needs and data to prepare the 13-14 calendar. There is a need to concentrate on instruction and time spent with the kids. She feels the teachers are good at assessing individual needs, and that breaks do occur according to those needs. She says we're not going to cut out recesses or going outside. She asked that people give us time and allowing us to continue to work together. She also asked that the community trust us as professionals to meet students needs. We can make a better decision and/or a different calendar for the 14-15 school year. She finally asked patrons to give professionals the opportunity to make decisions.

Kitty Traughber: She thanked Mr. Walsh for the stats. As a teacher she never found the end of the day productive. She suggested a shorter day and a longer year.

Jared Johnson: Passed on commenting.

Mateo Urrutia: Passed on commenting.

Jessica Poole: She said there is no disputing that we have great teachers but there is room for improvement. She stated that she had asked Mr. Keck about switching to a morning kindergarten and wondered if Mr. Keck had addressed it with the board. She said there was a misconception about the removal of recess in a prior list sent out. She asked about the early release for teacher collaboration. Mr. Keck responded that the collaboration is a PLC which gives time for teachers to get together during the week to talk about what we are trying to do here and that the board asked him to do this. He reaffirmed that collaboration is vital. Teachers need to have time to look at data. At this point Sharon Hunter asked is collaboration is being done for a high school transition, and Mr. Keck said yes, that process has started. Mr. Steffes stated at this point that Mr. Keck had been tasked with that and to also implement changes, and that those changes have begun. Mr. Steffes said that our goal is to be a forefront leader in Idaho and strongly believe that iSchool will help us be the leader. It will take time, and previous issues are being corrected and we're going up. Mr. Steffes asked for community support, that a small school should be at the top, and there is always room for improvement.

Joy Ghetia addressed the need for collaboration. She referred to the recent collaboration and the importance of it.

Belle Beam: She asked that time not be taken away from students for collaboration.

Pam Traughber: She asked if Saxon math wasn't set up for 180 days.

Mr. Steffes then stated that students aren't with just one teacher at all times. He says that one on one means more time for the student. He stated that past superintendents have brought us down. Mr. Keck stated that we need to move forward. Referring to the PLC's, Mr. Keck mentioned that it took a school community in Chicago 20 years to get where they needed to be. He again said we need the support of the community.

Ann Walsh: She stated that she is disturbed by the letting go of two staff members. She attested to the work ethic of both and asked for an explanation of why the individuals were fired. Mr. Steffes responded that it was a staff issue and will not answer the question, that the board cannot and will not discuss personnel issues. Mrs. Hicks told Mrs. Walsh that she can express her feelings but that the board can't respond. Mrs. Walsh asked if she could read a letter from Teresa Nye, which she was allowed. The board thanked Mrs. Walsh for reading the letter.

Jessica Poole asked why kindergarten is in the afternoon when students don't perform well in the afternoon. Mr. Steffes responded that the issue can be considered and the board will talk about it.

Tom Walsh asked if the board has gone to another state with a similar small school with multiple grades to see how they are successful.

Shannon Anderson stated that parents need to keep their kids in school unless they are sick. Parents need to help excel their children. Mr. Keck said that absenteeism is a huge problem in the school and that the kids need to be here.

Josh Dalley: Mr. Dalley stated that he is new to the valley and supports the community he has grown to love. He wondered if starting school before Labor Day and ending after Memorial Day would hurt ADA if parents were still taking vacations during that time, or if parents would even send them. He expressed concern over lost funding. He said that it is not the teachers' responsibility to teach what the parents don't teach and reinforce in the home. He said we need to teach our own children and not just rely on the teachers.

Pam Traugher: She asked if there will be instructions for parents for iSchool. Tom Walsh asked about our internet capabilities for iSchool. Audi Sutheimer wanted to know if a kid would lose credit on an assignment if the kid damaged their iPad.

Ron Peterson referred back to the 2 firings. He credited Joy Ghetia for doing a commendable job. He addressed janitorial problems in the past and felt Anna Griffel corrected those problems. He can't see what issues there are as to why two employees with 12-15 years of service were let go. He feels the board may be remiss in not reconsidering this.

Joy Ghetia stated that she has worked hard and has not put anyone up to defending her. She has initiated a grievance against the board. She doesn't understand why she has been let go.

Mrs. Hicks stated that she appreciated everyone's comments.

Moving onto action items:

Mr. Keck stated that there are three issues with the adopted 13-14 calendar that need attention. The first was a typo where a teacher workday should have read 8/23 instead of 8/25. 2/10 is a teacher contract day and not a student contact day, and the calendar listed 2/10 as both. The board held a discussion and felt that the teacher workday is important. Mr. Lundquist suggested taking two of the Thanksgiving days and making them student contact days. He proposed that 11/18 and 11/19 be students days, taking the student days to 159. He also said we will take a deeper look at the calendar next spring.

Bill Steffes moved to amend the approved 13-14 calendar to make 1/17/14 a teacher work day only, and 11/18/13 and 11/19/13 as student contact days and not vacation days. Mr. Lundquist seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The resignation of Judy Thomas was given to the board. The board expressed appreciation to Judy Thomas. Mr. Steffes moved to accept the resignation of Ms. Thomas. Mr. Lundquist seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Steffes then moved to open a position for an elementary teacher. Mr. Lundquist seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Coming events include: Missoula Children's Theatre 5/13-17, Fat Cats trip 5/23, and the last day of school 5/24.

June board meeting and Budget Hearing was set for June 12, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

The board recessed into executive session at 9:10 pursuant to I.C. 67-2345 to discuss classified letters of intent.

The board moved back into open session at 10:02 with the following motions: Mr. Steffes proposed to extend letters of intent to all classified personnel for the 13-14 school year. Mr. Lundquist seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Steffes moved to eliminate the full time IT position and replace it with a part time classified position with a job description to be determined at a later time, effective at the end of this school year. Mr. Lundquist seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Steffes moved to do away with one ½ time custodial position and to replace it with one full time custodial position, effective at the end of this year. Mr. Lundquist seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hicks adjourned the meeting at 10:05.



Trustee


Clerk



Trustee

Minutes of the Swan Valley School Board of Trustees
Work Meeting
May 16, 2013

Present: Chairman Tara Hicks, Vice-Chairman Joseph Lundquist, Trustee Bill Steffes, Superintendent Dan Keck, Clerk Fran Howell

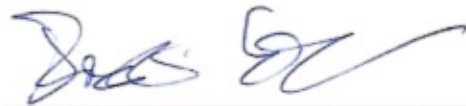
Patrons: Pauline Scholes, Laura Baarda

At 7:04 the work meeting commenced. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the needs of the projected 2013-2014 budget. This budget is subject to revision before the June 12, 2013 Budget Hearing, which is during the monthly school board meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:52.



Trustee



Trustee



Clerk

Minutes of the Swan Valley School Board of Trustees
Work Meeting
May 30, 2013

Present: Chairman Tara Hicks, Vice-Chairman Joseph Lundquist, Trustee Bill Steffes, Superintendent Dan Keck, Clerk Fran Howell

Patrons: Pauline Scholes, Chenoa Allen Tom Walsh, Rayni Kopp, Mark Lundquist

At 7:03 the work meeting commenced. The purpose of the meeting was to further discuss the needs of the projected 2013-2014 budget. This budget is subject to revision before the June 12, 2013 Budget Hearing, which is during the monthly school board meeting. Chairman Tara Hicks opened up the session to patron comments and several questions were asked and answered.

The meeting ended at 8:22.



Trustee



Trustee



Clerk