

Ballard R-II Schools

RR 1 Box 497 – Butler, MO 64730

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING –December 18, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Tina Oerke, President

Present: Lawanda Engelhardt, Rusty Binder, Rusty Roach, Tina Oerke, Richie Eidson, Kent Page, Bob Kagarice

Absent: None

Admin: John Siebeneck, Superintendent; Jimmie Barton, Principal; Kerri Loyd, Secretary

Guests: Harry Nitchals, Janet Inglis, Rodney Inglis, Frank Inglis, Shauna Inglis, Melody Roach, Susan Doty, Sarah Lybarger

AGENDA was reviewed. Board President asked for any additions needed. One addition was made to Superintendent's report: E. Superintendent update.

- Motion by Lawanda Engelhardt to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Bob Kagarice.
Vote: Tina Oerke: Yes Rusty Roach: Yes Bob Kagarice: Yes
Lawanda Engelhardt: Yes Kent Page: Yes Richie Eidson: Yes
Rusty Binder: Yes

MINUTES of the November 12, 2013, Regular Board of Education Meeting were reviewed. (attached)

- Motion by Richie Eidson to approve the November 12, 2013, Board of Education Meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Rusty Binder. (Bob Kagarice did not vote, as he was not present at the November meeting.)
Vote: Tina Oerke: Yes Rusty Roach: Yes Bob Kagarice: Did not vote
Lawanda Engelhardt: Yes Kent Page: Yes Richie Eidson: Yes
Rusty Binder: Yes

FINANCIAL REPORT was reviewed for November, as well as December bills to be paid. (attached)

- Motion by Lawanda Engelhardt to approve the November Financial Report. Seconded by Bob Kagarice.
Vote: Tina Oerke: Yes Rusty Roach: Yes Bob Kagarice: Yes
Lawanda Engelhardt: Yes Kent Page: Yes Richie Eidson: Yes
Rusty Binder: Yes
- Motion by Rusty Binder to approve payment of December bills and payroll. Seconded by Lawanda Engelhardt.
Vote: Tina Oerke: Yes Rusty Roach: Yes Bob Kagarice: Yes
Lawanda Engelhardt: Yes Kent Page: Yes Richie Eidson: Yes
Rusty Binder: Yes

OPEN COMMUNICATION

- A. Frank Inglis asked whether we're participating in a track coop with Adrian again this year and whether a decision has been made for 2014/15. We are participating with Adrian this year, and a decision has not been made regarding 2014/15. He presented his thoughts regarding a coop versus starting our own track program. He listed average prices for the equipment, uniforms, coaching, etc. necessary to start a successful track program. His estimate of start-up cost is no less than \$25,000, which does not include the track itself. He stated he would 100% support a local track program, but his personal opinion at this time is to continue to coop with another school until we have funds available to offer a complete track program.

Mr. Inglis also presented his opinion regarding the Common Core State Standards. He has researched the issue and has spoken with DESE representatives regarding these standards. He said there were state statutes broken with the adoption of Common Core. He said the school would not lose funding if Common Core is not adopted, unless test scores go down drastically. He asked the board whether a date has been set to vote on adoption of Common Core. Tina Oerke responded that there needs to be an initial vote taken to see in which direction to proceed. If the board were to consider moving away from Common Core, there would be need for further public discussion.

Mr. Inglis asked whether our current computers are adequate if all state testing is done online, or if there would be need for upgrade. Mr. Siebeneck said our computers are adequate, but there might be need for additional laptops. The REAP grant would fund any additional computers needed.

Mr. Inglis said he would prefer to not hurry to implement Common Core State Standards. He would prefer we continue with the current standards and see how other districts fare with Common Core.

- B. Melody Roach presented her views concerning Common Core. She is in agreement with Mr. Inglis. She encouraged the board to research much further than what is available on the DESE website. She feels schools are being misled about being able to choose their own materials and teaching methods.
- C. General discussion of the Missouri Common Core Standards – Board members were asked for comments. Rusty Roach feels we need to prolong a decision as long as possible to give legislature a chance to change things. Lawanda Engelhardt said she feels we need to do what it takes to remain fully accredited. She said Ballard has done well by our students and she wants this to continue. Bob Kagarice said that, through the course of time, there have been many changes in the way students are taught. He feels we have been working toward more computer access for a long time and feels this is important in today’s society. He said his goal is to give our students everything we can; that’s why we’re here.

Some board members and patrons expressed their opinion that we cannot be forced to administer the state required tests.

John Siebeneck stated that test scores are a major factor in determining accreditation. If we become unaccredited, we will have to pay tuition to send our students to other schools. Also, DESE would step in and take away local control until we again become accredited.

Jimmie Barton said that, whether or not we adopt or implement the Common Core State Standards, our students must still be tested. As the direction of discussion was tending to confuse Common Core with Standards Based Grading, he reminded everyone that one has nothing to do with the other. Standards Based Grading is merely a way of measuring and reporting a student’s progress in learning. Common Core Standards are the set of standards that will be found on yearly state testing. Normal classroom testing will not be done online and will not be submitted to DESE. Only the yearly state testing done in the spring will be done through DESE. Implementing Common Core will not affect the grading method our school chooses to utilize.

Harry Nitchals asked for clarification that testing this year is not changing, and that Common Core will be tested in 2014/15. Mr. Nitchals stated that people should keep themselves informed and should communicate with their elected officials. He also asked whether there are alternatives to the regular state testing. There are not.

Mr. Barton stated that he feels one of the biggest benefits of the new standards is that teachers will need to provide real world activities/problems that encourage thought. Classroom instruction will be more than memorizing and writing notes. He feels students benefit from real world, hands-on activities. Mr. Siebeneck added that he feels Common Core simply adds rigor to the standards we are already teaching.

Frank Inglis said he feels we will have to teach the test, so Common Core will determine our curriculum. He feels it is the brain washing of a generation.

Board members were asked once again for their opinion. Rusty Binder would prefer to wait for legislation; Kent Page wants to wait to see what happens; Rusty Roach says we should be proactive and educate ourselves. He doesn’t want Common Core in our school; Lawanda Engelhardt would like to further research the issue before making a decision; Richie Eidson would like further research; Tina Oerke has been researching both sides of the issue. She would like to wait to see if the legislature acts, but wants to do whatever it takes to keep these doors open. She plans to keep researching the issue.

Discussion moved to Standards Based Grading – the three families present who have students in school would like to see it discontinued. It was noted that Standards Based Grading was not included on the evening’s agenda, so the discussion should not be continued. Patrons asked that it be included on the January agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussed the 2012/13 Audit Report as presented at the November meeting. After a month to review the report, the board was asked for any questions or concerns.
- Motion by Richie Eidson to accept the 2012/13 Audit Report as presented. Seconded by Kent Page. (Bob Kagarice did not vote, as he was not present at the November meeting.

Vote:	Tina Oerke: Yes	Rusty Roach: Yes	Bob Kagarice: Did not vote
	Lawanda Engelhardt: Yes	Kent Page: Yes	Richie Eidson: Yes
	Rusty Binder: Yes		

- Richie Eidson left the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Reviewed the Special Services Program Evaluation, as completed by Paula Hoard. (attached)
- Motion by Bob Kagarice to accept the Special Services Evaluation as presented. Seconded by Lawanda Engelhardt. Rusty Roach expressed the opinion that these program evaluations are for information purposes, so there should be no need for a vote.
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| Vote: | Tina Oerke: Yes | Rusty Roach: Abstained | Bob Kagarice: Yes |
| | Lawanda Engelhardt: Yes | Kent Page: Yes | Richie Eidson: Absent |
| | Rusty Binder: Yes | | |
- B. Reviewed the Health Services Program Evaluation as completed by Donna Dodds. (attached) Tina Oerke noted that, while these program evaluations may be informational, voting to accept them makes the board accountable for the programs.
- Motion by Rusty Binder to accept the Health Services Evaluation as presented. Seconded by Lawanda Engelhardt.
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| Vote: | Tina Oerke: Yes | Rusty Roach: No | Bob Kagarice: Yes |
| | Lawanda Engelhardt: Yes | Kent Page: Yes | Richie Eidson: Absent |
| | Rusty Binder: Yes | | |

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (attached)

- A. Current enrollment is at 144.
- B. Reviewed recent events.
- C. Elementary teachers are working in their PLCs to create a sequential standards based report card that will focus on both academic and socio-behavioral skill mastery. Plans are to have a rough draft ready for review at the January board meeting.
- D. Our 8th grade students went to Clinton Technical School recently for the Sage (Vocational) Test. Mr. Barton was proud to receive communication from the Tech School director complementing our 8th grade students on their behavior and positive attitudes.
- E. Reviewed upcoming events, as well as the January calendar.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Revisited Policy & Regulation updates as discussed during the November meeting. Mr. Siebeneck has contacted Missouri Consultants for Education for clarification as requested. Policy, Regulation & Forms 4321 regarding Family and Medical Leave do not apply to our district, as we have fewer than 50 employees within a 75 mile radius. Discussed Policy & Regulation 2710, Reporting Student Abuse, and Policy & Regulation 2240, Admission and Tuition – Nonresident Students.
- Motion by Rusty Binder to adopt the following policies and regulations: Policy & Regulation 2710 and Policy & Regulation 2240. Seconded by Kent Page.
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| Vote: | Tina Oerke: Yes | Rusty Roach: Yes | Bob Kagarice: Yes |
| | Lawanda Engelhardt: Yes | Kent Page: Yes | Richie Eidson: Absent |
| | Rusty Binder: Yes | | |
- B. Discussed make-up date for the day missed because of weather. The plan is to use January 20, 2014.
- C. Discussed date for the January Board of Education Meeting.
- Motion by Kent Page to set the January Board of Education meeting on January 22, 2014. Seconded by Rusty Binder.
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| Vote: | Tina Oerke: Yes | Rusty Roach: Yes | Bob Kagarice: Yes |
| | Lawanda Engelhardt: Yes | Kent Page: Yes | Richie Eidson: Absent |
| | Rusty Binder: Yes | | |
- D. Discussed Superintendent evaluation forms. Board members were asked to complete these and return to Mr. Siebeneck prior to the January board meeting.

