

PRESENT AT DISCUSSION OF EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHIES, NEEDS, AND BROAD DISTRICT GOALS: Board Chairman Mr. Thomson, Mr. Gregor, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Jerram, Superintendent Montgomery, Ms. Dorazio.

PRESENT AT 7:00 MEETING: All of the above and Student Representatives Michael Welch, Meghan McCoy, and Averill Cantwell, Principal W. Conner and Principal C. Perez.

Chairman Thomson called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Discussion around how the Members of the BOE can be better and more quickly informed about serious issues happening at the school was addressed by collecting current email addresses and cell phone numbers and ensuring better communication in the future.

- Superintendent Montgomery initiated the discussion on educational philosophies, needs, and broad district goals. He referred to a brochure drafted by the State Department of Education regarding Secondary School Redesign. It includes four major themes, Rigor, Engagement, Accountability and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning. Superintendent Montgomery suggested that the Board of Education may wish to consider incorporating these themes into a new NW Region 7 strategic plan as the previous plan comes to the end of its three year time frame. There was a lengthy and general conversation regarding the difficulties of engaging students in the learning process and the need for expanding student academic options to help meet this goal. The discussion continued around goals and challenges of preparing students for the post secondary needs of the next decades. Mr. Montgomery emphasized the need to individualize each student's educational and social experience in middle and high school so that this goal of post secondary preparation can be met. These changes may place challenges on the traditional concept of the middle and high school experience which may include challenges to issues related to scheduling, interpersonal skills, selection of classes, and the location and delivery of instruction. These concepts will be explored in depth by the SDE committee that is reviewing high school reform over the coming year.
- There was further discussion about the difficulties high school students experience in their transition to college. Mr. Griffey added that not succeeding in college could be the product of the wrong college choice. He added that free periods for students could be better utilized, possibly attending a course of interest at NWCC.
- Superintendent Montgomery introduced a program created and administered by Dr. Mike Wasta, that is associated with the Denver based Center for Progressive Education. Dr. Wasta has recently retired as superintendent from Bristol and provided an overview of the Data-Based Decision Making model which has been endorsed by the state department of education as a model for best practices in maximizing academic excellence. Dr. Wasta has offered to provide additional staff training in this issues beginning with administrative support in identifying academic standards for continuous improvement in the effectiveness of instruction and then establishing data teams. The BOE members expressed support for this professional development plan.

Mr. Jerram asked about the results of the post-graduate data that was collected.

At the beginning of the regular board meeting under the topic of updates, Mr. Thomson and Mr. Montgomery presented the most current information regarding the gymnasium floor.

- After several attempts at repairing the floor, asbestos was discovered under the floor. The insurance adjuster has now indicated that the floor can not be repaired and will need to be replaced. There are strict guidelines to follow once asbestos is found, which the administration is following.

- The North side of the gym is usable at this time, as well as the small gym.
- All basketball games will be played at other locations to be determined by the Athletic Director.
- The insurance company will pay for a new floor and any expenses incurred as a result of not being able to use the floor, such as, buses to away games or a new location for graduation.
- Mr. Montgomery is looking into aid from the State to help pay for the abatement, which the insurance company will not cover.

PUBLIC comment: “How will volleyball be affected?”

Mr. Montgomery stated that they are looking to hold it at a different school, possibly using the North side of the gym or the small gym. He encourages the team and coach to work with the Athletic Director to decide what is best for them.

PUBLIC comment: “Have you looked into temporary raised floors?”

Mr. Montgomery said that they have looked into that and the companies that install them said that the raised floor is only as good as the floor below it. In addition to the cost, this is not a feasible option. In addition, the floor would not be under warrantee.

PUBLIC comment: “Are there any plans to help boost the spirits of the students who are so badly affected by the loss of the use of the gym?”

Mr. Montgomery acknowledged that this is a very valid point and they are discussing the possible ways to improve morale.

PUBLIC comment: “Is there any danger to the kids as the gym is now? I appreciate the thoroughness with which you are handling this situation.”

Mr. Montgomery explained that the air quality in the gym has been tested several times and will continue to be tested, but as long as the gym floor is untouched, it poses no problem to the students or staff.

MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of August 22, 2007.

MINUTES 8/22/07

Bill Sullivan presented High School Social Studies curriculum revision and emphasized the importance of keeping the classes small.

CURRICULUM  
REPORTS

Middle School Social Studies Content Leader, Mike Stapleton, highlighted current curriculum activities, especially the online textbook resource.

Chip Morris presented Middle School Math curriculum improvements.

Department Chair, Jim Paniati, presented High School Math curriculum and the focus of the program. Debbie Stafford added the future needs of the math program in order for it to sustain its high scores and successful students.

Meghan McCoy reported that she and A. Cantwell will be working on a project for the Board. The walk for JDRF is this Sunday. The seniors are concerned about where the pep rally will be since it cannot be in the gym. Mr. Conner added that the Homecoming dance will be held on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and the game will be on the 29<sup>th</sup>, which is different than past years, but opposing teams are amenable.

STUDENT  
REP’S  
REPORT

Michael Welch reported that of the 15 letters sent out to different schools regarding their plans for open campus lunches, 11 responded. Of the 11, only 1 school said that they offer open campus lunch, and it works well. It is offered to students who are in good standing.

Principal Perez reported that:

#### PRINCIPALS' REPORT

- The NAESC visit is on Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31 and Board Members are encouraged to come.
- There was great participation in the recent Open House.
- 7<sup>th</sup> graders made a smooth transition thanks to the hard work of the guidance department.
- Region 7 has met the Adequate Yearly Progress under NCLB and is now falls under "Safe Harbor" for the special education subgroup CMT scores. This has occurred due to progress in this subgroup's scores over last year.
- The new secretary has improved the atmosphere of the office and she thanked the Board for hiring someone.

Principal Conner reported that:

- The spray paint on the sign at the entrance to the school driveway has been removed.
- A threatening note found in a boys bathroom, that led to an evacuation, was handled by following procedures designed for this type of emergency and went smoothly.
- Open House is September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Gretchen Frederickson, a student of Mr. Ross's, was recognized as a semi-finalist in an essay contest sponsored by the Ayn Rand Institute, which had over 20,000 submissions.
- James Yuan reported from his Resident Honors Program at USC and is doing quite well.
- NAESC letter was received which indicated continued accreditation and included twenty commendations for programming and practices.
- He would like to acknowledge, at a Board Meeting, the 24 students who achieved advanced scores on the CAPT.
- 5 students who studied in China over the summer, just returned a few weeks ago.
- NWR has a foreign exchange student from Ecuador.
- NWR has applied for a Fulbright Scholarship for a Jordanian Administrator to come here.

Mr. Montgomery stated that in order to initiate the Asbestos Abatement grant from the state, it is necessary to send a formal letter with three resolutions.

MOTION to accept the resolution as written below, made by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gregor, and passed unanimously.

Resolved, that the Region 7 Board of Education authorizes the grant application for the asbestos abatement program to the Commissioner of Education and agrees to accept or reject such grant.

Resolved, that a building committee is hereby established.

Resolved, that the Region 7 Board of Education, hereby authorizes the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the asbestos abatement project for the gymnasium.

Policy review committee consists of Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Thomson, and Mr. Lanctot with Mrs. Kenneson Chairing the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Griffey, and passed unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to adjust the Vocational Agriculture tuition to the full amount allowed by the State.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Griffey, and passed unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to adjust the Special Education tuition to \$500 for the 2007-2008 school year.

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Dorazio, and passed unanimously to increase non-district tuition for regular education students to reflect capital costs and bonding in the per student charge and to be phased in at 33% for 2007-2008 and full amount for 2008-2009.

MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and denied by majority to accept Mr. Montgomery's recommendation to grant Andrea Ashe 4-weeks of child rearing time, unpaid and without benefits.

Aye: Mrs. Yard (.55), Mrs. Kenneson (.45), Mr. Thomson (.55)

Not: Mr. Gregor (1.10), Mr. Griffey (1.90), Mr. Jerram (1.90)

Abstained: Ms. Dorazio

CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Griffey, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 10:07 p.m. Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Gregor, Mr. Griffey, Mrs. Kenneson, Ms. Dorazio, Mr. Jerram, Mrs. Yard, Superintendent Montgomery.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Griffey, and passed unanimously, to come out of executive session at 10:48 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Gregor, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Tera B. Dunn