
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #407
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 30, 2012

45-146 Call to Order

President Jerry Brown called the USD 407 Board of Education special meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at the Ruppenthal Middle School Auditorium. Additional Board members in attendance were Jim Cross, John Fletcher, Tonya Murphy, Kevin Ochs and Jon Quinday. Katy Nuss was absent.

Administrators present included Superintendent David Couch, Larry Bernard, Kent Michel, Mark Paul, and Gaylon Walter. Approximately 40 patrons and staff were in the audience.

45-147 Facility Planning Discussion

Superintendent Couch outlined the rules to be followed during the Public Forum portion of the meeting. He also presented information to the public outlining financial challenges facing the district due to declining enrollment and reductions in state aid. Mr. Couch reviewed district reductions made through the years to combat financial losses and shared facility alignment scenarios being discussed between the Board and the administrative team.

Superintendent Couch shared how the Governor's proposed plan and the Democratic Minority Plan SF12-051 would impact the district. He encouraged those in attendance to be a voice for education and contact their legislators for support of SF12-051.

45-148 Public Forum

Individuals addressing the Board include:

Renelle Mooney – Understood financial issues are the driving force in discussions to make changes and requested the Board keep curriculum needs at the forefront of all discussions. Mrs. Mooney stated her family experienced the half-day kindergarten environment and they were not sure reverting to a half-day program was a good decision.

Trudy Hare – Stated she would be in favor of a ½ cent sales tax to help alleviate the financial burden on the district and indicated she wants to see options within the curriculum continue.

Kalen Deines – Agreed with the two previous speakers requesting curriculum needs must be considered first and he spoke in favor of paying additional taxes to help the schools. He inquired whether engineers were hired to evaluate the schools. Mr. Deines also asked if school diagrams could be made public to assist in generating alternate plans for grade alignments. Mr. Deines requested the district look into other insurance options, revert to full-day kindergarten, and consider a four-day school week.

Crystal Walton – Expressed opposition to half-day kindergarten. Mrs. Walton also suggested the Board consider charging a \$50 fee for students participating in sporting activities to avoid further program cuts. She too expressed support in paying more to keep educational opportunities available. Mrs. Walton was opposed to moving grades 7 & 8 to Russell High School. She spoke in support of retaining the K-5 art teacher even though she is not fully

licensed.

45-149 Superintendent's Comments

Mr. Couch reported the decision to extend the school day 30 minutes and cut the district calendar to the bare minimum number of school days saved the district about the same amount of money as operating a four-day school week.

He thanked everyone for their attendance and assured those in attendance that the Board and administrative team are listening to their concerns and suggestions.

45-150 Adjournment

Jerry Brown moved and Jon Quinday seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Time: 7:56 p.m.

Jane M. Cline

Jane M. Cline, Board Clerk

02/13/2012

Date Approved