

Feb 11 Board Meeting

Held @ Whitehorse High School

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Members present

Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

Others Present

Doug Wright, Clayton Holt, Kit Mantz, Ron Nielson, Lynnette Johnson, Chas DeWitt, Eliza Fry

Meeting called to order at 2:16 PM

A. Approval of Agenda - 3:00 p.m.

1. Approve the agenda

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Elsie A Dee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

Motion to go into closed session

Motion by Nelson Yellowman second by Elsie A Dee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

B. Board Closed Session

1. Personnel

C. Reports and Presentations - 4:00 p.m.

1. Montezuma Creek Elementary Report - Principal Boyd Silversmith: 4:00 p.m.

Montezuma Creek Elementary Principal Boyd Silversmith presented data on his school. Although the grade the school received from the state was rather low, they are making strides towards significant improvement. They have been focusing on Language Arts, Mathematics and Science, and have shown the biggest increase in performance scores in Language Arts. Principal Silversmith outlined the goals the school has set, and the specific steps they plan to take to accomplish those goals. Overall, the outlook for Montezuma Creek Elementary is positive, and they are making great progress. Principal Silversmith also reported that the school has almost fully recovered from the Carbon Monoxide leak in November of 2013.

2. Whitehorse High School Report - Principal John Fahey: 4:30 p.m.

Whitehorse High School Principal John Fahey reported on his goals and the progress that has been made on his goals. Although the school performance data shows low proficiency, the school's emphasis is on growth. Principal Fahey outlined each goal, and the specific growth they hope to achieve in mathematics, reading/language arts, community public relations, student engagement, teacher involvement in the community, student retention, and teacher interaction with students in the classroom. Whitehorse has made some specific goals and has a lot of plans for improvement, both on the student level, and for teachers and administration. They have shown good growth from last year to this year, and hope to continue to improve.

Whitehorse High School Vice Principal Kim Schaeffer also briefly spoke regarding community

cooperation. She detailed the efforts that the school and district have undergone in order to better cooperate with the community and to have effective emergency response programs in place. The Carbon Monoxide leak at Montezuma Creek Elementary in November of 2013 was discussed.

Debbie Benally, an Emergency Medical Technician for San Juan County, addressed the Board: She provided a synopsis of the Carbon Monoxide leak at Montezuma Creek Elementary from the perspective of an EMT. She praised the staff of both Montezuma Creek Elementary and Whitehorse High for the way in which they responded to the situation and cared for the students. She also stressed the importance of educating school personnel on proper procedures prior to emergency situations.

3. Business Administrator Goals: 5:00 p.m.

Business Administrator Clayton Holt reported on his goals:

1. Technology:

The district is currently working on a solid technology plan that will be relevant into the future. In the evaluation of technology needs, it was determined that the highest priority for the district is the infrastructure that ensures connectivity. Then, once connectivity is ensured, the district must leverage resources for better implementation of technology at the user level. In order to achieve this, the district has followed these steps:

a. Review the process: The district has looked closely at points of failure in the system. There are certain points in the system that are more susceptible to failure or corruption, that could cause the system to go down. The schools rely on technology now, so a failure would mean lost instructional time in the classroom. An outside professional was also hired to help the district pinpoint weak areas and to analyze what is happening in the district system. His findings were provided as a Power Point attachment.

b. Determine what needs to be done: Currently, the district technology personnel are spending most of their time "fighting fires", or solving immediate server issues, as opposed to fixing problems long-term. The district technology plan should focus on addressing these issues for the future. Some of the steps that were identified by the evaluator include:

1. Single points of failure must be prioritized and addressed based upon tolerance level
2. Network setup and process must be simplified and automated.
3. Serious consideration should be given to improving integration of technology into the classroom

2. Capital Projects

The second of Mr. Holt's goals which he emphasized is Capital Projects. He presented a document that included a spreadsheet for each location in the district. This spreadsheet is a list of facilities needs at each location. The challenge is to prioritize projects and determine cost, and provide equitable upgrades. The district emphasis is providing reasonably equitable facilities for every location. For example, after evaluation, in order to put effective Carbon Monoxide detectors in the schools, the district will need to upgrade the fire systems in each building. The Board was invited to look through the spreadsheet and see the list of projects and associated costs.

Mr. Holt also presented a list of potential capital projects in the district, with costs. Some of these projects include upgrading fire systems (as was previously mentioned), replacing roofing at several of the schools, security lighting and cameras, marques at schools, concession areas and lockers at Whitehorse High, upgrade to the Bluff Elementary play area, and more. Some of the items on the list involve costs to protect the original investment, such as with asphalt repair and replacement, and some involve costs of demolition and then construction, such as replacing roofs and locker rooms. With each project, the future value of the project must be evaluated. For example, replacing the wiring in a building that may be torn

down would be redundant. Long-term vision and direction is needed from the Board before a definite plan can be brought forward for approval. Some of these items are in this year's budget, and some would be included in future years' budgets. The lists provided was for Board information only. The Board was asked to consider the information for future discussion.

3. Organizational Support

Organizational Support was not specifically addressed, as the Technology and Capital Projects items both speak to the improvement of systems within the district.

Mr. Farley, Chapter President: Mr. Farley expressed a concern regarding the Capital Project information presented. His worry was that the faulty water heater that caused the Carbon Monoxide leak at Montezuma Creek Elementary would be replaced, but that no thought would be given to the replacement of lines and HVAC Systems that are connected to the water heater.

Superintendent Doug Wright responded that currently, the water heater has not been replaced, and the school is operating on one remaining water heater. One heater has proven to be sufficient to this point. But the water heating system at the school will be completely redesigned as a closed system, separating it from the potable water to fight possible future corrosion in the lines due to the hard water running through it. The district is currently waiting for a comprehensive report that is being conducted before proceeding with that replacement system.

D. Board Work Session

1. Capital Projects Review

Capital Projects were previously discussed during the Business Administrator Goals presentation. The Board was again encouraged to review the data for future consideration.

2. Proposed 2014-15 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board was presented with a possible meetings schedule for the 2014-15 school year. This proposed schedule included three options: meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month, the second, and the third. After a brief review, President Bill Boyle suggested switching the locations for the September and March meetings, so that the September meeting could be held at the new Monticello Elementary school. He also suggested that during September, and possibly in some sort of correlation with Board Meeting, a celebration could be held to celebrate the opening of the new school. Monticello Elementary is scheduled to be completed during the upcoming summer, and classes starting in the school in August of 2014. The Board was asked to consider the proposed schedule, consult their own schedules, and bring their thoughts to the next Board meeting.

3. Board Travel Expenditures

Board President Bill Boyle requested that Board Travel Expenditures be tabled until the March 2014 Board meeting.

4. IEC Member Attendance at the NAFIS Conference

Superintendent Doug Wright reported that the Indian Education Committee (IEC) has recently appointed a couple of representatives, and would like to send those individuals to the upcoming NAFIS (National Association of Federally Impacted School) Conference, which will be held in March in Washington, D.C. The IEC does not have sufficient funds to attend, and requested that the Board consider granting district funds for their attendance at the conference. Superintendent Wright expressed his preference that IEC members attend the NIISA (National Indian Impacted Schools Association, a branch-off of NAFIS)

Conference instead, which is held each year in Las Vegas. The cost would be much less, and the information gained would likely be much more valuable than at the NAFIS conference. He did suggest attendance at the conference held this past November for IEC members, but there was some confusion and they did not attend. After some discussion, the Board concluded that funds should be held for bettering education for students, and it was suggested that money be budgeted in the future for IEC members to attend the NIISA Conference.

E. Welcome and Recognition of Guests - 6:00 p.m.

1. Citizens' Comments

There were several community members present for the meeting. President Bill Boyle expressed gratitude to the public for attending, welcomed them, and invited them to address the Board.

F. Hearing

1. Impact Aid and Indian Policies and Procedures- Hearing and Discussion

Superintendent Doug Wright explained that districts that have students that live on Indian Trust Lands are required to have Indian Policies and Procedures. As part of those policies, districts are required to provide opportunities for feedback from community members to ensure that students that live on these federally-impacted lands are receiving equal educational opportunities. The district has hearings periodically throughout the year to provide opportunities for comment, and parents and community members are also welcome to attend their local School Community Council meetings. Although an Impact Aid Hearing was held in January of 2014 in Monument Valley, it was felt that another hearing was needed in the Montezuma Creek area. After this explanation, President Bill Boyle opened the floor for citizen comment.

Jonathon Nez, Navajo Nation Council Delegate: Mr. Nez commented on the district report card which was sent to the public recently. He is concerned with the lower grades that were received by the schools on the reservation. He expressed a desire to work with the district to improve these schools, and was interested in collaboration between the district and the Navajo Nation; specifically, the Division of Dine Education. He also expressed concerns that Impact Aid money is being spent on schools that are not on federally-impacted land. He also requested district support for the proposed road between Monument Valley and Navajo Mountain, which they will be requesting this week. He offered his assistance in any capacity, should the district need it.

Superintendent Doug Wright requested information on the replacement for the retiring Superintendent of the Division of Dine Education. Mr. Nez responded that Timothy Benally is the current acting Superintendent. Mr. Wright reported that in the past the District has attempted to reach out to the Division of Dine Education, but have been unable to get any response from them. The hope is that with the change in administration communication and collaboration may improve.

Board Member Nelson Yellowman expressed his gratitude to Jonathon Nez for his attendance, and his work as a tribal official. He also recommended to the Board that in the future at least two Impact Aid Hearings be held each year, one in the Monument Valley community and one in Montezuma Creek, to facilitate attendance by community members.

Bill Todachinnie: Requested that in the future the district provide some numbers as to how much money is generated, and how that is spent, preferably prior to the meeting. Also, notice in the paper of the hearing along with amounts would be appreciated. He also requested a time frame on the replacement of Whitehorse High School.

Mr. Farley: Mr. Farley expressed concern about the low grades that were received by the district schools on the reservation. He suggested that more Impact Aid money should be spent on those schools in order

to improve conditions. He also requested support from the school district on county routes, to make some road improvements. Montezuma Creek is currently attempting to obtain funding for five major roads in their community, and would appreciate district collaboration.

Elliott Benn: Mr. Benn is a parent. He asked about capital projects, and the method in which bids are advertised. He noticed that most companies that come in for these projects are from Northern Utah companies. He suggested that there might be closer companies that would be able to complete projects without the extensive travel. He also expressed concern about the water in the school, and the danger of corrosive pipes to students' health.

In response, Business Administrator Clayton Holt explained that all capital projects are advertised through local papers. All contractors must be licensed in the state of Utah, and the district would prefer to use local companies. For the majority of district projects, although companies that are from Northern Utah may be awarded the bid, they often hire local workers. Also, often, local companies do not respond to the request for bids. Regarding the water quality in the schools, Mr. Holt qualified that the water was tested at Montezuma Creek Elementary, Whitehorse High School, and several local companies following the Carbon Monoxide leak in November. The test results found that the water quality met the standards for drinking, but that there were dissolved solids in the water, assumedly from pipes in need of replacement. However, the water is not a danger to students.

Board Member Nelson Yellowman requested that in the future, the district report to the public a dollar amount that is received from Impact Aid.

Business Administrator Clayton Holt explained that the district receives money from 3 sources: Federal taxes, State taxes, and Grants and External funds. Because of the presence of federal lands, the districts collect less property tax, theoretically, than those that do not. So through the Impact Aid program, the government awards Impact Aid money in lieu of tax money. However, the money is not given to the districts based on location. As with property tax, it all goes into the pot, together with state tax money, and the district evaluates needs district-wide and distributes the funds as needed. The district budgets show that more money is spent per student on the reservation than off the reservation. The School Board has the responsibility to ensure that the funds are being used to provide an equal educational opportunity for all students in the district, whether on federally-impacted land or not. The current trend is that impact aid money is decreasing each year, and the district has had to make adjustments. This money is a vital part of the district budget, and is necessary for district survival.

President Bill Boyle thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the Impact Aid discussion.

G. Consent Agenda

- 1. Minutes**
- 2. Revenue Reports**
- 3. Expenditure Reports**
- 4. School Expenditure Reports**
- 5. Board Travel Reports**
- 6. Personnel Report(s) and Information**
- 7. Home School Requests**
- 8. Student Hearings**
- 9. Spring Activity Schedules**
- 10. Winter Activity Schedules**
- 11. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items**

Motion to approve all consent agenda items

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

H. Action Items

1. Board Travel Requests

There were no Board Travel requests.

2. IEC Member Attendance at NAFIS Conference

The Board took no action on IEC member attendance at the NAFIS Conference. Discussion on this item was held previously during the work session.

3. Board Meeting Schedule 2014-15

The Board took no action on the proposed Board meeting schedule for the school year 2014-15. Board members were asked to consider the schedule and bring their thoughts to the next meeting.

4. Student Fee Schedule

The Board took no action on the Student Fee Schedule. They requested to address it at the March 2014 Board meeting.

5. Fiscal Year 2013 Audit Report

Greg Marsing from Smuin, Rich and Marsing Auditing Firm came and presented the audit report from fiscal year 2013 to the Board during the January 2014 meeting. The state requires that the Board take formal action to accept the audit. Board member Nelson Yellowman asked how many years the district has used the same auditor, and Business Administrator Clayton Holt replied that the same auditor has been used for at least the past fifteen years. As part of the new state auditing statutes, the district is required to review the auditor selection process, and the way in which the Board reviews the audit report. The Board was asked to consider how they would like that to proceed in the future, and whether or not they would like to appoint a Board Committee to review the process, or to continue as it is currently. Mr. Yellowman also asked for clarification on the student transportation portion of the audit report and the large difference in costs by location that was reflected. Mr. Holt explained that the reason is fairly complicated, but that it is related to the comparability costs, and the way in which fiscal numbers are reported. He welcomed any Board members or individuals that would like to meet with him to have an in-depth explanation of any item on the audit report to contact him, and he will gladly provide any explanations requested.

Motion to approve the FY 2013 Audit Report

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Elsie A Dee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

I. Discussion Items

1. School Improvement Grants for Montezuma Creek Elementary, Whitehorse High School, and Monument Valley High School

Student Services Director Lynnette Johnson presented to the Board some basic information about the School Improvement Grants (SIG) she is currently writing for Montezuma Creek Elementary, Whitehorse High School, and Monument Valley High School. These grants can be applied for when schools fail to meet acceptable standards, and these three schools meet the criteria. The grants are for \$100,000 for the first year, and \$50,000 for two additional years afterwards. This money is to be used to dramatically restructure the school, and to bring in consultants and outside help to turn the school around. The district has already written similar grants for Bluff Elementary and Tse'bi'nidzisgai Elementary, both of which have showed remarkable improvement in scores. As part of the grant application, the Board President and the Superintendent must both sign a letter stating that they formally approve the applications. This letter was presented for signatures, and was approved, signed, and returned to Ms. Johnson.

2. Election Filing Deadlines for School Board

The district provided the dates for filing for election for School Board Members Nelson Yellowman and Elsie Dee, both of which are up for re-election this year. Those filing dates are March 14-20, 2014.

3. June 2014 Board Meeting

The Board meeting for June 2014 is scheduled for the 10th. However, Superintendent Doug Wright has a personal conflict and will not be able to attend that meeting. This is the meeting that the proposed budget for the upcoming school year and the final budget for the current school year are presented for Board approval; although, the budget will have been presented and discussed at the May 2014 meeting. Superintendent Wright offered a couple of alternatives - the meeting could be rescheduled to a different date or time, or, the meeting could be held without him. The Board were asked to consider this and bring their thoughts to the next meeting.

4. Recognition of Retirees

Following the retiree recognition during the May 2013 Board meeting, Board members requested a change in the way that retirees are recognized and thanked for their service in the district. Several options have been brainstormed, but the Board requested to review these suggestions at the next Board meeting.

5. Student/Personnel Recognition

The Board reviewed a provided list of student, staff, and school accomplishments. No individual mention was made, but Board members and individuals were invited to review the list at their convenience and see the good things that are happening in the district.

J. Adjourn Meeting

1. Next Board Meeting Information

The next Board meeting will be held at the District Office in Blanding. San Juan High, and the Student Services Supervisor will be presenting to the Board.

2. Adjourn Meeting

President Bill Boyle declared the meeting adjourned.

Board Officer

Business Administrator