

The Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library as posted. Those in attendance were Chairman Cecil Martin, Vice-chairman Lori Zenner, Trustees Richard Grant and Kathryn Bomar, Superintendent Darrell Olson, Principal Jon Hussman, Clerk/Treasurer Loretta Hammond-Nichols, eight patrons and five staff members. (Trustee Zone #4 –Vacant)

ORDER/SALUTE

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and those present joined in the flag salute.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

*BUDGET STATUS – Superintendent reviewed the expenditures and revenues as of February 2011 for the District. The Food Service Program has year to date decreased their food costs with utilizing Lewiston coop bid prices.

*Erate form 470 was submitted by the Principal in the Superintendent’s absence. March 24 is the deadline for the Form 471 Erate filing to identify components needed for next year. This year we only received funding for the phone/communication services.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

*Enrollment is 90 students.

*The Erate conference I attended at Coeur d’Alene last year, indicated that \$265,000.00 was available in funding which would help meet the equipment/software, wiring upgrades and back-up needs of the school, if we qualify for funding. Our back-up system is nonexistent at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Concerns were heard regarding: open enrollment tuition, increased levy, community wants to keep the school, staff are awesome, special needs student doing well in small school, sports option helped special needs student, need to filter out of district students if the exceptional child program is full, out of district students get good grades and want to come to school at Culdesac, parents are willing to help out to keep school and four-day school week savings.

BOARD COMMENTS

Chairman expressed his concern of not charging open enrollment students tuition when patrons are asked to increase the levy and pay double when the open enrollment students are attending for free. Several years of major cuts in school funding makes this a budget decision, not a personal one. Any concerns should be expressed regarding funding and expenditures, but you need to disregard the small town politics to keep this school alive. Mr. Martin commented that this is not an easy decision.

CONSENT AGENDA (Agenda/Minutes/Finance Report/Bills/Approve Emergency School Closure 3/1/11 for snow)

Richard Grant moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Lori Zenner/Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LEVY DISCUSSION/SET LEVY AMOUNT

Chairman opened the floor to the patrons for discussion.

Topics covered in the discussion: Any amount over an additional \$100,000.00 is going to be a sticker shock, parents can feed their own kids before coming to school, no music option, four-day school week should save expenses, advertise in local paper of the school needs, PTSA use sausage feed to get the information out of the lack of funding from the state and federal level, educate the local people on the needs of the school request is to restore programs that have been cut, talk with the fixed income patrons that if our school is lost that they will pay for another schools levy, Lapwai pays three times our rate for bond facility levy, and let people know that losing the school does not eliminate property tax, get other school levy rates in area for comparison.

Vice-chairman Lori Zenner remarked that the district needs to break even and not continue to step backwards. I don't believe the patrons will pass a \$500,000.00 levy.

Superintendent discussed the projected revenue lost over the last three years is estimated at 30%. Programs have been cut to bare bones and now we need money to just maintain those bare bones cuts. The levy needs to be at \$350,000.00 level to meet those needs. Funding is down an estimate of \$837,209.00 in the last three years with another additional loss of a possible 15% for next year. It is a concern of the amount that the patrons will support the levy. The last two years we have scaled back the budget to keep the levy the same at \$175,000.00. The network switches that need replaced are each about \$20,000.00. A used switch replaced one that went out last year. The oldest switch is in the Cafeteria that supports the elementary wing network. Genesee just approved a \$700,000.00 levy in March. Declining enrollment accounts for some funding lost but not all of it. The economy and lack of state funds is the biggest portion. If the levy fails in May, then the next date available to run a levy is in August with the November date too late. The Budget is adopted in June. Four-day week savings is about 10% and affects the classified personnel within the District. The State Transportation Department cut all field trip and extra-curricular reimbursement for bus expenses. Our special needs program has grown over the past two years which mandates services but does not fund or reimburse for those expenses.

Chairman noted that the school would be in serious trouble without that levy passing. Needs from the staff have been identified at \$512,193.00 to get the programs back to normal as before the last few years' cutbacks. The requests include supplies, instructional materials, curriculum texts/software, testing resources, equipment /technology and an educational field trip, extra-curricular, food service breakfast program, Erate match requirements, special services/resources, instructional aides for the classrooms, transportation costs, staff benefits and library needs. This request does not include the regular upkeep of the maintenance repairs for this old building. The request for the levy above the \$250,000.00 amount maybe shaky and that amount still does not cover the staff requests. It is time for the community to shoulder more of the expenses to keep the school open within their own town. The economy is hard on all families as gas and food costs continue to rise and many people are without jobs or experiencing a reduction in pay and benefit cutbacks. Last year patrons came to the Board and requested a higher levy. Now we need to know the amount that the community will support. We need to be talking of \$300,000.00 or more to maintain and save some of the programs that have been previously cut. The Board can't promote the levy. We can only supply information and publish as legal requirements allow us. It may take many years for the economy and school to rebound and catch up.

Trustee Richard Grant asked the patrons to contact the legislature and pressure them to fund the schools to ease the tax burden that is being placed on the local property owners. Our property tax is going up to help pay for the levy. The cost per \$1,000.00 of market value will be \$4.65 for next year due to the home owner exception law change with the same \$175,000.00 levy. A \$300,000.00 levy last year would cost \$6.79 per \$1,000.00 of market value and \$350,000.00 for last year levy would cost a property owner \$8.40 per \$1,000.00.

Trustee Kathy Bomar thought that \$350,000.00 levy request is needed. Mrs. Bomar reviewed the staff requests selecting Ancillary Services \$130,657.00, Title needs \$38,580.00, a single field trip per grade for a total of \$4,800.00, Transportation match of \$20,000.00, Staff benefits at \$79,358.00, Instructional requests with Library of \$50,698.00, Computer replacements for \$16,000.00 and the difference of \$9,907.00 to be used for emergency repairs as needed.

Kathy Bomar moved to set the supplement levy request at \$350,000.00 for one year only. Seconded by Lori Zenner/Motion passed. (3 Yes votes/1 Abstained)

Chairman commented that the community is going to need to show up and support the school to keep it. No sports are in this levy which means parents, PTSA or Booster Club need to develop their own program for the kids next year. The levy is focused on academics to get the programs operational again. The levy election will be May 17. The County will have up to 10 days to canvass the election which would be the 27th until we have the results.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

The chairman explained the option of charging tuition for open enrollment students. State of Idaho Department of CULDESAC JSD #342 OFFICIAL MINUTES: MARCH 9, 2011

Education produces the tuition certificate from the previous year's information of expenditures per child. This certificate breaks down the options of out of state costs, out of district cost both by ADA or without claiming attendance per month with a separate rate for elementary and secondary. The ADA net monthly rate for elementary is \$421.82 per month per child and the secondary rate is \$633.49 per month per child. These rates would be paid by parents up front before their student could attend school at Culdesac if the Board requests tuition with open enrollment for the 2011-12 school year. The state allows denied open enrollment for programs that are full to capacity. This allowance would apply to the special services program at Culdesac. The funding for Special Programs is at .5 FTE but the needs of the program mandates a full 1.0 FTE instructional staff. Ten students have applied for open enrollment for next year. Those students are currently attending Culdesac School and have not paid tuition this year. Next year the tuition certificate rate may be more as the date that this rate is set is May 10. The new certificate will reflect this year's expense per student.

Trustee Kathy Bomar noted that hard decisions regarding the levy had to be made and how can we accept the open enrollment students on a free ride without charging tuition to attend. Mrs. Bomar voted to bring open enrollment students into the school in the past not realizing the financial problem that has caused.

Vice-chairman Lori Zenner commented that the out of district students have been attending without paying any of the expenses.

Chairman Martin explained that the cost to educate a student per month per student has been ignored for several years but with increasing the levy and budget shortfalls other options need to be looked at. This is strictly a financial concern and the district can't afford to allow students from other districts to attend without paying their share.

Trustee Richard Grant agreed that it is unfair for patrons of the district to float the cost of the open enrollment students.

Kathy Bomar moved to no longer accept open enrollment students to attend Culdesac School for the 2011-12 school year without paying tuition. Seconded by Richard Grant/Motion passed (3 Yes/1 No)

Chairman stated that without exception this will apply to the staff's children as well for next year.

TRUSTEE CANDIDATE PETITION DEADLINE

The new term for trustees is four years. The deadline to file is March 18 with Zone #4 and #5 both open for election. April 1 is deadline for write-in candidate. If only one candidate files for the Zone, then Trustee is declared elected and no election for Trustee is held.

APPOINTMENT FOR VACANT ZONE #4

The Board of Trustees has 90 days to appoint a person for Zone #4 who lives within that zone to represent. Anyone interested will need to contact the Chairman, Clerk, or Superintendent. This deadline is the May meeting. After the 90 days expire, the County Commissioner can appoint a person from at-large for Zone #4.

NEW BUSINESS

SET BUDGET HEARING

The Board has to set the hearing before April each year to meet the deadline for County notification. The Budget Hearing is set a half hour before the regular June meeting when the budget is adopted. The hearing is for patron input regarding the upcoming budget.

Lori Zenner moved to set the budget hearing for June 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the School Library. Seconded by Kathy Bomar/Motion passed.

Adjourn: 9:07 p.m.