



Minutes for Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

**To Be Held in the District Board Room
1055 Griffiths Lane
Ashwaubenon WI 54304
(Phone: 920.492.2900)**

Monday, October 25, 2010

6:30 p.m.

A. Call to order:

President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm at the district office.

B. Roll call:

Board Members Present: Laukka, VanLaanen, Williams, Halron, Aubinger
Board Members Excused: None
Others Present: David Schmidt, Keith Lucius, Brian Nelsen, Jill Rhude, Brad Taylor, Matt Anderson, Andrew Bake, Kurt Weyers, Kris Hucek, Kathy Donarski, Maria Arena, Mark Sheedy

C. Declaration of quorum:

Quorum Present

D. Pledge of allegiance:

The pledge was recited

E. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Aubinger, seconded by Laukka to adopt the agenda as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

F. Announcement of Executive Session:

In accordance with W.S. 19.85(1) (c) an executive session will be held at the end of the meeting for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, employment issues, employee evaluations, and employee negotiations.

G. Citizens and/or delegations:

1. Public Forum – Any citizen and/or delegations: no issues presented. The board welcomed the students attending as part of their high school government class.
2. Student Presentations – Kathy Donarski and student leaders from the Ashwaubenon High School Sting Cancer Group presented on the current and future activities of the group.
 - The Sting Cancer Group has been in existence for 12 months.
 - 100 staff and 85 students are active in the group.
 - They provide support to those with cancer or affected by cancer.
 - They work to raise public awareness of cancer. Mission is to better the world through one act of kindness at a time.
 - Current fundraisers include – cell phone day, selling t-shirts, yellow day, yellow chain, Strides for Life run walk
 - For breast cancer awareness week they wore pink ribbons and held a pink day.
 - They are working to raise money for St. Baldrick’s Day.
 - There will be a Yellow Day in May and a Leukemia fundraiser in January.
 - The outreach committee is called Helping Hands.
 - The Sting Cancer group has four major departments with two student leaders per department. They do not have President and Vice President roles.

The board asked how to access Helping Hands when people are in need of help. There are handouts in the high school office. You can also speak to anyone in the group if you know of a need in the community.

H. Consent Agenda:

Moved by Laukka, seconded by Van Laanen to adopt the consent agenda items 1,2,4,5,6, and 7 as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

Moved by VanLaanen, seconded by Laukka to adopt the consent agenda item 3 as presented. Aye 4, Nay 0. Abstain 1 (Aubinger) Motion carried 4:0:1.

The board stated that they are sad to see Mrs. Souto leave; she has been an asset to the district.

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held on Monday, September 27, 2010.
2. The schedule of checks written 09-21-10 to 10-19-10 (#79355 – 79529 and 79531 - 79664).
3. The schedule of checks written 10-02-10 to 10-19-10 (#79530).
4. The schedule of manual checks written 09-21-10 to 10-01-10 (#137, #1041 - -#1044).
5. The schedule of high school checks written 09-18-10 to 10-19-10 (#12776 - #12866).
6. Staffing:
 - a. **Resignation of Justine Souto** from her Native American Coordinator position with the District, effective October 29, 2010. An exit interview will be conducted by David Schmidt and Brian Nelsen prior to Justine's last day in the district. Justine works with an identified Indian student count of 132 students (K-12). Her position and program is funded with Indian Education Formula Grant dollars in the amount of \$32, 630. The Native American Coordinator position will be posted and hired at a .4 FTE (15-18 hrs per week) and will be grant funded. Justine has served in the capacity of Native American Coordinator since January, 2008 and has accepted fulltime employment at Fox Valley Technical College. In addition to her coordinator duties, Justine served on the school districts equity council and supervised the Diversity Club at AHS. Justine has been an asset to the Ashwaubenon District and while her contributions both in and out of the classroom will be genuinely missed we wish her all the best in her new position at FVT.
7. Co-curricular contracts: There are 124 co-curricular contracts being submitted for Board approval.

I. Superintendent's Report:

- **Partners in Education** - Schmidt informed the board that the district is a member of Partners in Education (PIE). This is a group of local business members and school superintendents that come together to meet and address designated topics. The group's current topics include:
 - Early learning – this is a chart developed for reviewing a child's learning from birth to 5 years old.
 - Student attendance – focus on instilling in students the importance of attending school in order to learn.
 - The Chamber is taking the initiative with businesses and schools to focus on student alcohol use. They are focusing on how drugs and alcohol use inhibit a student's learning and physical growth.
- **Ashwaubenon Education Foundation** - The Ashwaubenon Education Foundation (AEF) was formed 3-4 years ago. They started raising money to help fund things in schools that are not covered by the budget. A total of \$200,000 has been raised so far. Grants totaling \$10,000 were awarded this year.
- **Poverty Simulation** – Recently the district completed a professional development activity on poverty. A poverty simulation was held at each school to help staff become aware of the

everyday hurdles face by kids living in poverty. This simulation was put on with the help of the local UW extension.

J. Discussion/Presentation Items:

- **Handwriting Practices grades 4K-5** – A number of people have approached the board regarding the district’s handwriting practices. Rhude explained that handwriting is part of English Language Arts. The common core in this area is currently being reviewed. Part of this review is looking at the consistency in handwriting practices in the buildings. Currently handwriting is being taught at least one hour per week. Rhude explained the practices for each grade level from defining fine motor skills, posture, paper placement, Zaner Bloser handwriting style, and reinforcement in schools by teachers.

Rhude explained that as an ELA committee, we know the importance of handwriting and that even through there is not a current standard, it is still a requirement in the district. She stated that the committee will be discussing and focusing on what is important in Ashwaubenon when it comes to handwriting.

The board stated that everything seems to be focusing on keyboarding. Children learn to write in cursive but don’t seem to know how to interpret what they wrote. Rhude stated that we do teach it and practice it but it has been de-emphasized with the increase in the use of technology. The board asked if we expect fifth graders to have the skills to write in both styles. Yes this is an expectation; however, as time goes by, it comes down to student choice. Most students will print.

Weyers informed that board that a Valley View student just won several state titles in handwriting!

- **Safe Route to Schools Grant** – The board was reminded of the original presentation on the SRTS grant. The grant has been awarded with a major portion of it going to Valley View. The grant is for \$156,000. Weyers thanked the Bike and Pedestrian Committee and Brad Taylor for their time and hard work in obtaining this grant. He also thanked the board and Mike Aubinger and the village for their support. The grant will include paths around Valley View, reconfiguring the front driving path, new bike racks, and educational sessions for students and teachers. This grant will cross over some of the same areas as the PEP grant.

The board pointed out that the activities will begin in the schools now but the actual construction around Valley View is not scheduled until later. Why is the construction scheduled out so far? With bidding and government money things take longer than desired.

The board asked if bike helmets will be required for children on the bike paths. Education will be provided but it was uncertain about whether you can require a child to wear a helmet.

- **Online Learning** - Schmidt stated that this topic was discussed at the last board retreat. He informed the board that in December they will see a catalog of online courses that will be offered to students next year. These online courses will create flexibility and additional opportunities for learning. Schmidt stated that the board will be able to control the types of courses being offered. The catalog will consist of 20 offerings. They are independent of our core curriculum.

Sheedy stated that when it comes to offering online courses we will start small and think big! He went through the three vendors for online courses (CESA 7, IQ Academy, Apex Learning). He explained Ms. Manning's involvement in creating this opportunity. Sheedy explained that students would be eligible to take online courses when their schedule allows. He explained a number of situations that would use an online course. Approximately 20-30 students should be

participating in these courses. We are looking for the best way to monitor the online course activities of these 20-30 students whether it is assigning a mentor, setting guidelines etc. At this point, it is too much for one person to handle alone.

Discussion Topics:

- Offerings will be limited to courses that encourage students to move up the curriculum to raise ACT scores. Will these courses counter act our current efforts in Science? This is something that needs to be thought through. Students must explain how the online class meets their needs and future goals. Sheedy explained that not all students are ready to take a course online. This is an opportunity that requires a student to be very structured. He stated that students will be required to take a survey to see if they are online ready.
 - The board asked if these online courses will enhance or replaced Youth Options. Sheedy stated they will enhance Youth Options.
 - What is the possibility that our staff could teach these classes and if so, could we offer them to other schools? Sheedy explained that these companies have field tested their programs. We would only do this as we experience this type of learning first. Sheedy also stated that it is a state law that students in Wisconsin must be taught by Wisconsin certified teachers.
 - Sheedy stated that the district is reviewing its online credit recovery program Nova Net. This product may be replaced by a better product called Odyssey Ware.
 - Will there be any student that will have all their courses offered online? There is a possibility that a good portion of classes could be online if their program calls for it (i.e. IEP).
 - As we get into December the board will be presented the roster of courses for approval. We may be able to get a course demo before that time.
 - There was a concern brought forward that some online courses are fine but there is more to education than courses. Communication and interaction with people are also important.
 - If a student takes an online course and they do not do well, can they retake it? Who pays for it if they start it and do not finish it? Sheedy stated that these topics are still being discussed. Once we determine the vendor(s) the district will be working with, we will draw up a contract that addresses these concern.
 - Will online courses be done in a block schedule or can it they replace another course for the year? They can be done both ways.
 - How does this interact with our grading scale? All grades will be converted to our scale.
 - Can a student go above and beyond the block schedule? Doing this is a peer cost increase for the district and it would be discouraged.
- **Ashwaubenon Citizens Survey** – Williams stated that several months ago the village had a survey done by the MarTec Group. Some questions in the survey were related to the school district. These questions were pulled from the report and reviewed by the superintendent. Schmidt requested additional time to review this information for implications and actions. It was pointed out that a majority of the people participating in the survey did not have children in the district. It was felt that this would largely affect how questions are answered. Aubinger reminded everyone that Ashwaubenon is a community of aging people resulting in a decline in enrollment.

Williams thanked the Ashwaubenon community and students that prepared the survey for mailing. He stated a lot of work went into this process.

K. Action Items:

- **Budget and Levy Adoption** – Williams started by explaining that a budget levy adoption is how much the community will be paying in taxes next year.

Keith discussed the general fund revenue and expenditures and how they differ from the annual meeting.

Revenue

- Tax levy is up to \$266,098 from what is presented.
- Interest on investment was adjusted down because interest rates are so low
- Open enrollment was more than anticipated at \$70,388
- State aid is down \$3,507
- There was a \$185,000 drop in computer tax relief aid (30% drop in this aid).
- Over all revenue is up \$129,000 than what was projected.

Expenditures

- Salaries up \$125,000. Additional staff due to special needs and student enrollment
- Co-curriculars – added some positions discussed at last meeting
- Local control – these numbers are adjusted by the number of students enrolled in each school
- Open enrollment out – reflects actual out students; one more student than anticipated
- District wide maintenance – garbage pickup at the HS is not provided by the Village.

Moved by Aubinger, seconded by VanLaanen to adopt the Budget of \$31,460,688 as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

Lucius explained that with the TIF coming off line, we are in a complicated situation. We are seeing a mill rate being level where everyone else is seeing an increase. We were able to hold the line on taxes because of the TIF. There is a concern that next year we could see a big increase in levy. Hold harmless gives us a cushion on our aid loss this year. Keith explained his concerns over levy and mill rates for next year and how the unknown state budget and aid will affect this. He explained three options available to the district.

Discussion Topics:

- On an average home a 3.1% increase would mean what? Lucius felt he couldn't guarantee anything without all the information to answer this question.
- There was a concern that at the annual meeting the voters approved a mill rate of 8.784.
- There is a concern that one levy was adopted at the Annual Meeting and now we are considering changing it. Lucius stated that we have always adjusted the dollar amount on the levy.
- It was felt that we could go up to 3.1% but no higher.
- The board inquired about what the choices will be next year to balance the budget. The choices will be to increase taxes or have budget cuts.
- What have we historically received in aid over the last 5 years? 15 million.
- It was felt that the Stable Levy option is a drop in the bucket compared to what is coming in the future.
- Lucius stated that in speaking with other districts their strategy is to take it one year at a time. They state that the current reality is you do not know what next year will bring. Lucius stated that these districts would die for the Stable Levy option. We are not in the gloom and doom yet we need to prepare for next year.
- The board discussed the choices and what shifting things around would do for debt.
- Lucius reminded the group that since 1995 our mill rate has been stable.
- There was a concern addressed about the .27 in one of the options listed.
- Aubinger stated that this year with the Stable Levy option there will be no significant increase; however we can expect a huge increase next year.

Moved by Aubinger, seconded by VanLaanen to adopt the Stable Levy option as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

- **Renewal of Line of Credit through Associated Bank** – Lucius explained that every year we do a line of credit. As we switch away from aid to tax money, the result is a delay in our money. Lucius is requesting we increase our line of credit by 1.5 million. Next year it will probably be about 3 million. The group discussed the fees associated with the line of credit. Lucius stated we pay 4.5% on any draw. He stated that we have had a line of credit every year for 12 years and have only drawn on it once in that time.

Discussion topics:

- Lucius recommends that we form a committee to review the fund balances.
- Aubinger requested a joint meeting between the school district and the village regarding the TIFF. Lucius has contacted the village regarding using our cash balances together to avoid costs. It was strongly felt that these two organizations could benefit from working together.
- Does the increase in the debt service levy give us any flexibility without cash flow? No the real crunch is between now and January.

Moved by Aubinger, seconded by Laukka to adopt the Renewal of Line of Credit through Associated Bank as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

L. Board & Superintendent Communications:

- Keith Halverson sent a thank you for the recognition he received on his retirement.
- Mr. and Mrs. Kenworthy sent a letter of gratitude for the efforts by both the district and village public safety during homecoming week.

M. Future Board Meetings & Topics:

- The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is Monday, November 8, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

N. Adjournment to executive session:

Moved by Van Laanen, seconded by Aubinger to adjourn to the Executive Session at 8:15 pm. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

O. Executive session:

In accordance with W.S. 19.85(1) (c) an executive session will be held at the end of the meeting for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, employment issues, employee evaluations, and employee negotiations

P. Return to open session:

Q. Adjournment

Moved by Van Laanen, seconded by Aubinger to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

Respectfully submitted,



Jay VanLaanen, Clerk