



Minutes for the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors Monday, May 4, 2009

The Board of Directors held a Special Board Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2009. The meeting began at 6:05 p.m. and was held at the Mead School District Office. Directors Farley, Olson, Hunt, Denholm and O'Connor were present. Also attending was Superintendent Tom Rockefeller, Assistant Superintendent Dan Butler and Executive Directors Wayne Leonard, Ralph Thayer and Kelly Shea, along with Director Dorcas Wylder and Supervisor Cathy Fayant.

I. Approval of Agenda

Director Denholm made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Continuing Business

A. Resolution 09-06: Modified -- 2009-2010 Budget Reductions, Reallocations and Employee Adjustment

Superintendent Tom Rockefeller spoke about the modification of Resolution 09-06 to \$2.8 million, as a more appropriate figure. Assistant Superintendent Dan Butler presented a budget summary in actual dollars per category. This budget is slated to keep educational programs in tact and save jobs.

Director Farley opened the discussion to the public and invited questions.

Wayne Leonard added that Mead is more dependent on state revenue than other districts and \$2.8 million represents 4% of state revenue.

Superintendent Tom Rockefeller stated that 50% of SPED money can backfill programs we are paying for out-of-pocket from levy monies. Dr. Rockefeller said that it is the other 50% that we are concerned about. He said there may be strings attached to that money that we do not know about.

Director Denny Denholm asked how many kids are in the AVID program.

John Hook responded that there are around 10 classrooms with approximately 25 kids each, with an approximate count of 250 kids.

Director Denny Denholm stated that he asked this because as a board they can only use the \$82 million figure, when in reality they can only change 4%. Can we look at other percentages to cut?

Superintendent Tom Rockefeller said we'd have to pass this resolution and ask for a change to the resolution in order to accomplish this.

Director Denny Denholm stated that he'd like to "table" this topic for discussion at a later time.

Director Tom Hunt remarked that \$2.8 million seems oddly comfortable considering what we did face, however, still devastating. The cuts still affect many areas, though other districts are facing larger cuts. Due to the fact that business was taken care of last year as it relates to cuts, things are easier this year. Mr. Hunt thanked the administration for all their preparation and he feels fortunate to be a part of this Board.

Director Bob Olson thanked the administration and staff for all their work on the resolution and budget. He also felt fortunate to be a part of the Board of Directors. Mr. Olson did point out that we could be looking at a similar situation next year.

Superintendent Tom Rockefeller said that he spent two hours with Randy Dorn and his assistant last Friday and that two years from now we could be facing a more drastic situation. Animosity in the state about what to do and also that the levy equalization could hurt districts.

Director Denholm remarked that he had heard on the radio some districts have sent out letters to their staff. What is the May 15th date – a state rule?

Superintendent Tom Rockefeller said that it is for certificated staff.

Director Denholm said that he asked about the date because if \$2.8 million is lower than needed, have we as a Board lost the ability to go back?

Director Hunt asked if the state would move the May 15th date?

Superintendent Tom Rockefeller said that he doesn't know, but that the big thing on the table right now is the levy equalization. At least with the \$2.8 million we are covered.

Director Ron Farley stated that when we ran our levy, we did so by asking voters to approve at the same level. The levy was approved. Our intent is to use lower than the approved rate, and we will only use all of it if the levy equalization doesn't come through.

Director Maureen O'Connor thanked the staff for making this as painless as possible for all concerned.

Superintendent Tom Rockefeller remarked that one of the questions often asked is "Why isn't it proportional across the state". We are one of the few school districts not experiencing a student drop in our enrollment.

Director Ron Farley echoed what the rest of the Board already said about thanking the administration and especially to Superintendent Tom Rockefeller for his work on gearing us up for this last year.

Director Farley invited all audience members to speak, make comments, or respond to comments made. There was no response from the audience.

After lengthy discussion, Director Olson made a motion to approve the Resolution 09-06: Modified. Director O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Executive Session

At 6:35 p.m. Director Farley called for a short break followed by an Executive Session of approximately thirty minutes to review the performance of a public employee.

At 7:05 p.m. Director Farley returned the meeting to open session. No other business was discussed and no action was taken.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was immediately adjourned at 7:05 p.m.