

MEETING OF THE BENTLEY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BURTON, MICHIGAN
Regular Meeting
Meeting #4
October 13, 2009

Members Present:

Chris Sytek, President
Sofia Boulton, Vice-President
Penny Kentish McWilliams, Secretary
Renee Gatica, Treasurer
Mike McCollum, Trustee
Vince Bontumasi, Trustee
Toby Bauldry, Trustee

Absent:

Others Present:

John E. Schantz, II / Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bentley Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chris Sytek, President, in the High School Library, 1150 N. Belsay Road, Burton, Michigan, 48509.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The student representatives were not present. Mr. Sytek introduced who the representatives would be. The student representatives are Sarah Perry and Kelsey Mefford. The alternates are Nick Weiss and Sheila Barnaby.

IV. CITIZENS TO ADDRESS

Brian Hyder
1360 Lyle

Mr. Hyder was wondering when the next buildings and grounds meeting would be. He has meet with an architect. Mr. Schantz indicated that he would like to meet with the architect first to discuss the renovations to the football concession stands.

Fred Timkovich
1400 Audrey

Mr. Timkovich is concerned with the 3rd grade classroom size. There are 34 students in Mr. Bednarski's classroom. He wants to get the extra help in the classroom for his child.

Mr. Schantz discussed there are two options: One is to provide a paraprofessional in the classroom, and the other is to provide teacher compensation, which is what is currently being done. Mr. Schantz stated the administration is aware of the concerns and will be keeping in close contact with Mrs. McCollum and the teachers.

Amy Gray
1646 Hughes

Ms. Gray is demanding that something be done for the classroom sizes that are overloaded, or she will pull her son from the school district. Mr. Bednarski's class is too big of a class to keep them organized. She said when questioning her son about answers on a paper he wrote, he said he cannot ask the teacher for help because he is too busy. She stated it is not fair for the teacher or the students. Her son's grades are suffering.

Dawn McDaniel
1388 Clairwood

Ms. McDaniel also expressed her concern for the third grade class. She stated that because there are so many students in the third grade class, it is so hot in the classroom that the kids cannot wear the proper clothing, for example, wearing the football jerseys on game days. She stated that the students cannot concentrate because of the class overload. She also indicated that Mr. Bednarski's phone does not work in his classroom; he cannot retrieve messages. Ms. McDaniel also expressed a concern for the lunches at Barhitte. She understands that there is a new food service program in place. She suggested that they follow what Anderson Elementary does for their

lunches. They have laminated pictures of food choices that the students can pick from instead of just indicating the student will have the hot or cold lunch. She stated that four days in a row her son's choice was not available; they were out of it already. She believes this would be a simple solution to know how much of everything to make.

Mr. Sytek stated that the food service program is going through some changes with new system.

Mrs. McDaniel stated that when a child goes up in the line to get food, and they don't have their food selection choice, this is the only good meal for some students for the day so it is not fair to these students. She also stated that her son never got a note that his account was low on money for lunches and for three days in a row her son did not eat all day long.

Amber DeLavernge
1264 Brabbs

Ms. DeLavernge indicated that she volunteers her time and has been helping out in the classroom since the third week of school. She stated that Mr. Bednarski has issues with communicating with the children. She suggested that someone advise him or watch him to observe what is going on. Ms. DeLavernge stated that her child used to love to go to school and now her child does not want to go to school. She also stated that her child does not know what is going on in the classroom.

Elaine Beckelic
1149 Forest Avenue

Mrs. Beckelic was questioning about the changes that were made over the summer to the buildings. Her husband was on the task force committee. At that time, the approximate cost was going to be around \$50,000 to upgrade the buildings and approximately \$150,000 was spent. Mrs. Beckelic wanted to know why \$100,000 over the proposed budget was spent on renovations. She stated she had done a FOIA request to obtain the information on what was spent. She stated that approximately \$30,000 was spent on tables and desks, and she doesn't understand why this was necessary and why the middle school's supplies could not have been used. She stated approximately \$70,000 was spent in electrical use. Mrs. Beckelic stated originally the high school was only suppose to need \$25,000 to accommodate the 7th and 8th grade. She stated she wanted to know why the money was spent the way that it was.

Mr. Sytek told Mrs. Beckelic that she should meet with Mr. Schantz to go over the expenses spent on the upgrades.

Mr. Schantz indicated that the costs projected to the task force committee were for costs needed to have Barhitte up and running compared to the middle school. The costs indicated on the expense report were not just related to the renovations. Some repairs needed to be done to update the buildings. The money that was spent came from 2 different bonds: the 2004 capital funds bond and the building and sites' bond. The only cost that was above what was anticipated for Barhitte was the one portable.

Mr. Schantz stated he could meet with Mrs. Beckelic and Mr. Sytek stated to let someone know from the Board when the meeting will happen.

Michelle Sanborn
1050 Pawnee

Ms. Sanborn indicated that she is in the classroom as much as she can be, but Mr. Bednarski needs some help in the classroom. She also stated that her child is having the same problem with the lunch program not having the proper amounts of food prepared for certain lunch items.

Mr. Sytek stated that Mr. Schantz and Principal McCollum can meet with the teacher.

Dawn McDaniel
1388 Clairwood

Mrs. McDaniel wanted to know when the Board got the laptop computers.

Mr. Schantz explained that the computers were bought with EDP money to help the high school students in individual classrooms.

Mr. Sytek also indicated that the laptops are allowing the Board to go paperless.

Mrs. Gatica wanted to know when the problem would be resolved in regard to the overloaded classrooms. She stated that she has heard concerns from many different parents.

Cheryl Nowacki
4516 Lapeer Rd.

Mrs. Nowacki stated that Mrs. Robinson has the experience behind her with the third grade; Mr. Bednarski does not have experience with that age level. The room is extremely crowded and is not a good learning environment for the students.

Mr. Schantz indicated that he could meet with Principal McCollum tomorrow.

It was asked by the parents present at the meeting, how will the information discussed at the meeting be communicated to parents?

Mr. Schantz indicated that Principal McCollum will keep the parents informed.

V. REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

Finance... The Finance Committee discussed approving the Bills Payable dated 9/5/2009 thru 10/13/2009. The Committee recommends the approval of the Bills Payable dated 9/5/2009 thru 10/13/2009 with the exception of check #38194 thru ck#38198 for Preschool supplies to see if the items can be returned and check #38211, pending further clarification.

B. Administrative Reports

Barhitte...Principal McCollum indicated that she had nothing to add to her report. The Board asked Principal McCollum why she thought the attendance went down for the open house. Principal McCollum indicated that it was probably due to the fact that the open house was after school started and last year it was before. Also, she stated it could be because the higher grade levels normally have lower attendance at the open houses than the lower grades. Principal McCollum addressed the heat issue concern at Barhitte. She stated that Barhitte is having a problem with the boiler shutting off. They are working at solving the problem.

High School... Principal Cortez was not in attendance for the Board meeting. Mr. Schantz indicated that there was nothing to add to the high school report.

Athletics... Mr. McComb indicated that there are issues with the food service program, but the feedback from the students is that the food tastes better.

Mr. Sytek stated that he has told his child to tell the food service department what they like for food options.

Mrs. Gray, parent, stated that her daughter said that the food is good, but that the milk does not taste good; it's 1% milk. Principal McCollum had stated that this was a complaint that she has heard from other students and parents. They are going to discuss this with the food service director.

Special Services... Mr. Schantz indicated that there is nothing to add to the special service report. Mr. Schantz did indicate that there is an issue with the special services secretary only being at Bentley part time instead of full time like last year. He indicated they are currently looking at solution that will have someone at Bentley five days a week. The Board will be notified once a solution has been decided.

C. Student Representative Reports

No student representatives were present for the Board meeting.

VI. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Approve Minutes / Regular Meeting #3

Motion by Mrs. Kentish McWilliams, supported by Mrs. Boulton, that the Board approve the minutes of regular meeting #3, as presented.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried: 7-0

B. Approve Bills Payable

Motion by Mrs. Gatica, supported by Mr. Bontumasi, that the Board approve the bills payable report dated 9/5/2009 thru 10/13/2009, with the exception of check #38194 and ck#38198 for Preschool supplies to see if the items can be returned , and check # 38211, pending further clarification.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried: 7-0

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Resignation / Matthew Nash / Part-Time Art Teacher

Motion by Mr. Bontumasi, supported by Ms. Bauldry, that the Board approve the resignation of Matthew Nash, Part- Time Art Teacher.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried: 7-0

B. Approve New Hire / Daniel Kienitz / Part-Time Art Teacher

Motion by Mr. McCollum, supported by Mrs. Gatica, that the Board approve the hire of Daniel Kienitz, Part-Time Art Teacher.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried: 7-0

C. Approve Annual Leadership State Conference / High School Students

Mrs. Turner, SLS Advisor, indicated that five students and two supervisors, Mrs. Turner and her sister, would be going to the conference. Because of Bentley's participation in the past, they have asked Bentley to help plan the conference this year.

Stacey Sullivan, student, stated she wrote an article that was distributed to 15,000 homes. She also was chosen to serve on the Student Advisory Board and is helping to plan the conference and giving them information for Bentley.

For rooms, males and females are kept on separate floors. There are RAs. Mrs. Turner indicated that parents would be writing a letter stating that they acknowledge that their student will ride with a female driver but will be chaperoned by a male chaperone in the rooms. Mrs. Turner will drive her van; they only want one driver.

Mr. Schantz indicated that he supported the students going to the conference.

Mr. Sytek thanked Stacy for representing Bentley.

Motion by Ms. Boulton, supported by Vince Bontumasi, that the Board approve the high school students to attend the Annual Leadership State Conference.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried: 7-0

D. Approve Fourth Grade Mackinac Field Trip

Ms. Larkin indicated that the trip would be May 20 and 21, 2010. Ms. Larkin indicated that the cost did not go up from last year; it is the same cost for students. She stated that last year Mr. McCollum did fundraising for the trip, and they were able to offer scholarships and fully fund those students who would not be able to go otherwise. Ms. Larkin indicated that the amount of chaperones has not been determined yet, but that a sufficient amount will accompany the children on the trip. Ms. Larkin stated that one complaint from the trip last year was the tour was too long, so they are shortening it to 2 hours. Ms. Larkin indicated that they will be using Blue Lakes Charter again for bussing the students to Mackinac. This year they have one long bus reserved because last year there were a lot of empty seats. It is a 56 passenger bus, but they have access to another smaller bus if necessary due to the number of students going. Blue Lakes Charter complimented Bentley on being very well organized. She indicated that Hamilton Inn will be the place the students will stay, which is the same place as last year. Ms. Larkin stated that the hotel is very accommodating.

Principal McCollum and Mr. Schantz indicated that they are in full support of this trip.

Motion by Mrs. Kentish McWilliams, supported by Mr. McCollum, that the Board approve the Fourth Grade Field Trip to Mackinac Island.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried: 7-0

E. Approve Xerox Copier Lease Agreement

Mr. Schantz indicated that Xerox looked over Bentley's copier situation and got an idea of what our needs are. Currently, there is 15 months left for Bentley's current lease agreement with Xerox. Xerox typically offers a new solution before your current lease is expired. The technology currently is cheaper and better. Currently, the annual cost for the lease is \$43,763. With the new lease, it would \$32,933 annually which is a \$10,829 savings per year. The new copiers allow more copies to be made per minute. Mr. Schantz stated that this new lease agreement would meet our needs better and save the district money. Mr. Schantz indicated that Bentley does not have to bid this lease out because Xerox is approved on State bid.

Mr. Sytek questioned whether Xerox had good service or not.

Mr. Schantz indicated that Xerox has good service, but the machines currently in the buildings are not made for the copying done at the buildings; the machines are over-worked for the applications the copiers are used for. The new copy machines will better serve the district's needs.

Mrs. Turner, high school teacher, stated that in the high school, it is a problem for teachers to get a chance to use the copy machines especially with more teachers in the building.

Mr. Schantz indicated that there will be a new copier in the main office and a new one for the teachers, so this should help solve the problem.

Mrs. Kentish McWilliams said Bentley should be careful of having a 5-year lease agreement with Xerox. She

stated Xerox is good at selling their machines, but the machines are not good, and they charge overages.

Mr. Schantz stated that we have only had overages at Barhitte; everyone else has been in limits, and we have increased the limits as well with the new lease agreement.

Motion by Mrs. Gatica, supported by Mr. Bontumasi, that the Board approve the Xerox Copier Lease Agreement.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1

Motion Carried: 6-1

VIII. CLOSED SESSION / PERSONNEL ISSUES

Motion by Mr. Sytek, supported by Mrs. Gatica, that the Board go into "closed" session, for the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried: 7-0

The Board went into "closed" session at 7:55 p.m.

The Board returned to "open" session at 8:15 p.m.

IX. ROUNDTABLE

- Mr. Schantz indicated that a Policy Committee Meeting needs to be scheduled. There will be more meetings in the future due to a lot of recommendations from Neola. Policy Meeting was set for October 20th, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the administration office.
- Discussed going completely electronic for the Board packet. Board decided that this would start with this Friday's (October 16, 2009) weekly packet.
- Discussed that the next newsletter would be coming out tomorrow, October 14, 2009. Right now, 222 people have signed up for the newsletter.
- Mr. McCollum indicated that in the one science class that there are no textbooks for the kids. No material, no nothing. Mr. McCollum stated that a bond for curriculum to get textbooks was talked about before, and he indicated that this should be addressed right away. Mr. McCollum suggested getting a list of all the textbook needs and which ones do not currently have textbooks.

Mr. Schantz stated that there is a big need for textbooks; there have been past years where there are just classroom copies.

Mr. McCollum suggested proposing a bond that is heavy on curriculum and partially for athletics. If this bond did not pass, he suggested having the bond be strictly curriculum.

- Ms. Bauldry informed the Board that the Key Club is having a pancake dinner Oct 27th from 5 pm- 7pm at the McDonald's. For every dinner sold, a dollar will go to the Key Club.
- Mr. Sytek stated he was contacted by Richard Hill, President for GCASBM, wanting email addresses of all the Board members, but he wanted to clear it will all the Board members first. No one objected to having their email address given out.
- Mr. Sytek also received an email from Richard Hill in regard to the GCASBM fall program on October 29, 2009 starting at 5:30 p.m., and the topic will be social networking.

X. ADJOURNMENT

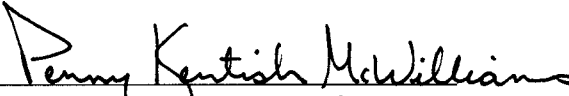
Motion by Mr. Sytek, supported by Mrs. Gatica that the meeting be adjourned.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0

Motion Carried: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Penny Kenthish McWilliams, Secretary
Bentley Board of Education