

School District of Gibraltar Area

Fish Creek, Wisconsin

Regular Meeting of Gibraltar Board of Education

Minutes of *Monday, February 28, 2011*

Community Room #266

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

President Pfeifer called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Miriam Erickson, Mike Peot, Sally Pfeifer, Fred Anderson, Lynnea Hickey, Martha Lubber Pelrine, Suzanne Brennan

Absent: None

Also Present: S. Seyfer, PK-5 Principal/Superintendent; K. Knutson, 6-12 Principal/A.D.; P. Hickey, Business Manager; N. Keehan, Administrative Asst./Board Secretary; 31 visitors

Minutes

Moved Erickson/L. Hickey to approve February 14 and 21, 2011 minutes as written. Aye – All. Opposed – None. Motion carried.

Communications

Board received communications from Mary Kay Shumway and Mariah Goode.

Open Discussion

Erickson attended high school solo/ensemble February 26; students performed very well.

Band/Choir spaghetti dinner fundraiser cleared \$3,000 February 20.

FOG Latin American Community Dinner and Spanglish concert were well attended.

Dick Burress read letter thanking board for willingness to serve on school board and stated we need a strong Gibraltar School. Proud of all employees and encourage pursuit of excellence. School is important to our community. Difficult task of putting budget together during this difficult time. Don't be reluctant to ask for help.

Administrative Reports

Reports were submitted electronically. Seyfer added that one of two boilers in Auditorium sprung leaks; seeking estimates to fix and to replace. Currently able to operate with one boiler in Auditorium.

Bills

Moved Lubber Pelrine/Brennan to approve payment of bills totaling \$208,955.43 as presented. Aye – All. Opposed – None. Motion carried.

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2011-12 Calendar

County school board presidents and superintendents met last week to continue discussion of common calendar. Sturgeon Bay, Sevastopol, Southern Door, Gibraltar, and Washington Island all agreed on spring break March 26-30, 2012. Differing calendars was main problem in past for shared programming. Bell schedules are more similar than first thought. Sturgeon Bay has skinnies in addition to block scheduling. Sevastopol wants to match Sturgeon Bay's calendar because of current shared programming. Washington Island will follow Gibraltar. Athletics was discussed briefly. Non-conference competition would have most latitude for rescheduling. Most spring sports begin last week of March. State's financial trauma to finance all schools is causing us to look at opportunities. As finances diminish and enrollment declines in Door County, schools need to look at ways to collaborate. Common calendar is first piece. Sturgeon Bay will amend their 2011-12 calendar to start September 1.

Moved Anderson/Peot to accept recommendation of administration to approve 2011-12 calendar as presented on a one-year trial basis. Aye – Luber Pelrine, L. Hickey, Anderson, Pfeifer, Peot, Erickson. Opposed – Brennan. Motion carried.

District Plan for Cost Reductions

Seyfer presented recommendation for cost reductions. District has longstanding commitment to Four A Program that provide Gibraltar students with fine education. Today we know there is an anticipated reduction in revenue limit of \$500/pupil in 2011-12. This causes Gibraltar to look at reducing \$300,000. From student standpoint, all programs are funded and 97% of budget is intact.

Proposed statutory changes in pensions and health care contributions will affect 40% of our employees. District will look to general fund and building maintenance fund for additional reductions. In past budgets, administration built in to annual building maintenance fund the ability to fund building projects as they accrue. District is anticipating taking \$150,000 out of \$250,000 building maintenance fund. Now district cannot complete building projects on annual basis, but will need to form another bonded referendum for building projects in fall 2011. Supply budgets are being reduced 10% for \$30,000 savings. Next revenue limit override amount may increase if fund balance is eroded. Governor will release annual budget bill tomorrow.

Moratorium on New Hires

Moved Pfeifer/Luber Pelrine to moratorium on new hire postings of two elementary teachers and elementary principal/pupil services director. Aye – All. Opposed – None. Motion carried.

First Reading of Amendment to Policy 9.28

Class size guidelines were put in place when class size sections went from 3 to 4 sections. District is anticipating 34-35 kindergarteners next fall. For stability of continuing programming, elementary grade levels should stabilize at 2 sections, except when enrollment reaches 51 students per grade level, then 3 sections will be established. This proposed policy would begin with 2012-13 school year. Anderson suggested hold on second reading for more news regarding Governor's budget bill and when more is known on open enrollment.

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Mike Davis asked board to consider SAGE guidelines of 18/section for grades K & 1. Board received e-mail from Mariah Goode advocating for smaller class sizes no larger than 19-20 for grades K-3. Britt Unkefer also spoke in favor of small class sizes. Britt Maltby asked if inclusion would be considered with larger class sizes. Specialists are in general classrooms and administration will recommend this continue. District will retain option to move aides around based on class needs. No second reading. Board will be apprised at future meetings of expected class sizes and how they are staffed.

New Head Football Coach

Knutson recommended employment of Pat Keehan as head football coach. Keehan has coached Nor Door Football for 13 seasons and built nice foundation with youth program.

Moved Anderson/Erickson to approve employment of Pat Keehan as new head football coach. Discussion: Position supervises other coaches with emphasis on improving program, which elevates role of head coaches. Head coach and athletic director work together to contract assistant coaches. Aye – All. Opposed – None. Motion carried.

Board/DCAC Liaison Committee

President Pfeifer appointed Lynnea Hickey to Board/DCAC Liaison Committee to serve along with Pfeifer and Anderson.

Special Meeting

Moved Pfeifer/L. Hickey to approve special meeting of board on March 7 at 10:00 a.m. at Gibraltar with Washington Island School Board. Aye – All. Opposed – None. Motion carried.

Donations – None

Committee Reports

Extracurricular Activities & Community Relations Committee discussed co-op athletic programs, request to examine high school girls swimming for 2012-13, and potential improvements to softball field.

Student Learning & Instruction Committee discussed alternative diploma, accountability of students in grade levels with CCSS and AYP by close of 2013-14, promotion criteria, and summer school

PEAK Committee Report is listed on website.

Adjourn

Moved Peot/Brennan to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Aye – All. Opposed – None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Keehan
Admin. Asst./Board Secretary