

Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2018

Mt. Holly School Gymnasium

6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Board: Paul Orzechowski, Dan Buckley, Mary Alberty, Brigid Faenza, Katie Hollebeek, Kelly Tarbell

Staff: Meg Powden, John Davis, Karen Trimboli, Cheryl Hammond, Craig Hutt Vater

Public:

Mr. Orzechowski called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Tarbell **moved** to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion of the oil bid. Ms. Faenza seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. August 8, 2018

There was discussion about Ms. Tarbell participating via phone. Ms. Alberty **moved** to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2018 meeting. Ms. Faenza seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

A. Board Comments

Ms. Tarbell questioned what was being done with the student representatives. Ms. Trimboli noted that they just held their elections so they will be re-organizing and it will continue to be Aaron Merrill and Ryan Boyle as the student reps. They should be at the next meeting.

V. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

A. Principal Reports

Mr. Hutt Vater reported that MHS has had a great start to the school year. There are quite a few new staff and many amazing returning staff. They also have a new parking lot that has received a lot of positive feedback. The state police were present for the first couple days of school to assist and they were well received. Mr. Hutt Vater also reported that the teachers have new laptops and the school also has new Chromebooks and Ipads for the students to use. There was discussion about grades 2-6 being 1:1 with Chromebooks while K-1 is more iPad-oriented.

Ms. Trimboli reported that BRHS is off to a great start. There are many new faces at the school between teachers, staff and administrators. She noted that the new admin assistant is doing well learning the new systems. Enrollment is up by 10 students and there is an exchange student from Brazil attending school this year. She noted that soccer has been a challenge trying to make full varsity teams without decimating the middle school team. She explained that the middle school team is co-ed and the coach, Adam Pullinen, has been instrumental in recruiting players. She explained that this weekend is the Josh Cole tournament. There was a pep rally before the girls' invitational and there will be another one before the boys' tournament. She also reported that the gym floor is looking bad. Mr. Buckley noted that there were no volleyball lines on the floor. Ms.

Trimboli noted that the tradition is basketball and they would like to hold on to that tradition even with the BRHS building closing. She also noted that the floor in the prototype looked too busy with the volleyball lines. She reported that there are a few more coats of varnish needed, then time to cure and then they will work on the transitions at the doorways. Ms. Trimboli reported that there is an open house on 9/27 and they hope to have a reveal that evening if everything stays on task.

Ms. Trimboli reported that she and Mr. Davis will be busy with observations and write-ups this year. To work on getting caught up, they need to conduct over 40 observations this year. She also reported that the hot lunch staff deserves much kudos since the kitchen was 104 degrees at lunch time and then 120 degrees by the end of the day. Mr. Buckley questioned the news story that requires that school be open before Labor Day. Ms. Powden noted that this is concern of hers as well and will be bringing the position to the VT Superintendent's Association to seek other input. There was discussion about the temperature in June but the students being tired at that point as opposed to them being fresher at the start of the school year.

Ms. Trimboli reported on the maintenance report. She noted that the custodians replaced a drinking fountain and some parts of other fountains. They have also been working on the painting. The windows on the front of the building bottom floor were replaced. Some shades were replaced, the ball field was re-seeded. The roof has been inspected and small repairs made. She also reported that a water main broke and that was repaired. She reported that the small foot bridges and stone to mark the nature trail were installed. The boilers were inspected and will have their maintenance later this year.

Ms. Trimboli reported that at LES the ice cream social was held. The PTG and Rec director were their recruiting for help and participation. Act 1 training was held for new faculty members and substitute teachers. There will be another one on 9/19 for parents and volunteers at 6pm. She explained that she and Mr. Davis have been bouncing back and forth between schools as needed. She also reported that they are beginning some math assessments for grades 3-6. They will be screening K-2 students on PNOA and Fontas and Pannel.

The Ludlow open house will be October 11 (5:30-6:30) and coincides with the book fair. On 9/17, during constitution day, LES students will be at the Coolidge Building and will be giving the preamble to the constitution. She reported that LES has received the Clift grant again and will be receiving 500 new books and will have an author visit. She is looking forward to the Innovations in Learning committee beginning again. Ms. Trimboli noted that as part of school spirit, the students and faculty will be working on decorating their parking places to help keep spirits up. There will also be a senior night on the evening of the open house. Ms. Faenza noted that there seems to be some confusion about what the bus schedule is and whether picture day for the HS students is the same as for MS students. Ms. Trimboli noted that the bus schedule came out very late in the game. There was also discussion about the school announcements being sent to the board members.

Ms. Powden suggested that if the board members are addressed by the public about missing communication that they direct that person to contact the school directly to resolve any issues. She also reported that all 6 TRSU schools are open officially. She noted that there was a delay at CAES due to a flood and people have worked hard to find alternative locations to educate the students. She also reported that the administrative council went on a leadership retreat for 3 days this summer and invited teacher leaders to join them on the last day. She reported on some of the work they have been doing regarding personalized learning and PBE. The group worked on instructional leadership commitments. She shared that information with the board. She also reported on the membership of the administrative council.

The instructional leadership commitments were rolled out to the teacher leaders and then to the rest of the teachers. The administration is committed to supporting a balance of teacher-directed and student-self-directed learning; encourage students to develop their voice and choice surrounding their learning. This process allows students, even at a young age, to begin to develop their goals. She will continue to bring back the leadership work, including instructional practices, feedback forms and snapshot forms, to the boards for their review. The administrative team is also committed to providing appropriate feedback, and ensure that the teachers feel safe in their classrooms to take risks in their instruction and to continue to support each other through this process.

Ms. Trimboli reported that this time was incredibly beneficial, probably the most beneficial in the last 10 years. She noted that her teachers are appreciating the commitment to teachers feeling safe to try new methods and are saying “it’s ok to get messy”. Mr. Hutt Vater noted that he felt that it was very valuable having the teacher leaders attend and help this process

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Policy Approval-2nd read

There was discussion about these policies being based on prior approved policies and model policies with minor changes. Ms. Alberty **moved** to approve the policies as presented-A1, D7, D18, E1, F25, F26, F26:003, F27, F28, F30, F30:001, G1, G2, G9, G11, G12, G13, G14, H7. Ms. Faenza seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Committee Update and Review Chart

There was discussion about the committee chart, along with the community members at the bottom. The support staff committee is done for the next 2 years. The food service committee needs to meet soon. The policy committee is meeting regularly. Ms. Powden noted that the innovations in learning committee should start up again since they haven’t met since last year. She had discussed in the past the committee meeting together with both districts, then separating for district separate work. There was discussion about students serving on some committees, including the food service committee. There was discussion about the teachers and staff being able to participate on the education committee. There was discussion about the innovations committee including preK-12. Mr. Hutt Vater will serve on the food service and the innovations committee. Mr. Buckley and Ms. Hollebeek will also serve on the innovations committee. The tentative date for the innovations committee will be on 9/25 at 5:30 at the Roost.

The food service committee will meet for an hour before the next regular meeting. Ms. Trimboli will bring up the need of student reps on this committee at the next student council meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RVTC Report

Mr. Orzechowski reported that he attended the RVTC board meeting last week. They are planning an open house to invite the board members from all the sending schools between October and November. The meeting was informative.

B. Oil Bid

Ms. Hammond reminded the board that she had brought the board a bid in June for fuel at \$2.73 per gallon from HB Fuels and it was rejected. She noted that she again sent out a few RFPs at the end of August, but only received one bid again-from Irving. She explained that she asked for the bid based on 2 entities that way one could choose to move forward with the bid and the other one didn’t have to. She also asked for fixed versus over-rack rate. She received a bid for a fixed rate of \$2.59 per gallon. The variable rate is \$2.48 (8cents over the rack rate) but that is a gamble. They could save some money with the variable rate, but it is just as likely to lose money. She also

noted that the bid is for 38,000 gallons and explained that there are liquidation damages if they don't use 90% of that. She further explained the rationale for the company requiring the use of all the committed gallons. The market is very volatile and therefore this bid expires at midnight tonight. The board discussed the hurricane affecting the rate, and it is up 3 cents from last week. There was discussion about the cost of fuel last year being 1.99 per gallon.

Ms. Alberty **moved** to accept the bid from Irving for 38,000 gallons at \$2.593 per gallon. Ms. Tarbell seconded. She asked if in the past Irving had had trouble with the schools. There was discussion about the residential group discounts oil companies sometimes give. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Hammond will send in the signed bid this evening.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Harrison questioned the need for 2 public comment sections. Mr. Orzechowski explained the opening one and the follow-up section in case anyone wanted to speak about something covered in the meeting. Ms. Hammond questioned if there was going to be discussion about Mr. Snay's position and some possible changes.

Ms. Trimboli noted that they would like the board to consider increasing Mr. Snay's position to .8 fte so that he could teach the media classes. He would continue to do language work in flex classes in the middle school. Ms. Trimboli reported that Mr. Snay does have the requisite background to teach the media specialist work for the middle school. Some of his time (.2 fte) would be helping in the guidance department as an administrator. There was discussion about the increase having been budgeted. The people in the positions have found other positions leaving this need. They are able to meet much of the work, but not having to add a full position to cover the work. There was also discussion about the students having the need.

Ms. Alberty **moved** to add discussion of an increase in a teacher position to the agenda. Ms. Faenza seconded and the motion carried without opposition.

Ms. Alberty **moved** to approve increasing Mr. Snay's teaching position from .6 fte to .8 fte to cover the work as described earlier in this section of the meeting. Ms. Faenza seconded and the motion carried without opposition.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Black River Teachers and Staff Jobs Ending 2020 (1 VSA \$313 (A)(1)(b))

Ms. Alberty **moved** to enter executive session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Black River Teachers and Staff jobs ending in 2020 after determining that discussion in open session would put the board at a disadvantage. They invited Ms. Trimboli, Ms. Powden, Mr. Hutt Vater, Mr. Davis and Ms. Hammond. Mr. Buckley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The board returned from executive session at 7:33 p.m. No action was taken.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA:

The next meeting will be on October 10 at LES at 6:00 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Alberty **moved** to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Ms. Faenza seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Wilson
Board Recording Secretary