

MINUTES OF MEETING
JACKSON SCHOOL BOARD
Jackson Grammar School
June 15, 2015

- 1. Call to Order:** The June 15th meeting of the Jackson School Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Jerry Dougherty, Daniel Mahood, Jessica DellaValla, Genn Anzaldi, Keith Bradley, Dr. Carl Nelson, and Principal, Gayle Dembowski. Also present were SAU 9 Director of Administrative Services, Jim Hill, Jackson School Bus Driver, Mark Blotner, and retiring Guidance Counselor, Gaie Mitchell. There were two members of the public present.

The Board recognized retiring Guidance Counselor, Gaie Mitchell, for her many years of service. Mr. Dougherty acknowledged that Ms. Mitchell has been a wonderful member of JGS staff for many years and presented a plaque in recognition of that on behalf of the Board, followed by a standing ovation. Ms. Mitchell commended the Board for “doing what’s best for the kids and their support of the staff.”

- 2. Approve Minutes (5-18-15) – Motion by Ms. Anzaldi, second by Ms. DellaValla, that the Minutes of the May 18th meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Rather than keep Mr. Blotner waiting until the end of the meeting, Dr. Nelson suggested taking Item 11. D out of order. The Board agreed.

11. D – Allowing Skis on the Bus – Mr. Blotner stated skis on the bus is a problem, not for him, but for the State Police and for his license. He stated he has discussed this with a State Trooper who informed him that as a driver he cannot leave the bus unless there is an emergency situation, and putting skis on and off the bus is not an emergency situation. Mr. Bradley questioned if there was a volunteer to do that whether that would remedy the situation. Mr. Blotner stated that would be fine and, for safety sake, it should be done at the school. Mr. Bradley suggested it be put in the newsletter that volunteers are needed to help with the skis.

Mr. Hill said we are talking strictly underneath the bus, noting that the skis will be rattling around underneath so if someone has super fancy skis they have to be made aware of that. Mr. Blotner stated no skis are allowed on the bus. Ms. Anzaldi questioned what happens on the day they have alpine skiing. Mr. Blotner noted alpine skis are larger and he is not sure there would be enough room for them. Ms. Anzaldi stated skis would have to be either here or at Bartlett. Mr. Bradley stated next September he would be willing to transport them to Bartlett. Mr. Mahood questioned whether we could have the cage on the bus. Dr. Nelson pointed out that would require the driver doing something and he cannot, by law. Mr. Blotner said he does not think it would be a problem for the Nordic skis. Mr.

Blotner expressed that it has been a pleasure working with the children, the Board, and the staff.

On another note, Mr. Bradley questioned what the procedure is when a car passes a bus in a no passing zone. Mr. Blotner stated it is illegal. He said also of great concern is when a vehicle passes the bus when running the lights.

3. **Citizen Comments:** Emily Benson inquired as to whether the Board would be discussing pre-Kindergarten at this meeting. Dr. Nelson stated it will be on the agenda for the joint Jackson/Bartlett meeting in the fall. It was noted Mr. Voci is working on putting together a committee to work on it, and they will be doing that this summer.
4. **Presentation of School Programs/FYI Items:** None.
5. **Old Business:**

A. Whitney Center – Review Use of Facilities Policy – No discussion, no action taken.

B. Consider Approval of Mission and Vision Statements – Motion by Mr. Bradley, second by Ms. Anzaldi, that the Board approve the Mission and Vision Statements. Ms. Anzaldi promptly withdrew her second, Mr. Bradley withdrew the motion.

Dr. Nelson explained that Bartlett is keeping their own mission and vision statements, but is endorsing the SAU Mission and Vision Statements, showing support for it, but not doing away with their own. Ms. Dembowski said she thinks Jackson's statements are pretty succinct to us and who we are. Ms. DellaValla acknowledged that people have put a lot into the one we have. Mr. Bradley said he likes the idea of having the individuality.

Motion was made by Mr. Dougherty, second by Ms. Anzaldi, that the Board endorse the Mission Statement and Vision Statement adopted by SAU #9. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- C. **Consider Approval of Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Jackson School District and the Jackson Police Department – Motion by Mr. Bradley, second by Ms. Anzaldi, to approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Jackson School District and the Jackson Police Department.**

Ms. DellaValla questioned if the big change is the 500' radius. Ms. Anzaldi said it is to encompass more of the crosswalk and to put up signage and enforce it – this makes it more strict for the police to enforce. Ms. Dembowski said the 500' radius changes the safe and drug free school zone.

Ms. DellaValla questioned the paragraph dealing with the reporting of a crime in writing. Mr. Bradley said they are saying if the event has already happened. Ms. Dembowski said we have had an incident or two, and in the past they immediately wrote a report while it is fresh and clear in their mind; if there are any violations there needs to be a paper trail and she keeps records of offenses.

Ms. Anzaldi commented it is making sure all i-s are dotted and t-s crossed post-incident. Ms. DellaValla said a teacher is meant to report it to Ms. Dembowski immediately and she in turn would make a written report. Mr. Dougherty stated it is not an incident requirement but a reporting requirement.

Dr. Nelson stated this wording is pretty much standard throughout the districts; the informal agreement is that any time there is a question Ms. Dembowski can call the Chief and get advice. Ms. Anzaldi noted we are pleased with the new Chief and his involvement in the school. Mr. Dougherty said this is just outlining protocol for what happens when certain things occur; it does not necessarily mean the Police Chief will see an incident as a crime. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

6. **Instructional Issues:** None.

7. **Consider Personnel Actions:**

A. Extension of Contract for Gayle Dembowski, Teaching Principal – Motion by Ms. DellaValla, second by Mr. Mahood, that the Board approve extension of Gayle Dembowski’s contract as teaching Principal through June 30, 2017. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Approval of Agreement with the Bartlett School District for Library Media Services – Motion by Mr. Bradley, second by Ms. Anzaldi, that the Board approve agreement with the Bartlett School District for Library Media Specialist Services. Mr. Mahood questioned the number of days and was told Ms. LaPlante works for Bartlett 4 days a week and one day a week for Jackson. It is a necessary position. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

C. Approval of Agreement with Bartlett for Family Support Liaison Services – Motion by Ms. Anzaldi, second by Ms. DellaValla, that the Board approve agreement with Bartlett School District for Family Support Liaison Services. Ms. DellaValla questioned whether this is just for high school students. Mr. Bradley stated it is both Jackson kids attending Bartlett Middle School and Jackson kids attending Kennett High School, adding that Ms. Garland does a really good job. Ms. Dembowski noted she is very good at reporting back to her, for instance, she reported recently that Jackson was well represented at the awards ceremony. Mr. Mahood asked for statistics as to how the Jackson students fair overall, and Dr. Nelson said Ms. Dembowski generally reports this at the end of

the year, but suggested she also compile a separate list for the Board. Mr. Bradley reported every Jackson student at the Bartlett school was elected to the Junior Honor Society. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

D. Approval of Summer Program and Curriculum Work – Motion by Ms. Anzaldi, second by Mr. Dougherty, that the Board approve the Summer Program and/or Curriculum work. Ms. Dembowski noted it changes a little each year, depending on the curriculum. She stated they have a new Literacy Reading and Writing Curriculum Map and Mr. Harding and Ms. Heysler will be spending time this summer aligning assessments and instruction with the Map in order to be ready for next year. There is a curriculum development line in the budget for this. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

E. Approval of Revisions to Personnel Policies for Contracted Personnel – Motion by Ms. Anzaldi, second by Mr. Dougherty, that the Board approve revisions to the Personnel Policies for Contracted Personnel. Dr. Nelson stated the only change is getting the pay up to standards. He noted this year they included a 1.7% increase in salaries for proficient and distinguished ratings. **Motion carried by Unanimous vote.**

F. Consider Approval of Staffing Changes to Address Section 504 Requirements – Motion by Ms. Anzaldi, second by Mr. Mahood, that the Board approve staffing changes to address Section 504 requirements for the 2015-16 school year. Ms. Dembowski said with regard to extending hours for school nurse position and reassigning instructional Aide to primary classrooms, she recommended increasing nursing hours and also increasing the instructional Aide's time to implement the requirements of the 504 Plan. She stated the extra funds required for this increase should be covered by two rehires of new staff and, if not, it will be covered by reducing other line items so that the bottom line will not be impacted. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

8. Business Affairs:

A. FYI – 2014-15 Budget Status Report – Dr. Nelson stated “we are in good shape” with a \$263,000 fund balance presently.

B. Consider Awarding School Bus Bid – Motion by Ms. Anzaldi, second by Ms. DellaValla, that the bid for the new school bus be awarded to Dattco, Inc. at a price of \$83,493. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

9. Administrator's Reports:

A. Superintendent – Dr. Nelson announced Kennett graduation will be held on June 20th at 10:00 a.m. and all Board members are invited.

B. Principal - Ms. Dembowski made note of a letter from the Rozzie Mae Animal Shelter thanking students for their generous donation of \$1917.

Ms. Dembowski also called attention to a letter from Congressman, Frank Guinta, congratulating Hunter Roberts and Lilla Synnott for the Believe in Books Earth Day Essay contest in which they each won first place in their age group.

Ms. Dembowski reported results from the child care after school survey, noting there were 14 responses: 11 said they would take advantage of the program, but mostly for 2 or 3 days a week. It was estimated there was about a 20% return. She said most indicated they would be willing to pay; most were interested in after school as opposed to morning before school. Ms. Dembowski said she is not sure we could do it completely without added expense; they have considered doing it three days a week.

Mr. Bradley suggested doing the survey again in the fall to see if we get a similar result. Mr. Dougherty agreed it might help to do it again. Ms. Dembowski said she may include it in the newsletter, that given the number of respondents, it did not seem there was enough interest so they may do it again the fall.

Ms. DellaValla said she wonders if there is a way to collaborate with other activities being provided and questioned: is the issue that they need an activity or that they need coverage for kids until 5:30 p.m.? She suggested it may be a matter of having a coordinator to do that. Ms. Anzaldi said maybe the question should be “are you looking for enrichment or child care?” Ms. DellaValla suggested also if they are looking for homework help, they might get high school students involved. Mr. Dougherty suggested Ms. DellaValla meet with Ms. Dembowski in the fall to work on this.

10. Citizen Comments: None.

11. Board Member Issues: Mr. Dougherty noted that this is technically the last meeting for Dr. Nelson with this Board, stating he has done an incredible job, it was a gargantuan task, and Dr. Nelson came through in a big way taking education from the past and bringing it into the future. Mr. Bradley said people have no idea that Dr. Nelson has done all he has. The remaining Board members echoed these sentiments and there ensued a standing ovation for Dr. Nelson.

A. Set Date for Next Meeting – Monday, August 24, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Nelson commented they may have to meet once prior to that for election of personnel.

12. Signing of Manifest: Manifests were duly signed.

13. Nonpublic Session: None.

- 14. Adjourn: Motion made by Mr. Dougherty, second by Ms. Anzaldi and carried by unanimous vote, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary

Agenda – August 24th:

Listening Post meeting date to be set
Allowing skis on the bus

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