

JACKSON SCHOOL BOARD

Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2016

A meeting of the Jackson School Board was held on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Jackson Grammar School

Board Members Present: Chairperson Jerry Dougherty, Keith Bradley, Jessica Della Valla and Dan Mahood. Genn Anzaldi was not present.

Superintendent Kevin Richard and Jackson Grammar School Principal Gayle Dembowski were also in attendance.

1. Mr. Dougherty called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and read board meeting rules and expectations.
2. Approve Minutes (9-19-16)
Motion: by Mr. Bradley and Ms. Della Valla.
Mr. Bradley: under number 9, it should not have read: ‘we should talk about instructing Gayle whether or not to cut a teacher.’ What was said was that Gayle should not be wasting her time looking to cut a teacher, because it’s not something they would recommend or support. **4-0-0.**
3. Citizen Comments:
Penny: disappointed about scheduling for the listening post. The title was not clear on what it was about, nor did it provide an explanation that they wanted taxpayers to attend. The listening post was scheduled 4 ½ days before it happened. Mr. Dougherty: agrees that this should have been planned better. It wasn’t only the scheduling, but the announcement and explanation of what it was.
4. Presentation of School Programs/FYI ITEMS
Board agreed to move agenda item 9-B-1 up to this place in the meeting.
9. B: Principal
Consider 6th Grade Proposal:
Joan Heysler: talking about an outdoor classroom. Thinking of a space in the woods with benches, etc. Talked about a gazebo or some kind of covered learning facility. Sixth graders presented proposal.

Student: Presenting idea of 36x20 foot pavilion. In this spot we can have cookouts, maple sugaring and opportunity to work outside. Place to put a grill. Dan Mahood pointed out we have to transport a grill back and forth. Space can also be used for sports festival. Maple sugaring could be done here, too. The convenience of maple sugaring would be amazing for the kids at Jackson Grammar School. Kids would learn how sugaring process works. It is a covered space for us to work outside. Their class feels like they work better outside. This also gives them a chance to leave a legacy for future classes. This project will also give the 6th grade class something to add on to. We have already plotted out the building. It would be a great place to do outdoor cooking and other outdoor events. **Ms. Heysler:** they outlined where the building would go as well. **Ms. Della Valla:** would we share this space with people that use the Whitney Center? Would we be sharing this space with them? **Ms. Heysler:** we talked about that as a possibility. Next in the process is obtaining building permit. **Mr. Mahood:** asked about timeline. If we can get started right away, we hope to have the timber frame started in late spring. **Ms. Della Valla:** asked if they will be building it. **Student:** we hope to get some community volunteers to help build this. Mr. Marshall has contacts for timber, as well as a machine to help mill the lumber. He also has a lot of experience with timber framing. Most timber frame buildings last hundreds of years. **Ms. Della Valla;** asked about cost of materials. **Student:** Money from grants and donations of time and material as well as volunteers. **Ms. Heysler:** we've started looking at grant money through NHEAFF. We'll be reaching out to the community. This is also going to involve a writing project to ask for volunteers and donations. We hope there will be no cost to Jackson taxpayers. **Mr. Dougherty:** very persuasive presentation. Clarified that they need the approval to construct this on school grounds. Any questions that he may have had were answered in the presentation. **Mr. Mahood:** would they be doing some sort of business plan? **Ms. Heysler:** yes. **Mr. Mahood:** that would be really great to see. **Mr. Dougherty:** the money that gets approved for donation gets approved through us anyway.

Motion: by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Mahood, to support the 6th grade's proposal for an outdoor classroom/pavilion. **4-0-0.**

Mr. Bradley: if this goes beyond June 21st, he would expect them to still be involved through the project completion.

Board agreed to move item 4-C to this spot in the meeting.

C. Preschool Committee Presentation:

Ms. Della Valla: committee has been meeting for about 8-10 months. This is a starting point for the board and community. Thanks committee for all of their hard work on this. Their purpose was to prepare a public preschool proposal for Jackson for the school year 2017/2018, to be ready by fall of 2016. The committee has worked to obtain input from taxpayers, parents, students, teachers, community members, school district and state officials. They used this information to come up with this proposal for a public preschool located in the Fellowship Hall and playground of the church. It would follow the SAU calendar and run from 9am-1pm. There would be one hour before and 2-hour aftercare paid for by parents/caregivers. Parents would need to provide transportation. Current enrollment projections for the 2017/18 school year is 10. They were striving to be proactive rather than reactive. They would like to serve as a resource.

Peter Benson: thanks for all the hard work. Very supportive of the concepts. Devil is in the details. Wants to make sure that both the school and the church are protected. Encourages that creativeness that Jessica had suggested. **Mr. Dougherty:** was wondering how long of a commitment they would have for the church. **Ms. Della Valla:** didn't want to go too far as a committee in terms of negotiations. Didn't feel they could represent the school without this presentation to the board. **Mr. Benson:** Church structure is somewhat unique and they have a new staff member. There's a lot in play there. The structure has a defined voting timeline and process. **Christine Crow:** she has been in touch with church council, tried to make this proceed as quickly. Applauds Jessica for her leadership on this. Jessica brought out the best in each person on the committee. **Mr. Bradley:** his thing was the legalities, as far as being in the church, or what happens with the day time uses of the church? **Melissa Marcotte:** preschool numbers based on? **Ms. Della Valla:** 2014/15 annual report. Started with anticipated enrollment. Worked with Gayle and talked to people. One of the

reasons we ruled out here or Whitney we would have too many kids.

Ms. Dembowski: in order to do the Whitney Center or this building, it would have negatively impacted our art and music programs. **Sarah**

Clemons: asked how it would affect existing preschools? We also provide monies to Children Unlimited. Her big concern would be

what impact would it have on these other providers? **Ms. Della Valla:** we had more than one meeting that covered this issue. That is

something they need to decide. Despite the fact that some of us are advocates in school choice, what we know is that coming from the

national level, there is a push for public preschool. SAU 9 is looking into it. Bartlett may be in the near future. We can't make everyone

happy all the time. **Ms. Dembowski:** one of the other concerns is that there are some youngsters or families in this area that don't have a car

to transport them to Conway. This provides equal access to childcare regardless. **Mr. Bradley:** if it is a public preschool, he wonders if we

have to provide transportation. DOE regulates 6 and up. This would be a voluntary public preschool, so they wouldn't have to. **Mr.**

Richard: unless you have student with special needs, then you would have to. **Ms. Dembowski:** that is something they already do for a

student, anyway. Our current buses can be retro fitted, so they could potentially use their own buses. **Amiee:** putting a 3 year old on the

bus isn't something they like to do. **Mr. Bradley:** he just wanted to make sure that they are not required. **Ms. Clemons:** she would like to

think that they would find the means to take care of their children.

When you have children they are your responsibility. Do we not test

3 year olds to make sure there isn't any need? **Ms. Dembowski:**

parents can request it and those services are available. **Ms. Della**

Valla: there are parents who for whatever reason doesn't know how to navigate the system, so there are children that aren't getting these services.

Melissa Brady: asked about the insurance cost and where they found

it. **Ms. Dembowski:** it would be the same that the school is on.

Mr. Dougherty: thanks the committee for all their work. **Ms.**

Dembowski: we had some real conflicts that arose and we were brought to the table by Jessica to get this all figured out. **Amiee:**

thanks Pam Stimpson, she was a great resource for us, and helped to bring us back to the table. **Ms. Crow:** one concern is a cost. The

costs will only go up from here. The rent would increase incrementally; the insurance costs would increase as well. **Mr. Mahood:** When the Bartlett Board was approached about this, the director had mentioned how burdensome it is becoming to keep the Bartlett preschool running. And the Lilliputian schools finances are operating on a wing and a prayer. **Mr. Bradley:** as a realist, the first budget talks for this upcoming school year begin in two weeks. **Mr. Dougherty:** one question we need to consider is if it is possible to get this running for the 2017/18 school year. If it is, we really need to get working on this. If we do put it in as a proposal for the next school year, we should have it as a warrant article and then we need to have a community forum for it. As Penny mentioned, we didn't do a good job getting the word out on the listening post. **Ms. Crow:** may be limited by the timeline of the church. The church is not on board with this yet. Their council only meets once a month. And they still have a lot of questions of us. **Mr. Dougherty:** does the church sound like our options. **Mr. Bradley:** not opposed as long as all legal issues are worked out. **Mr. Dougherty:** the first step is talking with the church. **Ms. Brady:** perhaps the church would hold some more meetings. Council meeting is this Wednesday, and our new pastor starts November 1st. **Mr. Benson:** the two entities are the church and the chapel association (the owners of the church). Would encourage starting to meet with the church. **Ms. Clemons:** regarding it being a warrant article. Could it be on the ballot? **Mr. Dougherty:** there isn't a way to do this, unfortunately; it has to be a warrant article. We really need to put forward an effort to get some community involvement on this. He wonders if they should schedule a meeting before the budget hearing. We as a board should put our questions on paper so that Jessica can begin going over details with the group. **Ms. Clemons:** how many questionnaires were returned to you? **Ms. Della Valla:** 40-50 responses. Also received a number of telephone calls, spoke to a number of people in person. **Mr. Bradley:** if this doesn't happen for this next school year, he hopes they won't go away, he hopes to see another proposal for 2018-19. **Mr. Mahood:** felt he was putting this plan together so people could vote on it. It wasn't just going to be us 5 voting, but opening it up to the community as well.

- A. Ferry Beach Report
 - B. Recap of Listening Post:
 - Mr. Dougherty:** Held listening post on 6th grade on September 19th. Thinks it was a good discussion, had a fair number of people show up. We didn't really decide on anything just yet. But this Board is committed to sending our 6th graders to Jackson for the 2017/18 school year. We do need a study on this. Given that we have decided this, he would like to start discussions up again in the spring. We do need to frame and communicate these things better.
5. Old Business
- A. Whitney Facility Usage: **Ms. Della Valla:** the committee just met today; still working on things.
 - B. Review of Salary Schedule for Hiring: tabled for next meeting.
 - C. Personnel: **Mr. Mahood** met with 2 teachers' representatives. It was a great meeting.
6. Instructional Issues: none.
7. Consider Personnel Actions: none.
8. Business Affairs
- A. FYI – 2016-17 Budget Status Report
9. Administrators' Reports
- A. Superintendent
 - 1. Set Date/Time for Personnel Committee
 - Mr. Richard:** handed out hiring proposal, but also need to look at other personnel policies as pertaining to non-teaching staff as well. Will get together in the next couple of weeks with Dan and Jerry on that.
 - 2. Conway Strategic Plan Update:

Mr. Richard: Strategic plan is done and out. Presented a matrix that measures their progress. It can be found on the website, but Kevin is happy to make hard copies available for anyone that would like one. This really holds our feet to the fire and track our progress for the next five year.

B. Principal

Gayle: Ferry Beach will be our next task. 6th graders have been meeting with her on a daily basis and they have a lot of ideas.

10. Citizen Comments: none.

11. Board Member Issues -- Board Discussion/Committee Reports

A. Set Date for Next Meeting (November 21, 2016)

B. **Mr. Dougherty:** next budget meeting is November 3rd at 10:30 a.m.

C. **Mr. Dougherty:** asked to make sure the line item for the taping of the meeting is included in the budget. It is \$50 per meeting.

12. Signing of Manifest

13. Nonpublic Session - RSA 91-A:3 II: none.

A. Personnel Matters

B. Student Matters

14. Board adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer L. King
Recording Secretary