

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

April 21, 2010

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Joint School District #391 was held in the gymnasium of the Kellogg Middle School on April 21, 2010. Board members present were Thad Samuelson, Bob Stovern, and Scott Gibbs. Also present were Superintendent Pommerening, Clerk Rinaldi, and others as listed on the attached sheet.

Vice Chairman Samuelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chairman Samuelson explained the general procedures for the public hearing to address the state declared financial emergency for all school districts. Rules were reviewed for the patrons to address the board. It was also noted that this is not the time to air general complaints. Superintendent Pommerening then made a statement about the financial emergency.

Glenda Stern spoke representing the WSEA with specific questions. She asked if the alternative school were funded by Title I Federal money how much of those monies would we lose? Superintendent Pommerening said she would refer that question to Bonnie Farmin. Glenda then stated that Canyon Elementary is in need of a new well. What is the cost of the well? Would it be better to move Canyon students to the Pinehurst Annex for cost savings and they could still keep their separate "magnet" status operating as a school within a school. On behalf of the WSEA she then read a statement. WSEA understands that the district is facing financial "crisis" because of the state holdbacks and cuts in its appropriation. Not only do they recognize the district's situation but are willing to work with the board to reach a "viable" agreement in negotiations that is fair and agreeable to the hard work and dedication of our staff. "We are all in this together and are willing to work on this together."

Wayne Pfeiffer spoke on the 4-day school week. He recited information from Bonners Ferry based on 2005-2006 figures. Wayne states the district can save a lot of money and that it would be beneficial to the school district.

No further speakers were signed in to speak on the financial emergency issue.

Superintendent Pommerening stated that unfortunately the financial emergency still exists due to the loss of state funding, declining enrollment, and the failure of the March Levy. A motion was made by Bob Stovern, seconded by Scott Gibbs to approve the opt in to the statewide financial emergency as declared by the Idaho State Legislature and the Governor. All in favor the motion carried.

Vice Chairman Samuelson introduced the second agenda item. He opened the meeting to public input and commentary on agenda item #2, discussion and public suggestion on the budget reductions resulting from the March levy failure and as approved at the April 12 special board meeting.

Steve Mills spoke on sports and how if we instituted the 4-day week we could be able to fund sports and the added personnel necessary to support them for only \$60,000.

Glenda Clark was up to speak about the sports that were cut that support themselves. She was asked what sports fund themselves and did not have an answer. Superintendent Pommerening said that she will provide feedback if she could leave her address with the district.

Alan Williams stated that he didn't like to see anything being cut. He asked if there were any options to adding sports back. Bob Stovern stated that we would listen to options that the public has to offer such as Pay to Play, a sports supplemental levy, or other options. Scott Gibbs also stated that if one sport raised money we might not be able to add it back due to Title IX restrictions. He also stated that the levy is very necessary to run the district especially with the loss of state funding. Scott Gibbs also said that rules are involved so the whole picture needs to be looked at. Alan Williams added that he wanted to see if money could be raised and he knows the community is willing to step up.

Scott Miller was up to discuss the special levy. He was hired for wrestling and fired within 72 hours. He said we need to run the special levy to support all sports. He said a successful school system has a successful sports program. Scott doesn't want us to become a bottom of the barrel school district. He said let's get this levy passed and then immediately work on the special levy.

Jeremy O'Brien said that sports should be the very last thing that should be cut. Whatever we have to do, do it, let's make it happen. He wants the video game out of the students' hands and get them out playing sports.

Patty Milholland is all for the kids so let's start at the top and cut administration. She thinks we should share an administrator with Wallace. Bob Stovern stated that it takes both districts to agree to consolidation and Wallace said no.

Sandra Hughes was here to discuss the alternative school. She said that sports always work out, but where will her child go without the alternative school. What about No Child Left Behind? Her child is doing well in that environment and what will she do now? The district needs to think about these students. Her child has been excited for school and this will kill that enthusiasm. Sandra Pommerening said that they are working on alternative school options.

Jeffrey Campo representing the KHS student body in the effects of the budget cuts on individual students including scholarship, leadership, and students. He was mostly concerned with sports scholarships. Bob Stovern commented on how many other things will affect all types of scholarships.

Debbie Domy was present to discuss students in cross country. She said the students that have their sport cut are affected much more than administration could imagine. She would like to see a percentage cut across the sports rather than winners and losers. Bob Stovern stated this was a good suggestion. Sandra Pommerening said that IHSAA was looking at around the edge cuts as with game scheduling.

Jason Bonnicksen was there to support academics. He said that we are not here to promote sports but to move ahead on academics. He wondered why we had in school suspension and why do we need to babysit students. We should really look at what is necessary for academics.

Stephanie Brawley has worked with the school district in the field of mental health. She now does not choose to work with us because she sees waste in the system. She said that we are in a downward spiral and not only in the school, the county, and the state. She is for academics, sports, and the alternative school. We should look at the budget for those priorities. Buses, breakfast, lunch, should be opened up and looked at. We need to start with the state funds and go from there. Bob Stovern offered her the opportunity to come in and speak to district personnel.

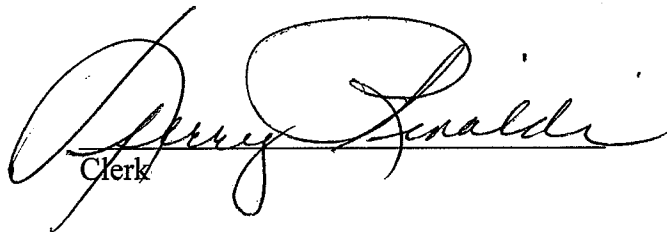
Dawn Van Vleet asked about the second levy if it does not pass. She was also wondering about what the 18 year old students were being told at the high school. She said that the information that was getting out was that a person was not affected unless they had a home that was valued over \$200,000. Superintendent Pommerening answered that the chart in the brochure showed the tax impact on a home with a taxable value of \$100,000.

Jan Job wondered why Wallace isn't having problems.

There were no other speakers signed in to address the board.

A motion was made by Scott Gibbs, seconded by Bob Stovern to keep the record of all suggestions, to consider the financial and educational impact of these ideas, and to hold another public meeting sometime after the April 27th levy election in order to further discuss the situation. All in favor the motion carried.

Superintendent Pommerening thanked everyone and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Clerk

Board Chairman