

MINUTES

Jefferson High School Dist. 1
Regular Meeting

November 17, 2009
Jefferson High School

Board members present:

Alan Erickson **Diane Lorenzen (left right before clerk report)**
Pat Lewis **Lori Lagerquist** **Kathy Jackson (left right before Personnel)**
Lynne Bryant (arrived at claims)

Administrators present:

Lorie Carey, Clerk/Business Manager

Visitors: Kay Deskins, Rex Sonsteng, Luke Senechal, Jessie Collins, Samantha Humphrey, Mike Hesford, Colleen Teeling, Laura Butler, Lorna Deskins,

CALL BOARD TO ORDER	Mr. Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:04. The pledge was said.
MINUTES	<i>Ms. Lorenzen moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by the 5 present.</i>
CLAIMS	<i>Ms. Jackson moved to approve the claims and accounts. Ms. Lorenzen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.</i>
PUBLIC COMMENT	Kay Deskins introduced her daughter Lorna who has been nominated by the National Young Leaders Conference to go to Washington D.C. in March of 2010. Mr. Erickson suggested asking the Booster Club for support. The Board members referred it to Mr. Whealon.
COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS	Letters. A letter from Britton Mann was received. A letter from T.J. Eyer OPI was received. Student Report. Luke Senechal gave a student report. November wasn't very busy. The dancing issue - suggestions of grabbing, undressing, and straddling as being unacceptable. Hunter Steketee is researching teaching the students to dance. Ms. Lewis asked what types of dancing they were willing to learn. He stated that that wasn't his area of expertise but that girls in student council had some ideas.
STAFF PRESENTATIONS	Staff presentations: Mr. Hesford Junior English is going well; he has already asked of the students 5 essays. AYA English is also going well and is a new and interesting challenge. The film class was demonstrated by a PSA (public service announcement) submitted to ABCFox. The PSA is a thank-you for the state of Montana for the smoke-free state. It was just sent in today and they are waiting to see if the PSA is chosen. The next is a cross-curricular PSA about hand-washing. The third presentation was a trailer from a film that will be coming soon. A matinee is being planned for the enrichment period coming soon. They are working to update their equipment and will be doing individual projects soon. The class members haven't been doing much film study that he had anticipated at the first of the year. If the class grew to 25 it would change it dramatically. Ms. Foster briefly presented her traditional English class information. Ms. Lagerquist asked about the feeder school students' ability. The students' ability in grammar hasn't been where it needs to be for years. The students from the north end of the county seem to have a little better set of writing skills. Ms. Foster emphasizes English basics in writing and grammar. Mr. Kelly took his Journalism class to Montana City to share some learning time. The language arts curriculum is up for renewal this year. Mr. Sonsteng presented a short overview of the questions asked at the last meeting. Their (his and Ms. Collins) plan is to meet kids where they are and take them as far as they can go in four years. They suggested a Glencoe Placement Test to place them properly. They are picking a couple areas to target for improvement this year. The kids will be able to "practice" by taking a test and scoring their efforts and some released tests as well. The students are not practicing enough – not finishing their homework. There may be consequences for poor performance on tests. Ms. Jackson questioned that this might deter students from attending the following year. Mr. Sonsteng felt that the kids would step up to the plate and get the job done. Find out what kids want to do and show them where math can help them. Ms. Lewis asked if there is a way to approach kids who don't see the positive end to their education. He stated that the teachers need to reach out to them. Mr. Kelly spoke in support of Mr. Sonsteng's enthusiasm, the rewards and the consequences offered. He also suggested that perhaps the English department needs to throw in the hat as well. Mr. Sonsteng reiterated the use of technology. The cost of the calculators (30) was about \$3000. The projection device and software would be about \$500. The total should be under \$5000.

Mr. Dempsey – Counseling Update. Enrichment period is a good opportunity for Mr. Dempsey to address items with students without taking students out of traditional class time. University system has new requirements coming up. Freshmen and their parents will need to know these things right away to begin planning. He gave each member an overview of the counseling program as well. The two items he plans to work on to improve tests scores – contact parents of sophomores and the sophomores themselves to emphasize the important of the test. U of M Western has a pilot program on-line that may become available for JHS to utilize to broaden course offerings and get students credit. He has a packet of information for Juniors for the SAT and ACT tests. There are a bunch of prep sites to go to for help.

When asked about parent/teacher conferences, Ms. Humphrey stated that they haven't been held for about 3 years. The times they were held, the parents who really should be there weren't there and those whose kids were doing fine, were.

Mr. Dempsey added that he felt the school got off to a really good start. The Four Day School Week (FDSW) seems to be going well too. Staff members are dedicated and spend a lot of time outside the classroom to prepare. Many are spending the Fridays at the school.

COMMENDATIONS AND
RECOGNITIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations/Personnel. Committee hasn't met since the last meeting. Superintendent evaluation should be done soon. Ms. Lorenzen will bring the forms for the next meeting. He is on a 3-year contract but the board needs to make sure that they address the Feb. deadline for renewal if necessary.

Policy/Handbook. Committee hasn't met since the last meeting. Policy manual has been updated. Ms. Lewis will set up a meeting with Mr. Whealon.

Budget/Investment/Insurance. Committee hasn't met since the last meeting.

Building/ Grounds /Transportation. Committee hasn't met since the last meeting. The washing machine is on the way. Chemical disposal is also being addressed.

Curriculum/Technology/Public Relations. Ms. Butler addressed the board concerning the panther costume. The new costume ripped the only two times it was worn. The money is being refunded. To buy the one with the right guarantee and backing it will cost about \$1400. If Mr. Whealon thinks the school can afford it through the activity portion of the budget, the board would support it. They were supportive of getting one that is worth it. Ms. Humphrey gave a short presentation about the FDSW. 146 students responded to the survey. A significant savings in amount spent for substitutes was realized. Student attendance also increased. Juvenile parole is supposed to contact Ms. Humphrey about any Friday issues and they haven't any problems to report yet.

CLERK REPORT

Business Manager/Clerk Report. Submitted in written form. The board asked that banners be printed of the four single posters.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent's Report. Submitted in written form. The board felt that the school was probably undervalued and that the suggestion to increase the value was reasonable. They felt that the \$1.40/sq ft might not be high enough. The stadium should be added to the insurance coverage as well.

AD Report. AD report was presented in written form.

Service Learning Report. Ms. Piccolo was unable to attend.

Goals and Planning. Tabled to next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy Discussion. Ms. Jackson moved to accept 2nd reading of policies with the same suggested changes as previously noted. Ms. Bryant seconded the motion which passed unanimously by the 5 present.

NEW BUSINESS

Prickly Pear. Ms. Jackson moved to approve the contract for Prickly Pear. Ms. Bryant seconded the motion which passed unanimously by the 5 present.

Retiree insurance. Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS
Cont.

JHS Clearing Funds. Ms. Jackson moved to approve the 286 and 287 clearing funds. Ms. Bryant seconded the motion which passed unanimously by the 5 present.

Transportation Contracts. Ms. Lagerquist moved to approve the transportation contracts. Ms. Lewis seconded which passed unanimously by the 5 present.

Attendance Agreements. Ms. Bryant moved to approve the attendance agreements. Ms. Lagerquist seconded which passed unanimously by the 5 present.

Personnel. Substitute applications. Ms. Lagerquist moved to accept Charlie Butler as a substitute. Ms. Lewis seconded the motion which passed unanimously by the 4 present.

Coaching Positions. Ms. Lagerquist moved to accept Scott Connole as head girls' basketball (GBB) coach. Ms. Bryant seconded the motion with passed unanimously. Ms. Lagerquist moved to offer the assistant GBB coach to Lorie Carey. Ms. Bryant seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FOLLOW-UP/TOPICS FOR
FUTURE BOARD
MEETINGS

Retiree Insurance
Goals and Planning
Policy – Exchange student diploma

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Chair, Jefferson High School Board

Clerk, Jefferson High School Board