

MINUTES

Jefferson High School Dist. 1
Regular Meeting

March 15, 2011
JHS Library

Board members present:

Alan Erickson
Kathy Jackson

Pat Lewis
Sabrina Stekete

Diane Lorenzen
Lynne Bryant

Stan Senechal

Administrators present:

James Whealon, Superintendent

Lorie Carey, Business Manager

Visitors: Ron Smartnick, Monty LeTexier, Micki LeTexier, Denise Brunett, Neil Brunett, Michele St. George, Katherine Martini, Laura Butler, Jan Anderson, Kaylie Grant, Shelby Connole

CALL BOARD TO ORDER Ms. Stekete called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The pledge was said.

CONSENT AGENDA Corrections of hanging sentence in the 2/15/11 minutes. Ms. Jackson moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Senechal seconded the motion which passed with 1 abstention (Ms. Lorenzen was absent from the previous meeting). Mr. Erickson moved to accept the claims and accounts. Ms. Lorenzen seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Erickson moved to accept the Feb. 28 special meeting minutes. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Letters to the Board.

Dance Team Received a thank you letter for the support of the team by the board.

Student Council Report. Katherine Martini reported that Student Council gave Shaina Wood \$100 to help with the things she lost in her house fire. Ms Getten will be organizing the 8th-grade day. The teacher survey is on-line for one more week. The student council is beginning end of year plans for the BBQ.

Staff Presentation – Shelby Connole and Kaylie Grant gave a brief presentation about the FCCLA project Bowl-A-Thon for special Olympics. Both girls are looking into careers in special education and teaching and felt this would be good for them. This project was organized not as a competition but merely a fun outing for the youngsters. Kaylie contacted the Special Olympics coordinator and the bowling alley. Shelby solicited for sponsors for the activity. The girls realized that a little bit of a challenge encouraged the bowlers to do better.

Personnel. Coaching vacancies. None.

Substitute Applications. Jeremy Sullivan was recommended as a custodial sub. Ms. Jackson moved to accept the recommendation. Ms Lorenzen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Staff Vacancies. None.

NEW BUSINESS

Call for Election. Ms. Lorenzen moved to call the election for May 3. Mr. Erickson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Ms. Stekete is running again. Mr. Erickson and Ms. Bryant are undecided. Two applications from other community members have been received. Information for the election will be posted on the website and sent to the area schools as well.

Graduation Credit Requirements. The higher level currently required was set for several reasons. JHS used to be a “dumping ground” for students from Helena who couldn’t meet the number of credits required there. Mr. Smartnick agreed that that was one of the reasons. Ms. LeTexier stated that when she was on the board, the members felt that setting the bar high was a positive thing. Mr. Whealon was asked what the data showed, whether students left JHS to go to Helena because their requirements are lower. He stated that he hadn’t seen any data to that effect. Special Ed students graduate under an IEP which may state the number of credits needed. Mr. Senechal moved to lower JHS requirements from 24 to 20 (the minimum state requirement). Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. Mr. Senechal withdrew his motion so that this could be addressed by the policy committee.

Policy Readings. 2410P 1st reading Mr. Senechal moved to lower the credit requirement to 21 (from 24). Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. Ms. Lorenzen feared that the paper in Helena would print that “JHS is lowering their standards.” Mr. Senechal was concerned that students moving from Helena might be coming in unable to graduate with the credits required. Ms. Stekete asked if the 21 is an artificial number. Ms. Jackson stated that yes it was but it is the one Helena uses and would put JHS on the same playing field. No requirements for individual areas of study would be lowered. The motion passed 5 to 2 Ms. Lorenzen and Mr. Erickson opposed. Mr. Erickson recommended that line 43 state that JHS recognizes dual credit for any accredited post-secondary institution. Mr. Senechal moved to accept this as 1st

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

reading. Ms. Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6 to 1 with Mr. Erickson opposed.
3310 – Recommendation to keep policy with no changes.
5328P – Family Medical Leave further clarification was needed
5122F - The committee recommended to delete lines 10 and 11 and adopt form as corrected. Ms. Lorenzen moved to accept the committee recommendation for the 1st reading. Mr. Senechal seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
3415 - Committee felt that the information was already addressed in handbook and the policies already states that JHS complies with MHSA rules and regulations. Ms. Jackson stated that Great Falls has a program that provides a baseline for each player and determines whether and/or when a player should resume play after a concussion.
3415P – Same thought as that for 3415. Ms. Lewis asked if it is appropriate to ask the AD to address the steps taken to comply with MHSA rules. Ms. Lorenzen suggested that the county nurse who serves the schools be asked to address this and provide information. Mr. Smartnick stated that Head Coaches have to complete a coaching on-line class and new rules are incorporated.
5510F – Recommended form be available in district office.

PLANNING

Planning Agenda Item. Mr. Whealon was asked to give an overview of the possibility of hiring additional administrative staff. Mr. Senechal asked where the need for this person lies. Ms. Steketee said that staff development and instructional leadership was the need. The positions lost this year roughly saved \$87,000 in salaries. In addition, about \$5,700 will be saved with retirement programs premium reductions. Ms. Bryant stated that education of the public needed to be made i.e. board meetings should address all the options possible given the information available at the time. The budget committee will address the option of increased administration. Ms. LeTexier stated that when JHS and BES shared a superintendent and each had a principal, that combination of employees served the students best. Ms. Steketee stated that the Mt. City superintendent had an employee who was serving the educational leadership position well and was currently serving ½ time in that position. That employee also counseled the students well when it came to the options of small schools. It might be a possibility that a person could be shared with Montana City School, similarly to the way we share or have shared employees with Clancy and Boulder Elementary. Mr. Erickson summarized that the board needs to have the committee look into several options available. Ms. Brunett stated that MT City school had no influence on their decision to send their kids to JHS. She added that the commute to Helena was the primary influence for students to attend Helena Schools.

COMMENDATIONS AND
RECOGNITIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations/Personnel. The next meeting will be held March 16 at 6:30 in the BES Library **Policy/Handbook.** Committee members met and are still reviewing facility use and handbooks. Next meeting will be March 24 at 4:00.
Budget/Insurance/Investments. The committee didn't meet.
Building/Grounds/Transportation. Mr. Whealon will address roof repairs later.
Teaching/Learning. Didn't meet.

CLERK'S REPORT

Presented in written form.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Mr. Whealon has available the books published by OPI on School Finance and Budgets. The asbestos abatement will be about \$5,000 to remove the tile in the art room. The architects submitted a proposal of ~\$10,000 to supervise the roof construction project. The architects recommended that the mold be tested. The target date for awarding contracts is May 10 board meeting. Estimated \$40,000 to fix a roof section

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bids for Roof. Addressed above.

Fall Sports Recommendations. The student evaluation forms were issued in hard copy. The computer was not used. The AD's recommendation was to rehire. Mr. Senechal moved to open up the head football position. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. Ms. Lorenzen stated that we have a candidate that has been evaluated and may have some areas of improvement but should be given the opportunity to work on the concerns for a year. She felt that the consistency for the program was essential. Ms. Jackson reminded the board that Mr. Erickson had requested at the previous meeting that the AD submit a plan to address the issues raised in

the evaluations. The board didn't feel that the information provided by the AD accomplished that. Ms. Lewis agreed that there wasn't enough information from which to make an informed decision. Ms. LeTexier asked if Ms. Lorenzen would be participating in the vote since she was not part of the discussions before. Her removal of herself from previous discussions centered around the fact that her husband was part of the football program and she wished to not know of any discussion that involved students and her husband. Currently he has submitted a letter of resignation which was accepted by the board. Thus, the reason for her previous removal from the conversation no longer existed so she was now able to participate. Mr. Erickson stated that when deficiencies are identified and an improvement plan is suggested, then the board has been given the opportunity to make an informed decision concerning the position. Mr. Senechal stated that his motion was the best action to take at this time. Ms. LeTexier stated that the process should be revised. Mr. Erickson stated that he fully supported Ron but also felt that there wasn't enough information given, in particular, by the AD for the improvement plan. Ms. Bryant stated that the process hasn't been followed well by staff. She added that JHS suffers from the fact that the students compete against each other from kindergarten on and those parents are also in a competitive posture. Boulder isn't a central community that is the gathering place for all the students and parents. She concluded that she doesn't have the "right answer" but felt that Mr. Senechal might have the best option. Ms. Butler, para-professional and cheer coach, stated that she was evaluated at 6 months but hasn't been since. She was concerned that the coaches could assume that each year their position would be opened up for applications. Ms. Lorenzen was concerned that the AD was coming to the board with what he felt was needed and found that he didn't have it. She didn't want it to be a discouragement. The motion passed 6 to 1 with Ms. Lorenzen voting "no". Ms. LeTexier stated that the Connecticut process was a good example to use. Ms. Jackson moved to accept the AD's recommendation for Cross Country. Ms. Lorenzen seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Erickson moved to accept the AD's recommendation for Volleyball with the suggested plan of improvement. Mr. Senechal seconded the motion. Ms. Lorenzen stated that the suggested plan of improvement wasn't adequate. The motion failed - Ms. Steketee and Mr. Erickson voted "yes" and remaining 5 voted "no". Ms. Bryant hesitated to vote no because it is so difficult to get people for positions. Mr. Erickson felt that the information available as a plan of improvement for each was different. Mr. Senechal moved to open the volleyball position for recruitment. Ms. Lewis seconded the motion passed 6 to 1 with Ms. Steketee voting "no".

AGENDA ITEMS FOR
FOLLOWING MEETING

Bids for Roof.
Policy 2st reading. **2410P, 5122F**
Surplus Property.
Administrative Structure – planning.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Chair, Jefferson High School Board

Clerk, Jefferson High School Board

1. Negotiations/Personnel – A. Erickson, P. Lewis, S. Senechal
2. Policy/Handbook – P. Lewis, S. Steketee, L. Bryant
3. Budget/Insurance/Investments – D. Lorenzen, S. Senechal, K. Jackson
4. Building/Grounds/Transportation – K. Jackson, A. Erickson
5. Teaching/Learning – S. Steketee, D. Lorenzen, L. Bryant
Math & English