

Our Mission is to prepare and support all students within a culture of excellence to do their best and to be their best, so that each can be a successful contributing citizen, able to adapt to change and to successfully respond to the future.

RSU 16

Mechanic Falls - Minot - Poland

1st Special School Board Meeting was held
Monday, November 20th @ 6:30 p.m.

PRHS/WMS AUDITORIUM

Use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87038027522?pwd=Z0lzSVY4UEY3QndaRGVxL0pTR2FlZz09>

Passcode: 194909

Or watch the livestream on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@PolandKnights/streams> (LIVE tab)

Present: Mary Martin, Steve Turner, Christine Downs, Emily Rinchich, Mike Downing, Steve Holbrook, Angela Swenson, Randy Lutz, Patrick Irish, Andrea Winn, Jessica Smith, Elizabeth Martin, Melanie Harvey, Sarah Robinson

Absent: Joe Parent

Student Rep: Cadence Peters

MINUTES

REVISIONS in *Bold Italic* - 4.0 #2

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Mary Martin, Chair

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Mission Statement

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)

- ***Maryanne Hawkes:*** Appreciated the planning and research put into the process. After a decision is made, she would like the board and the district to continue the level of transparency through the next part of the process.
- ***Amy Marchessault*** (Minot): Advocated for keeping MCS open.
- ***David Tyler*** (Minot): Spoke in support for keeping MCS open.

3.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

4.0 NEW BUSINESS:

1. Community Meeting Follow-Up

Board has received 26 emails:

- Heard from: 8 MCS, 8 Poland, and 6 Mechanic Falls, and 4 from staff
- 21 in support of keeping the 3 schools, 3 in support of going to two schools, and 1 with a new idea to consider.
- There was a desire to delay vote until more budget impact would be known

Concerns that came up: transportation, impact on Title I, family impact on childcare, social emotional impacts, and an economic impact on Minot.

Strong support for small elementary schools.

2. District Elementary Schools Configuration

Motion: by Emily Rinchich to continue with the three elementary school option.

Seconded: by Patrick Irish

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: Patrick spoke that it is a good decision to not consolidate at this time, but does not think that is a long term option and he would like for the district to consider moving towards a one school option with a new building in the future. Emily summarized that the goal at the start was for them to look at different options and that they explored all the options, and felt that while initially they thought there would be savings, it turned out that there were a lot more costs associated with it. She also spoke about small class sizes and the teacher shortage, as well. She stressed that moving forward there would need to be a lot of work around the finances. Angela stressed that the board has gone through the buildings with a fine tooth comb and that effort, time, and money will need to be put into the buildings in order to keep them all open. She would like to see the communities have the chance to fund the buildings so they can be fixed. Randy discussed that a lot of general maintenance was not being fully spent during prior years to make repairs. He would like to see the board support fixing the buildings. He felt there were still a lot of unanswered questions around the 2 school option. He also discussed Title I funding and programming. Mary spoke about the needs within our schools and that we will need our community support not only in this year's budget, but for the next ten years to fix our schools and provide our students with good, safe, healthy learning environments.

Additional minutes included at the request of Sub-Committee member Randy Lautz:.

Randy discussed that a lot of general maintenance/repairs were not happening. He referenced data comparing the CIP annual budget to the amount actually spent on CIP maintenance/repairs and that projecting future repair costs with current data will be difficult. He also felt that questions around adult ed, the MCS building, transportation & drive-lines, title 1 funding and student/teacher ratios remained unanswered.

Feedback to Operations Committee Chair, Jessica Smith for agenda items

Jessica Smith asked for feedback for the Operations Committee now that a decision has been made. Christine would like to see a schedule of what has already been completed and what needs to be done up front, and which items can be done over time. Mary would like to see an update from contractors who have taken a look at the facilities. Jessica also mentioned exploring three-phase power options for MCS.

3. Reconsideration of approved Minivan request - John Hawley

Motion: by Mike Downing to purchase the used van, while keeping the original van in the works to purchase when the dealership is able to get it in stock.

Seconded: by Andrea Winn

Vote: Unanimous

John shared that in September the board awarded a bid for a van from McDonald Motors. They do not have the van on their lot. At this point they can't give the district a date for when the van would be delivered. The dealership does have a couple of used vans that might be equivalent to what they were looking at. They offered \$29,781 for a used van, and John would like the board to amend their original proposal for the purchase of this van. John would like to move forward with still purchasing the original van. since the district is still going to need it. The mechanic can go out and take a look at the van. It is front wheel drive. The board would like for John to see if they can negotiate the price with the dealership.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 7:08 p.m.

Seconded: by Patrick Irish

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Todd E. Sanders