

MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

MANITOU SPRINGS, CO

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 25, 2011

Regular Monthly Board of Education Meeting, present for the informal dinner were: Anna Lord, Molly Stevens, and Jennifer Farmer. Staff members present for the dinner were: Ed Longfield, Tim Miller, Pat Urban, Glenn Hard, Chris Burr, and Deb Yagmin.

President Farmer called the meeting to order at 7:03 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Present for the Board of Education meeting: Jennifer Farmer, Anna Lord and Molly Stevens.

Staff members present were: Ed Longfield, Melissa McElhaney, Pat Urban and Tim Miller.

Guests included: Mrs. Swinney, MSHS and students Rebecca Tripett, Jasmine Dillavau, Krista McCann and Sandra, mother of Jasmine.

A. AGENDA

042511.01 Mrs. Lord moved to approve the Agenda for April 25, 2011.

 Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

GOOD NEWS: Mr. Hard introduced Mrs. Virginia Swinney and the High School Poetry Slam Team: Rebecca Tripett, Jasmine Dillavou and Krista McCann. Poetry Slam team member, Anadia Rocky could not make it tonight. Mrs. Swinney said that the Manitou Team has competed for the last five years and have had success for the past two years. In this competition on March 18, 2011, Lyrical Lounge Poetry, City Slam, there were 24 poets and our girls were far ahead of the pack. Mr. Longfield presented a plague to the girls.

B. MINUTES

042511.02 Mrs. Stevens moved to approve the minutes for March 28, 2011.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

042511.03 Mrs. Lord moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 pm for discussion on C.R.S. 24—6-402-F (Personnel Matters) and C.R.S. 24-6-402; 4 (Student Discussion) to include the Board of Education and Mr. Longfield, Superintendent.

Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

042511.04 Mrs. Stevens moved to return to Regular Session.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

D. RECURRENT

1. Identification of members of the audience who are not listed on the Agenda wishing to make a comment to the Board of Education.

There were none.

2. Receive and or Act on Correspondence.

Mrs. Farmer and Mrs. Lord received two magazines; High School Today and Security Management.

3. Payment of Expenditures for the month ending March 31, 2011

042511.05 Mrs. Stevens moved to approve the Payment of Expenditures for the month ending March 31, 2011.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

E. REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Longfield attended the Concrete Couch Conference on Saturday at the BAC. He was in company with Mr. Steve Wood and over 100 artists. What a great event!

Ute Pass Elementary School Principal interviews take place all day tomorrow, April 26, 2011. Please join us for lunch and meet the candidates at UPE from 11:15 – 12:15 pm.

2. Board of Education Reports

- a) Board of Cooperative Education Services Glenn Noufer and Molly Stevens

No Report

- b) Community Relations Jennifer Farmer and Molly Stevens

Report not available.

- c) Governmental Relations Anna Lord

Mrs. Lord reported from CDE a news release, dated April 21, 2011, that two Commissioner Finalists have been named, Aurora Public Schools Superintendent John Berry and Commissioner Robert Hammond. The new Commissioner will be named sometime in May and the official start date is July 1st.

- d) Pikes Peak Alliance Tim Miller

The next meeting is Thursday, April 28th. The alliance has done a good job of keeping us updated on legislation at the capitol.

- e) District Accountability Advisory CommitteeGino Mendoza

Mr. Longfield reported that they had a good meeting with discussion on the SMART Design and iPads.

JAZZ BAND

At this time five members of the Manitou Springs High School Jazz Band, Zeb Famer, Jake Wood, Kyle Grove, Dan Rogers and Robert Micciulla performed two numbers for the Board. What an outstanding group and thank you for taking time to come in and perform.

3. Staff

a) Assistant Superintendent Tim Miller

Mr. Miller reported that forecasts from both the governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting and the Legislative Council Staff showed revenues coming in slightly higher than anticipated. He said, CDE believes this means the governor's budget as proposed in February will be the worst case for next year.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Longfield both visited the schools in early March to review the three renewal options with staff. A survey was conducted for the staff to receive their input on which option they would prefer.

4. Principals

UTE PASS ELEMENTARY

Relationships:

Our friends from the High School came to read to us this month. Some of the students who come are former Ute Pass students, who have gotten awfully tall!

Students who had Honor Roll grades, perfect attendance, or were honored as Good Citizens for the second quarter, were treated to Friday Flicks for Fantastic Kids.

Good Citizens were treated to lunch with me.

Rigor:

Our annual Science Fair was a rousing success. High school students and school administration came to judge the entries. Parents attended in the evening and the rest of the school viewed the projects the following morning.

Students attended a Ute TiPi Raising at Starsmore as a part of their study of Native Americans. Native American Day culminated a month of study by second and third grade students.

We submitted both our Executive Summary report and our extensive Standard Self-Evaluation report to North Central Association in preparation for our accreditation site visit April 21 and 22. The site visit included tours, observations; interviews with teachers, students, and parents; and an NCA report of school strengths and goals for our new accreditation cycle.

Opportunities:

The State Destination ImagiNation tournament was April 16. Stay tuned for news about our winners!

Our “Buy One Get One Free” Book Fair was well attended and brought us many new books for the library.

Our fourth and fifth grade musical will be April 28 at 2:30pm and 7pm. Please join us!

MANITOU SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RELATIONSHIPS

- Our annual Night of Excellence will be held April 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. Sponsored by our MSES Special Education Department, the evening will again feature science fair exhibits, a huge variety of student artwork, classroom projects, fifth-grade digital image/poetry projects, live entertainment, and community “friendraising.” Again this year, our Night of Excellence is supported by Adams Mountain Café, which will offer a choice of Rural Italian Lasagna or Darwin & Atticus’ Favorite Chicken in seating’s at 5, 6, and 7 p.m.
- Wolf Day, a student-led day celebrating wolves and raising money to help preserve the species, raised funds for a local wolf shelter. Students wore wolf T-shirts and face paint and learned about the threatened species during the April 8th event. While it raised significant money for the cause, an equally exciting aspect was that it was conceived, planned, publicized, and carried out entirely by three fifth-grade girls on their own initiative—just the kind of citizens we like to see emerge from our school!

RIGOR

- The EL-based report card was rolled out successfully at third-quarter conferences. Parents expressed appreciation for the greater amount of information the report card presents about their students’ learning. None reported any significant issues with the new system.

- Our NCA Accreditation Team made their site visit on April 7 and 8. The team was enthusiastic in their praise of the school and its direction, especially our relationships and our EL System, and gave MSES full Accreditation on Advisement. Precisely as we had expected from our own NCA self-assessment, we received the designation Emerging on Standard 4--Documenting and Using Results (our formative assessment and use of data daily were praised, while our electronic data systems and integration of EL common assessment data, both still in development, were areas of growth). We also were rated Emerging in Commitment to Continuous Improvement as the team recognized our actual commitment to growth but noted our ongoing transition work from the old accreditation system to a school-improvement cycle now based on NCA itself. We were marked fully Operational on all five remaining standards: Vision and Purpose, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Resources and Support Systems, and Stakeholder Communication and Relationships.

OPPORTUNITY

- Our third-graders, fresh off their visit to the NASA Space Symposium April 13, are preparing for their annual overnight visit to the Colorado Museum Nature and Science. Students will enjoy a thorough tour of the museum, an Eyemax theater presentation, and a trip out to the zoo, and a night together in the museum after hours.
- The local Mexican Dance Troupe *Colores* will perform for our students again this year on Cinco de Mayo. This is a wonderful cultural celebration befitting our state's heritage and now offers a tie-in for our students learning Spanish in their classrooms

Manitou Springs Middle School

Relationships:

A number of Manitou Middle School students, staff, and parents paraded with their hand-made lanterns down the streets of Manitou Springs, for the 2nd annual "Lantern Parade." The turn-out from the community was great, and enjoyed by all. It ended at the pavilion behind the police station where music, dancing, and fun were in full abundance.

Rigor:

MSMS just wrapped up a visit from five individuals representing NCA accreditation services. During a two-day period these individuals visited every classroom, spoke with every teacher, and interviewed a number of students, parents, and classified staff. This process of school accreditation was valuable to understanding what we

do well as well as identifying areas that need improvement. To sum up the findings, it was identified that we do relationships and opportunities extremely well, with rigor as a point of focus as we move forward.

Opportunity:

Recently five teams of students participated in eCybermission, a web-based STEM competition sponsored by the United States Army. The goal was to identify a problem, formulate a hypothesis, conduct research, and implement an experiment. Three out of the five teams participating finished in 1st or 2nd place and will now be part of a regional competition. A number of our middle school students participated in this STEM program and we are extremely proud of their successes!

Manitou Springs High School

The spring semester has been busy and the incredible high school staff has been working exceptionally hard. Much time and thought has been invested in the collection of standardized testing data, in the exploration of opportunities to increase academic rigor, in the pursuit of methods to increase student engagement, and in the registration process in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Data collection began in February with 9th grade students taking the Explore Test, 10th grade students taking the Plan Test, and 11th graders taking the Practice ACT. These standardized tests were soon followed in March by CSAP, and the process will conclude April 27 with the administration of the ACT. Data collected from these tests will provide valuable insight, which will enable us to pinpoint any academic gaps we need to pursue.

In a concerted effort to increase academic rigor for the school year 2011-2012, we've made considerable changes. We as a staff feel that students must be provided with every opportunity to increase their readiness to move beyond high school. Thus, free blocks are no longer available, and a comprehensive advisory curriculum will be implemented. In addition, we've increased or adapted course offerings to further enable students to have a meaningful experience in lieu of a free block. New courses, in addition to those added this year, include: AMPS (Advanced Mathematical Problem Solving), Personal Finance, SMARTE (Science, Math, Art, Research, Technology, Engineering), Performance Arts and Songwriting, Karate, and Yoga.

In an effort to increase student engagement in every course in every subject area, we, along with the District Leadership Team, have developed a plan to introduce the use of "one on one" technology. We will purchase enough I-Pads to allow staff and students the opportunity to investigate their application, to develop methodology around their application and to become familiar with their capability in the

classroom and beyond. Teachers will be trained in this application and will thus be prepared to implement the concept “full scale” in the 2012-2013 school year.

Lastly, registration for the next school year has begun. 8th grade orientation, and registration took place on April 7th and students in grades 9-11 will begin selecting courses on April 21st.

F. ROUTINE/CONSENSUS ITEMS

042511.06 Mrs. Lord moved to approve the following Routine/Consensus Items.

Mrs. Stevens second the motion.

1. Resignations/Leave of Absence/Retirement/Transitional Retirement/Maternity Leave/Termination

a) Certified

Kassi Greer – Speech Language Pathology – Resignation

b) Classified

Debra Reiter – Computer Tech – UPE –Resignation

2. Employment

a) Certified

John Pletsch – First Grade Teacher – MSES

Jacob Sampson – First Grade Teacher (INR) – UPE

Honoree Pouly - .5 Music Teacher – UPE

b) Classified

Jacquelyn Cox – Para Professional – MSHS

c) Substitute Teachers

Sean Neu

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

G. NON-RENEWAL OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES

- Brian Hopwood (Band @MSMS: INR Contract)

042511.07 Mrs. Stevens moved to approve the Non-Renewal Contract for Brian Hopwood.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

- Kelly Blake (K/1 Teacher @ UPE: INR Contract)

042511.08 Mrs. Stevens moved to approve the Non-Renewal Contract for Kelly Blake.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Board Policies

-JIH - Student Interrogations

Policy moved to 3rd reading – Board selected option #2

-GCCACA: CASB Policy is GBGE

042511.09 Mrs. Lord moved to approve Policy GCCACA (GBGE) after striking the 2nd paragraph on page 2.

Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

- JIHB Parking Lot Searches

042511.10 Mrs. Stevens moved to approve Policy JIHB.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

- GDQD Discipline Support Staff

0425.11.11 Mrs. Stevens move to approve Policy GDQD.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- Board Policies

-GBGF: Family Medical Leave

Policy moved to 2nd Reading

- KF: Use and Rental of School Facilities

We have an action item to revise the wording in the policy regarding proof of liability insurance. The current policy reads “Those parties reserving space must provide proof of liability insurance.” The suggested revision changes “must” to “may be required to” provide proof of liability insurance.

The CASB policy uses the “may be required” wording. We also have an example form from CSDSIP, our insurance company, which gives the District the option to “waive” the insurance requirement.

I do not envision ever waiving the requirement for any outside group – they should carry this kind of insurance. I do think by having the option to waive the requirement, it could open up the use of district facilities to individuals – perhaps allowing an employee, board member, or community resident to host an event without the need to purchase expensive single event liability insurance.

042511.12 Mrs. Stevens moved to approve Policy KF with noted revisions.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

- Bond Refund

Mr. Miller discussed that the board approved a refunding of the 2001 bonds at a special meeting on January 11, 2010. For various reasons, we did not proceed at that time. Market conditions are now much better than they were last year, and we are committed to proceeding to complete the deal at this time. Please see the memo from Dan O'Connell of RBC Capital Markets.

This action will save our taxpayers ~ \$64k per year; we will be able to reduce our mill levy to collect fewer dollars to pay the bond.

We need your approval of a new resolution so we can proceed. It is identical in form to the one you approved last year.

Please note that the following remain the same as last year; by approving this resolution the Board is also approving the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, the Escrow Agreement and the Bond Purchase Agreement, the forms of which are in the District's possession.

042511.13 Mrs. Lord moved to approve the Series 2011 General Obligation Bond parameters resolution, as prepared by the district's bond counsel, Sherman & Howard, and as recommended by district staff."

Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

- Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Miller reviewed the Quarterly Financial Reports with the Board.

I. FUTURE AGENDAS

Work Session – May 9, 2011

- MSSD 14 Health and Wellness Update
- Mandated Curriculum – K-12
- Superintendent Evaluation

Mrs. Stevens commented that the Green Mountain Falls Town Council Meeting was well received.

Mrs. Farmer requested a end of the year list with activities for the Board members. Ms. McElhaney will send one out.

Thank you to all who participated in the Spirit of the Mustang Dinner/Awards evening.

042411.14 Mrs. Stevens requested to adjourn at 8:03 pm.

Mrs. Lord seconded the motion.

President Farmer requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Lord voted aye, and Mrs. Stevens voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Lord
Asst. Secretary