

GEORGE-LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
April 11, 2013

The George-Little Rock Board of Education met in regular session on April 11, 2013 in the Middle School Library at Little Rock. Board president Amy Jurrens called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. with board members Ryan Klingenberg and Terrence Clark in attendance. Curt Fiedler and Doug Krull were absent. Also present were Superintendent Janel Guse, Principals Mike Munson and Molly Schilling, Secretary Delinda Kruger, and guests Steve Barber, Shari Kruse, Jenna Noble, Valecia West, Melinda DeLeeuw, Stacie VerSteeg, and approximately twenty five community members.

The public hearing was held for the proposed 2013-14 budget. Ms. Guse noted that the tax rate will be \$13.24 for next year.

Amy Jurrens introduced Steve Barber, the newly selected Superintendent for next year. He shared some information about his education and added that he is excited to become a part of the George-Little Rock school system next year.

The meeting was opened for public comments and concerns. Wade Netten addressed the board regarding the “transition” process of the Little Rock Elementary students, and where the savings would be by doing so.

Mrs. Guse responded by explaining that six students out of the Kindergarten class next year would be in Transitional Kindergarten, leaving twenty one students in Kindergarten...one class.

Amy added that later in the meeting a plan would be explained for a gradual transition process. She commended everyone for caring as was evidenced by their presence.

Abby VanderLaan was recognized for a job well done at the State Geography Bee, along with advisor Stan Fluth. Trista Ommen and Maddie DeBeer were chosen as high school students of the month and Henry VerSteeg and Brandon VanBriesen were chosen as the “Trustworthy” Character Counts students in the George Elementary. Students and directors were commended for their successful Swing Show performance. Miranda Dreesen was congratulated as being one of two in 300 chosen for “Best in Biology” for her entry at the State Science Fair.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Klingenberg, seconded by Clark, and carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 13, and 26 meetings was made by Klingenberg, seconded by Clark, and carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Klingenberg, and carried 3-0 to approve the financial reports and pay all bills as presented.

Mrs. Guse updated the board on the fire escape project. The latest report from the Iowa State Fire Marshall's office included three areas which still need to be addressed. Until the go-ahead is received by them, bidding for the project is on hold.

She presented a Validation Review certification of the New Meal Pattern received from Marlene Jepsen at the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services. This review was conducted on February 19 & 20 and included both commendations and recommendations for the lunch program.

She reported that the sequestration would result in an approximate \$6,000 reduction in funds for our district. The affected areas would be Title I, IDEA, ELL, and Assessments.

Mrs. Schilling reported on attendance at parent-teacher conferences. The elementary was close to 100%, and the middle school was at 44%. She also gave the middle school fall and winter athletic participation rates in all sports.

Mr. Munson reported that the parent-teacher conference attendance at the George Elementary was 100%, and the high school was 48%, the highest attendance in a number of years.

He provided information on the School Improvement Council which met on April 5 at the Pizza Ranch in George with 29 members in attendance. Topics at the meeting included the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation grants, improving 1:1 laptop uses, adding more I-Pads at the elementary schools, replacing laptop bags, adding a Title I Math program, and more Daily 5 textbooks.

Mr. Munson presented the list of 29 seniors for graduation.

A motion was made by Klingenberg, seconded by Clark, and carried 3-0 to approve the 2-year Superintendent contract to Steve Barber at \$100,000 for 2013-14 and \$103,000 for 2014-15.

The list of potential casino revenue uses was reviewed. The district received an additional \$41,300 from the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation in March.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Klingenberg, and carried 3-0 to approve the revision of the 2013-14 calendar. The number of days in the second semester were changed to make the 3rd and 4th quarters more equitable.

The list of the School Improvement Committee, including cadre and community members was presented for approval. A motion to approve the list was made by Clark, seconded by Klingenberg, and carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Klingenberg, seconded by Clark, and carried 3-0 to approve the 29-member class of 2013 for graduation, subject to meeting all requirements as set forth by the George-Little Rock Board of Education and the Iowa Department of Education.

A Resolution to begin the first day of school earlier than the mandated start date was presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Klingenberg and seconded by Clark. A roll call vote was taken with Klingenberg, Clark, and Jurrens voting aye. Nays: none. Motion carried.

A request was received from Tara Fastert to take 10 students to the Iowa FFA Convention in Ames on April 21, 22, and 23. Central Lyon will be providing the transportation this year. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Klingenberg, and carried 3-0 to approve the request.

Two trip requests were received from Jenna Noble. The first request is for permission to take the Wildlife Biology Class of approximately 12 students and 2 chaperones to the Niobrara Wildlife Preserve on May 22-24. A motion was made by Klingenberg, seconded by Clark, and carried 3-0 to approve the trip.

The second request was to travel to the Iowa Lakeside Lab on West Lake Okoboji for hands-on learning for a potential of 6-8 Science and Math students. The date of the trip is May 3-6. The STEM club will be supporting half of the \$360 fee for the students. Ms. Noble asked whether the board would cover her cost of \$100 to teach for the weekend trip. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Klingenberg, and carried 3-0 to approve the trip, transportation, and Miss Noble's teaching cost.

Mrs. Guse explained the findings of the Key Concepts feasibility study due to declining enrollments. She added that we have been losing 10-14 students per year, mainly at the elementary level. She explained the K-1 transition to George next year, which would only involve approximately 6 students. This phase-in plan would not require an extra shuttle bus, and would only require one teacher for Kindergarten. A motion was made by Clark to transition Little Rock students to George as follows: K-1 in 2013-14, K-2 in 2014-15, and K-3 in 2015-16. The motion was seconded by Klingenberg, and carried 3-0.

A series of board policies were presented for approval. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Klingenberg, and carried 3-0 to table them for a 2nd reading in May.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 13 at 8:00 P.M. in George.

A motion to adjourn was made by Klingenberg, seconded by Clark, and carried 3-0.