

GRAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. In attendance were Kaaron Jorgen, Bryon Walston, Ron Olsen, by phone, Deb Hren, Jim Webster, Superintendent, Margaret Hopkin, Business Administrator, Robert Farnsworth, Secretary Becky McCormick, Peggy Harty, Jane May, Merina Toninelli, Sandra Tyson, Stephen Hren, Lance LeVar, Joanne Savoie, Ryan Anderson, Erika McDougall, Troy Stephens, Richard Robertson, Melissa Schmaedick, Sherrie Buckingham, Melinda Snow, Arlajean Paskett, Christa Jensen, Rob Welch, Flo Saggboy, Ginger Torres and Buffy Camps.

Presentations

Students of the Month were Merina Toninelli and Dallen Dalton.

Blue Ribbon Awards were given to Edward Keys and Charlotte Quigley for their outstanding achievements on the PRAXIS tests. The High School Community Council, represented by Jane May, made a proclamation recognizing each Grand County School District educator, administrator, support staff person and school board member for all that they do for the children in our community.

Staff Reports

Superintendent Margaret Hopkin reported that Wabi Sabi had offered to yard sale the items from Helen M. Knight Elementary that will not be used for the new elementary school. It would be a partnership with the District receiving half the proceeds and Wabi Sabi receiving half. Margaret said we would have to look into the legality of this partnership. Mayor Dave Sakrison and Councilman Bob Greenberg met with Margaret and Jim earlier in the week, looking at ways to help the District's financial situation. They would like to meet with the Board. It was suggested that they come to the next Board Meeting on December 16 at 5:00 pm. Margaret handed to the Board a utilities report, breaking down how much the District has spent on utilities since 2006-2007.

Business Administrator, Robert Farnsworth reported that he and Richard Clark are working on this year's budget. Robert asked Becky Carrigan to present a recommendation by the auditors, Squire to: raise the capitalization threshold from \$5,000 to \$50,000. This would require a policy change. The Board will look at having a policy ready to post in December 2009. This would reduce the auditor's time reviewing records.

District Construction Manager, Rob Welch reported that Helen M. Knight Elementary is 44% completed and the Vocational Center is 34% completed. Site visit for December 2009 will be Helen M. Knight Elementary.

Special Education Director and Director of Testing, Taryn Kay reported that the IOWA test results are back. Grand County students are testing slightly ahead of their grade levels. The results are impressive. Taryn reported that the UCA state report that is due November 30 is 80% complete.

Red Rock Elementary Principal, Sherrie Buckingham reported that they are seeing positive results with the implementation of RTI. ITBS results are in and 3rd graders did well. PTA Fall Festival was held in the Center Street gym and it was a great success; raising \$1,800. Sherrie said she and Brandy Shumway combined both elementary staffs at the bowling alley; the beginning process for the combined staffs for next school year at Helen M. Knight Elementary. The kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast is Tuesday,

November 24th. Shelly Hawks, PE instructor has had Red Rock Elementary participating in Gold Medal schools for 3 years. This is a school health and wellness program.

Helen M. Knight Principal, Brandy Shumway reported that she meets once a week at lunch with students (one grade level per week) and awards Knight's of the Round Table. Miss Navajo Nation was at Helen M. Knight Tuesday, November 15th talking to students about Navajo culture. The Community Council has been providing lunch for the staff once a month.

Middle School Principal, Melinda Snow said students were taught "fifty's" dances. Miss Navajo Nation presented to the students. Middle School students were very respectful. Elephant Revival with the Moab Folk Festival presented an assembly to students. Twenty five Middle School students went to the Grand Center for a fund raiser. Leonardo on Wheels, a science assembly came to the Middle School. The Grand Education Foundation's website has been created. Safe Route's to School's grant is \$3,500 for new elementary school.

High School Principal, Steve Hren reported that football season is completed. Volleyball took 3rd in State. Sadie Hawkins was last night; it was very well attended – over 50 couples. Miss Navajo Nation presented to students, the student body was very courteous. Her focus was on education. The Native American students last year had an 83.8 passing rate, compared to prior year of 32%. This reflects the hard work of the Title VII Committee. The Activities Committee is looking at ways to cut the activity budget.

High School Board Representative, Kim Brand reported that the Drama Club is presenting a play "Once Upon A Mattress" this week.

GEA Representative, Peggy Harty reported that staff morale is low. GEA appreciated Jane May and the High School Community Council for their proclamation.

GCEA Co-president, Flo Saggboy reported that they met with the Board and Superintendent and that GECA appreciated the Board keeping them informed of current District financial situation.

Information and Reports

SHARP Survey Results – rescheduled for January 2010.

ITBS was given the 3rd week of September. The extended day kindergarten and tiered model appears to be working well. Overall, these are the best tests results reported; which shows the excellent education provided for students in Grand County.

H1N1 has hit Moab. In September Superintendent Hopkin met with local and state health department personnel, and with Corky Brewer to formulate an action plan if H1N1 hits critical levels. Two kindergarten classes have had high absentees due to flu symptoms. Middle School has also had high absentees due to flu symptoms. Currently, absences due to flu symptoms are on a decline.

Notice: Behind in Policy and Other Work – The District Office had been focusing on the current financial situation and has not taken care of policy work that has needed to be worked on.

Business Administrator Hiring Process – The position for Business Administrator will be posted November 23, 2009. Interviews will be conducted the week of December 14, 2009. District financial advisor, Richard Clark will be on the interview team. The starting date for the position will be July 1, 2010 or as negotiated.

January USBA Reservations – The Board decided not to attend USBA Convention unless a Board member chooses to go on their own expense. Jim Webster suggested that we ask San Juan board member, Merri Shumway to share information she receives from the Convention. Bryon Walston is interested in running for the UHSAA position, so he will attend that portion of the Convention. The Board feels it would be important for Grand to have a representative on that Board.

Insurance Committee – There has been interest in re-forming the Insurance Committee to look at other providers and options. Becky will email members from the old committee to see if there is interest in re-forming the committee. Jim Webster volunteered to be Board representative.

Financial Status: Discussion Regarding Cutbacks – The District is looking at having to cut the budget 1.9 million dollars for the 2010-2011 school year. The District will continue to investigate the District's financial situation and will give a full report to the community.

Review of District Property – Rob Welch supplied each Board member maps of the all properties owned by the District in consideration of excess:

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|----|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Red Rock | 8.94 acres | R2 Zoned |
| 2. | Spanish Valley | 15 acres | RR Zoned |
| 3. | Castle Rock | 3.08 acres | Range and grazing |
| 4. | Cisco | .29 acres | Range and grazing |
| 5. | Green River | 1.23 acres | Range and grazing |
| 6. | Castleton | .33 acres | Range and grazing |
| 7. | GCSD Office | .34 acres | C5 Zoned |
| 8. | Sundwall | .58 acres | C2 Zones |

Robert Farnsworth will investigate the legalities of advertizing the properties for sale.

Delegations

Dick Robertson addressed the Board. He recommended the Board get information out to the public in a more timely manner, and that Board meeting agendas be posted in some public buildings.

High School Associate Principal, Lance LeVar strongly supported Bryon Walston running for the UHSAA position.

Consent Agenda

Jim Webster made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda with corrections. Deb Hren seconded the motion.

Action Items

No Action Items

Communications

Jim Webster asked Robert Farnsworth to make a chart on maximum tax levy rates.
Deb Hren would like to see the District financial numbers in a hard copy. She also applauded the results of the IOWA tests.

Advance Planning

Friday, November 20 – Work Session	9:00 – noon +	D.O.
Tuesday, November 24 – Work Session	2:00	D.O.
Tuesday, December 1 – Work Session	3:00	D.O.
Tuesday, December 8 – Work Session	3:00	D.O.
Tuesday, December 15 – Site Visit	Noon	New school
Wednesday, December 16 – Meeting with Sakrison & Greenberg	5:30	D.O.
Wednesday, December 16 – Board Meeting	6:00	D.O.
Tuesday, January 12, 2010 Work Session	3:00	D.O.
Tuesday, January 19, 2010 Site Visit – Middle School	Noon	Middle School
Wednesday, January 20, 2010 – Board Meeting	6:00 pm	D.O.

At 8:15 p.m. Bryon Walston made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel issues. Kaaron Jorgen seconded the motion. In favor of the motion were Kaaron Jorgen, Bryon Walston, Deb Hren and Jim Webster. The motion passed.

Executive Session

November 18, 2009