

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2009
MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT #14
MANITOU SPRINGS, CO 80829**

Regular Monthly Board of Education Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2009

Members of the Board of Education present for the informal dinner meeting at 6:00 p.m. and the 7:00 p.m. meeting were: Anna Lord, Lori Finn, Jennifer Farmer, Larry Rice and Glenn Noufer. Staff members present were: Ed Longfield, Melissa McElhaney, Beth Campbell, Tim Miller, Deb Yagmin, Russ Vogel and Rob Cody.

Guests included: Molly Stevens, Gino Mendoza, Tom Sistare and Lynn Elsberry

President Lord called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

A. AGENDA

102609.01 Mrs. Farmer moved to approve the agenda for October 26, 2009.

Mrs. Finn seconded the motion.

President Lord requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Finn voted aye, Mr. Noufer voted aye, Mr. Rice voted aye and Mrs. Lord voted aye.

Mr. Longfield has suggested that we invite folks in from the community or students to share some "Good News" with the Board of Education at this point on the agenda.

At this time Mrs. Astley's student choir SASSI will perform "Lollypop". The girls that performed were:

MAIA RYCHLIK (12), LINDSEY WAGNER (12), OLIVIA LAWRENCE (12), STORRIE CRAMER (12), EMMA ROLLMAN (12), MEGAN BECKER (10)

Thank you to this fine group of ladies for their time and talent this evening.

B. MINUTES

102609.02 Mrs. Farmer moved to approve the minutes from August 24, 2009 with the following corrections.

Page 1: 082409.01 ~~It was moved,~~ Mrs. Farmer moved
Page 3: Special Programs Director – At this time Ms. Urban, Director of Special Programs, discussed her ~~fall~~ Fall, 2009 written report with the Board.

Page 5: Ute Pass Elementary celebrated their 40th birthday on August 12th. ~~Thank~~ Thanks to Mr. Longfield, Ms. Campbell and Ms. McElhaney for attending.

Mrs. Finn seconded the motion.

President Lord requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Finn voted aye, Mr. Noufer voted aye, Mr. Rice voted aye and Mrs. Lord voted aye.

102609.03 Mr. Noufer moved to approve the minutes for September 14, 2009.

Mrs. Farmer seconded the motion.

President Lord requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Finn voted aye, Mr. Noufer voted aye, Mr. Rice voted aye and Mrs. Lord voted aye.

102609.04 Mrs. Farmer moved to approve the minutes from September 28, 2009 with the following corrections.

Page 1: Guests included ~~Amanda Hendrickson, Mary Gressler~~ these two were listed already under staff.

Page 3: Part of the Governmental Relations Report by Anna Lord was omitted. Below is the complete report.

Legislative Report – Monday, September 28, 2009

Anna Lord attended the quarterly CASB Board of Directors meeting on September 25th and 25th. The following topics are of particular interest to the Manitou Springs School District:

1) **State Budget.** It appears that we have not yet reached the bottom of this downturn and forecasts will change as the year goes forward and the revenues and costs actually develop. Based on what we now know, the amounts funded

by the next school finance bill could be as much as \$400 million below what Amendment 23 would require. Estimates of some suggest that the actual cuts to school finance next year could run as high as \$500-\$600 million below the amounts required by Amendment 23 and \$300-\$400 million below what has been funded this year.

It is important to realize that general fund spending for K-12 education and Medicaid absorbed almost all of the new dollars available for the state budget since FY01 and that spending for K-12 education, corrections and health care will amount to almost 80% of the budget in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

General Fund Revenues and Expenditures as a percentage of Total State Personal Income has declined steadily from around 5.5% in 1996 to 3.6% in 2002 when Ref. C brought them back to 4.0%. When Ref. C expires, general fund revenues and expenditures as a percentage of Total State Personal Income will decline to around 3.2%. These trends are not sustainable even in a good economy and CASB considers the need for constitutional reform a growing priority and will be focusing lobbying resources in this area.

2) **2010 Ballot Issues:** Three proposed ballot measures, two constitutional and one statutory, have already been approved for petition circulation and petitions are circulating to put them on the ballot in 2010.

The statutory proposal, Initiative No. 10, would repeal the “Faster” changes to vehicle registration fees as passed this year by the legislature as a way to put money into road construction and maintenance. It would also reduce the state income tax from its current rate of 4.64% to 3.5%. While this is billed as a statutory initiative, it is important to remember that, under TABOR, taxes cannot be raised without a vote. Therefore, this change to the statute would have the much the same effect as a constitutional change.

Initiative No. 12 would sunset all existing and future “de-Brucing” elections and permit taxpayers to put local property tax cuts on the ballot by petition. Since almost every school district and many municipalities have gone to their voters and “de-Bruced”, this initiative could result in considerable loss in revenue and require these governmental bodies to go to the voters on a regular basis to “re-de-Bruce”.

Initiative No. 21 would prohibit the use of certificates of participation by state and local governments, as a funding mechanism for capital needs.

3) Race to the Top: There was considerable excitement regarding Colorado’s participation in President Obama’s “Race to the Top”, which could result in Colorado receiving as much as \$500 million for public schools, with at least half of the money going to local school districts. However, CASB is concerned because the Colorado Department of Education does not seem to be pursuing the

grant writing process in a way that will fulfill the grant requirements by the grant deadline. Furthermore, it seems that CDE is being very selective in what districts it is inviting to participate in these grants and secretive as to how these decisions are being made. CASB, through the president's list serve is trying to determine what school districts have been asked to participate in Race to the Top. Bottom line, Manitou should not count on Race to the Top funds to cover shortfalls caused by decreases in state funding.

4) **Annual Resolutions:** CASB's Legislative Resolutions committee has included in this year's annual resolutions is a resolution supporting a bill CASB will be co-writing regarding transparency of school district revenues and expenditures. You may remember that CASB helped defeat a bill on this topic in the last legislative session because compliance would be too costly and time consuming for districts. However, CASB has reason to believe that this bill will be reintroduced in the upcoming legislative session and is co-authoring a different bill that would be considerably less costly and time consuming. CASB is hoping for a yes vote from delegates at the October delegate assembly.

5) **Special Education Practitioner's Guide:** Recently CASB's legal team conducted an in-depth review of Douglas County's Special Education system. Douglas County has had to make deep budget cuts, resulting in the loss of numerous mid-level administrative personnel and they feared the consequences of the loss of knowledge and experience in this complicated area and thought that having a current, accurate practitioner's manual would be a valuable asset. CASB put together a guide that included all Federal and State regulation on the subject as well as performing a review of all district policy related to special education, finding several cases where district policy contradicted law. They also investigated and researched procedures and forms used by every school in the district and found numerous cases of inconsistency and lack of legal compliance. The new manual includes sample letters, forms etc. as well as a searchable database. Douglas County used stimulus money, which is one-time-only and must be used for special education to fund this project. Much of the manual could apply to any school district in the state.

6) CASB **Regional Meeting:** The CASB Region 6 meeting will be held in Pueblo on Monday, October 5th. Currently, I am the only member of the Manitou Springs Board of Education who has registered for this important meeting. Our two board candidates have registered as well as superintendent Ed Longfield. I encourage all sitting board members to attend this meeting.

Anna Lord, Jennifer Farmer and Ed Longfield attended the Restorative Justice Conference in September 17th. The conference was sold out, even after 250 additional seats were added. Our congratulations to the Manitou Springs School District for sponsoring this event as well as our thanks to MSHS principal Rob Cody and MSMS counselor for their participation in this conference and leadership in this area. Congratulations and thanks also to the MSHS students who participated in the

conference. The speakers and discussion on the topic of Restorative Justice reinforced my belief in the concept and desire to improve and expand how we use restorative justice in the Manitou Springs School District.

Page 4: DAAC notebooks were handed out and reviewed ~~over~~.

Page 5: Summer School Teachers were in attendance to report on their programs. Lynn Bloomfield and Mary Gressler reported first. They had 55 ~~kids~~ students in the Gardening Program. Dr. Yagmin had 10 ~~kids~~ students at UPE. Amanda Hendrickson reported ~~out~~ on the MSES Jump Start Program and Cameron Jones worked with 26 MS students. The MS students did several projects and field trips away from school. They had 4 staff members and 1 parent volunteer.

Mrs. Farmer suggested that names of students should not be printed in the minutes.

Mrs. Finn seconded the motion.

President Lord requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Finn voted aye, Mr. Noufer voted aye, Mr. Rice voted aye and Mrs. Lord voted aye.

C. 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.

CASB Winter Conference information is out and available.

Mrs. Lord received information and an invitation to attend the Healthy Kids Summit luncheon and conference on November 5th in Denver. Mr. Longfield will be attending.

A letter of support for the WORRMS club for a grant to have solar panels installed was overlooked and never signed. It was recently brought to Mrs. Lord's attention and she would like to have the support of the board and sign the letter so that the students can continue with this project. Mr. Longfield and Mrs. Lord both signed the letter.

3. Payment of Expenditures for the month ending September 30, 2009.

102609.05 Mrs. Finn moved to approve Payment of Expenditures for the month ending September 30, 2009.

Mrs. Farmer seconded the motion.

President Lord requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Finn voted aye, Mr. Noufer voted aye, Mr. Rice voted aye and Mrs. Lord voted aye.

D. REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Longfield has been out with the students, attended the homecoming parade, the coffin races, and also helped with serving sodas at the post fundraiser for the Manitou Springs Education Foundation at the coffin races. What community pride!

Thank you to Ms. Kelly and Ms. McElhaney for putting together the Classified Employee treat bags for Classified Employee Week. Mr. Longfield delivered the bags to the buildings.

Recently teacher's attended an Atlas Rubicon workshop to learn how to map their Essential Learning Targets.

GATE . . .

We are moving forward in the hiring process for math coaches for both the elementary and secondary levels.

The district has invited Ms. Peg Portscheller, former Leadville Superintendent to attend the next Leadership Team meeting to give pointers on how to increase effective instruction.

Mr. Longfield recently met with Mrs. Whitney from Whitney Electric. She set up an appointment to discuss installation of solar panels at Manitou Schools.

The United Way Campaign has begun; donation forms are available in the district office. Staff was reminded that they could designate their funds to go to the Manitou Springs Education Foundation.

The staff is participating in a 10K a day contest through Kaiser Permanente. At this time, UPE staff is winning the competition.

Mr. Longfield hopes that everyone is enjoying Mustang Mondays.

2. Board of Education Reports

a) BOCES – Larry Rice and Glenn Noufer

Two representatives will need to be named for the BOCES Board when the new board members have been sworn in.

b) Community Relations – Jennifer Famer, Glenn Noufer and Ann Lord

The Manitou Springs Education Foundation held their 1st annual post coffin race party. Many volunteers showed up to help serve drinks, make walking tacos, set-up and they stayed to help with the clean up. The band Martini Shot with Brian Person (HS Band Instructor) played all afternoon and there was fun for all. Thanks to everyone who made this event a success!

The high school students did an outstanding job with the performance of “Appointment with Death”. The set was terrific! Congratulations to all who participated.

c) Governmental Relations – Anna Lord

On October 5th Anna Lord attended the CASB Regional Meeting for Region 6 with Ed Longfield and Board candidate Molly Stevens. CASB Executive Director Ken Delay led a session on Constitutional Tax Code, reviewing the history behind the TABOR amendment, the Gallagher Amendment and Amendment 23 and how they affect Colorado’s financial situation.

On October 7th, Anna Lord attended Harrison School District’s quarterly Stakeholder’s Breakfast and came away with ideas about how to improve Manitou Springs District 14 constituent communications. She also spoke with State Senator Keith King who is interested in having another pre-legislative session meeting with area School Board members.

On October 16th and 17th, Anna Lord and Glenn Noufer attended the CASB Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly. Break out sessions topics included “Making Tough Budget Decisions”, “Shared Resources – A Smart Budget Decision” and “Reshaping Education for Increased Student Achievement”. Ms. Lord and Mr. Noufer had dinner Friday night with CASB Executive Director Ken Delay and spoke in length on the topic of training for new board members.

On October 27th Anna Lord will be attending the annual Legislative Breakfast with area superintendents, board legislative liaisons and state Representatives and Senators.

d) Pikes Peak Alliance – Tim Miller

The State Budget was discussed along with PERA.

e) District Accountability Advisory Committee – Lori Finn

Mrs. Finn reported the grant from the state was permitted for Partners for Healthy Choices for Laurie Wood to go full time and have extra funds for programs.

School Accreditation: Beth Campbell went over the Accreditation Checklist with DAAC members. Also, Mr. Longfield invited any DAAC members to the training meeting on Accreditation November 5, 2009, from 4-6 p.m.

The next meeting: November 9, 2009, 6-9 p.m. with the Board of Education on Accreditation.

f) Salary Committee Liaison – Lori Finn and Jennifer Farmer

No Report

3. Staff Reports

a) Assistant Superintendent for Instruction – Beth Campbell

Ms. Campbell reviewed her written report. She discussed a few items on her report such as hiring a new FIRE teacher at the middle school. This would be an 8th teacher, for a thirty- minute class that meets daily. She will keep the Board posted on this position.

The Professional Development/In-Service schedule was also discussed. Ms. Campbell or Ms. Urban will have a report for the Board before winter break on CDE Gifted Education Program Review.

b) Assistant Superintendent for Business Services – Tim Miller

Mr. Miller reviewed his written report.

Enrollment on count day, October 1st was: 1,410 students/1,334.5 FTE (1,341.0 FTE with kinders at 0.58). The effect of this increase in enrollment is that with the increase in per pupil funding these students represent, we will offset out share of the \$110 million emergency restricted reserve the legislature will take back from K-12 education in January, 2010.

At this time, Mrs. Lord thanked Mr. Miller for keeping the school in the black and to the Leadership Team and the Board for great schools!

4. Principals

Manitou Springs High School – Rob Cody

Homecoming, what a great community event! Thank you to the Manitou Springs Fire Dept. for shooting off the canon before the parade.

Folks really care about Manitou there has been a 20% growth in positive survey responses.

The North Central Accreditation Team will be here next week doing interviews.

Students took exams last week, thanks to all who helped with testing.

The high school has 4 students who are applying for the Boettcher Scholarship.

The Art program at Manitou Springs High School has bounced back and enrollment in the two classes are up. Thanks to Mr. Rice for his support of the SILC Building and the beautiful art rooms!

Ute Pass Elementary – Dr. Deb Yagmin

Recently Dr. Yagmin had a request from a former student who is interested in returning to Ute Pass Elementary School to do her student teaching.

Dr. Cheesman will be doing a reading class for staff.

27% of the students at Ute Pass Elementary were awarded for perfect attendance.

Fire Prevention Week – Green Mountain Fall Volunteer Fire Dept. was on hand to work with the students on fire safety. A skit was performed and there was a clown who entertained the students.

Ute Pass Elementary will hold their Halloween Carnival on Saturday, Oct. 31st.

Manitou Springs Elementary School – Russ Vogel

UP BOCES recently sent over an autism expert to visit the Manitou Springs Elementary School.

The Manitou Springs Fire Department honored Ms. Gieck, & Ms. Sticht for the life saving technique that they performed on a student in the lunchroom. This student had a food item lodged in his throat and they were able to dislodge it. All three were invited to dinner along with their families. Thanks to Ms. Gieck and Ms. Sticht for their quick response.

Thanks to Mr. Longfield and Mr. Miller for their support in finding the (\$5,000) for professional development training for MSES and UPE by the Gurian Institute on how to close our gender gaps (boys falling behind girls) in the upper elementary grades.

The 5th graders have finished their “concrete couch“ project for the play park. There will a public dedication on Nov. 5th from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., with live music and hot cider.

On October 30th the Manitou Springs Elementary School hold their annual Halloween parade through the play park at 1:30 Manitou Merchants will have treats from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and the Carnival will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the high school.

Manitou Springs Middle School

Mr. Burr, MS Principal is still recovering from the flu and, although he was at work for a half day today, is slowly easing his way back in to work.

Board members made a comment that the Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences went well and smooth this year.

5. Other

E. ROUTINE/CONSENSUS ITEMS

102609.06 Mrs. Farmer moved to approve the following
Routine/Consensus Items.

Mrs. Finn seconded the motion.

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

a) Certified

b) Classified

- Heather Koller – Food Service EXHIBIT E
- Doug Reiter – Transportation EXHIBIT E

2. Employment

a) Certified

b) Classified

Motion _____ Second _____ Roll Call _____

President Lord requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Finn voted aye, Mr. Noufer voted aye, Mr. Rice voted aye and Mrs. Lord voted aye.

Break 8:17 p.m. – 8:25 p.m.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Policies

Policy Code GBCB (VI. -31 B.) Administrative Fringe Benefits Schedule

102609.07 Mrs. Farmer moved to approve Policy Code GBCB (VI. -31 B.) on the 3rd reading.

Mrs. Finn seconded the motion.

President Lord requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Finn voted aye, Mr. Noufer voted aye, Mr. Rice voted aye and Mrs. Lord voted aye.

Policy Code GCB (III. – 23.) (III. – 25.) (III. -29.) Administrative Contract Year 1st reading.

102609.08 Mrs. Farmer moved to approve Policy Code GCB (III. – 23.) (III. – 25.) (III. -29.) Administrative Contract Year on 2nd reading with the following corrections.

Mrs. Finn seconded the motion.

President Lord requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Finn voted aye, Mr. Noufer voted aye, Mr. Rice voted aye and Mrs. Lord voted aye.

Policy Code GBEC (III. -38.) Alcohol and Controlled Substance Use and Abuse – Employees 1st reading

Tabled

G. NEW BUSINESS

- Financial Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

Mr. Tom Sistare, from Hoelting & CO presented to the Board of Education the Financial Audit for the year ending June 30, 2009. He presented a summarized copy for a quick review. The actual 80+ pages of the audit were emailed to all members to review before the meeting and a hard copy was given to each member. The audit went very smooth this year and was completed in a timely manner. Thanks to the bookkeepers, it went very well. The audit will be approved at the Nov. 9th Special Meeting.

- 1st Quarter Financial Report (Information)

Mr. Miller reviewed the 1st Quarter Financial Report with the Board.

H. FUTURE AGENDAS

The Board of Education members agreed that they would like to meet for an hour or two to discuss the direction of the new board. They will meet at the home of Glenn Noufer, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on November 2nd.

Mrs. Lord has attempted several times to reach Jane Urschel from CASB to invite her to work with the new board. As of today, she has not heard back from her.

November 9th – Special Meeting/Work Session

- School Calendar
- Audit
- Accreditation
- Election of Officers
- BOE Retreat

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the DAAC presentation starting at 6 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

102609.09 Mrs. Farmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Mrs. Finn seconded the motion.

President Lord requested a roll call vote: Mrs. Farmer voted aye, Mrs. Finn voted aye, Mr. Noufer voted aye, Mr. Rice voted aye and Mrs. Lord voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenn Noufer
Secretary