

**Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Retreat  
Friday, Nov. 9, 2002**

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A special meeting of the Board of Education of District 5 of Plainview, Neb., was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Alden Zuhlke at the Niobrara State Park lodge for the purpose of serving as a retreat for discussing member duties and visions for the future. Roll call was answered by Zuhlke, Janyce Warneke, Tom Scranton, Kent Friedrich, Krista Hanks and Dan Stelling.

Also present were Supt. David Hamm and Recording Secretary Lee Warneke.

Zuhlke indicated that the rules for open meetings were posted at the entry way to the lodge.

Supt. Hamm began the retreat by indicating the objectives for the day were to identify board priorities and components of action plans for reaching priorities, including curriculum, instruction and assessment, staffing and personnel, facilities and grounds, as well as other areas.

First area for discussion was defining the roles and responsibilities of board members. They came up with the following:

Financial responsibility for the District, including monitoring finances and being responsible for wisely spending tax dollars.

Responsibility to provide the best education for students that they could provide.

Provide a communication link between public and school administration and between staff and administration and/or board.

Being responsible for a safe and nourishing environment so that students can develop their potential and maintaining accountability of studies.

Work for a viable, well-maintained facility.

Work as a board with mandated guidelines from state and federal to the betterment of the District.

Hamm then commented on the Changing Face of Today's Education.

Margaret Sandoz, superintendent of the Niobrara Public Schools, led a discussion on SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). Board members then came up with a variety of comments, narrowing it down to the following:

Strengths: Community support, caring staff, financially sound, strong academics.

Weaknesses: Disparity of staff involvement and commitment, need to motivate staff to improve, board policy.

Threats: State and federal rules and regulations, enrollment, social and behavioral issues.

Opportunities: Grants, advanced curriculum, sharing and offering in-house programs.

The school's mission statement was reviewed: "Plainview Public Schools are dedicated to educating, encouraging and empowering all students for success in an ever-changing society." This statement said briefly: "Educating, Encouraging and Empowering for Success."

There followed an overview of data in which it was pointed out the various ways in which data is needed, how it should be obtained and how useful it can be.

In a brief discussion on board vision it was pointed out that Helen Keller had been asked if there was anything worse than being blind and answered with being able to see with no vision.

Board members were asked to prioritize various instructional programs, not only for post-secondary educational preparation but also to promote well-rounded productive citizens. They came up with: 1, reading; 2, writing; 3, math; 4, technology; and 5, science.

Board members then individually indicated goals for the earlier established priorities and then combined them and prioritized them.:

For miscellaneous items, it was "Sell" the school system.

For curriculum, instruction and assessment, they came up with matching students' choices to help achieve personal goals in tomorrow's world with a focus on technology.

For staffing and personnel, they suggested sharing of staff with RIF as the last resort, encouraging attrition instead, cross train teachers to utilize available staff, and when needed, hire new teachers that can be or are already cross-trained.

For facilities and grounds, they suggested to maintain building and grounds to present a positive image.

Hamm also pointed out some administrator insights.

The final discussion was on "where do we go from here?"

The Board will now discuss action plans for their priorities at Monday's meeting as well as future meetings.

President Zuhlke declared the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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I, the undersigned, the duly appointed recording secretary of the Board of Education of District 5, Plainview, Neb., hereby certify that the attached and foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the special meeting of the Board of Education of District 5 of Plainview, Neb., held in open session on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in the Plainview News.

Leonald Warneke, Recording Secretary