

**Plainview Public Schools Board of Education Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2008**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Education of District 5 of Plainview, Neb., was called to order at 12:30 p.m. in the superintendent's office on Monday, February 11, 2008 by Alden Zuhlke, president. Board members had previously participated in the hot lunch program and toured parts of the school. Roll call was answered by Zuhlke, Janyce Warneke, Krista Hanks, Dan Stelling, Tom Scranton and Kent Friedrich.

Also present were Supt. Dave Hamm, Principals Randy Klooz and Corey Dahl, Recording Secretary Lee Warneke, Mike Holton, Lori Klooz, Jessica Strobe and Jeremy Hampton.

Zuhlke indicated that the rules for open meetings were posted in the room.

CONSENT ITEMS

Consent items included the minutes of the January 14, 2008 meeting, the financial report and February claims.

The financial report (with last month's figures in parentheses) showed a balance of \$329,701.39 (\$214,524.24) in the checking account; CDs \$994,000.00 (\$994,000.00); Special Building \$9,842.19 (\$3,875.04); Petty Cash Fund \$2,378.76 (\$1,816.01); Activity Account \$77,846.30 (\$58,609.07); Lunch Account \$34,148.30 (\$30,674.53); Employee Benefit Fund \$18,777.81 (\$51,011.56); Depreciation Fund \$226,987.69 (\$226,363.36); Payroll Account \$1,517.02 (\$1,403.67); Custodial/Section 125 Account \$12,560.40 (\$11,068.69). Total assets were \$1,632,457.21, compared to \$1,458,810.52 a month ago and \$1,758,335.16 a year ago.

January receipts were \$507,575.44, compared to \$476,524.96 at the end of December. This included approximately \$371,000.00 in tax receipts and approximately \$135,000.00 in funds from the State of Nebraska for state aid and other programs. Disbursements totaled \$329,701.39, including \$134,535.65 for claims and \$257,862.64 for payroll. Building fund receipts totaled \$5,967.15 with no expenditures, leaving a balance of \$9,842.19, compared to \$3,875.04 a month ago. 42.23 percent of budget has been expended, compared to 39.97 percent a year ago.

Claims to the general fund totaled \$75,302.65 with none for the building fund. It was noted that the heating gas bill was approximately \$7,000 less this year compared to last year even though there was colder weather this year. It was felt this was the result of being locked in at a lower rate for the year.

Scranton moved, Stelling seconded, to approve the consent items on the agenda. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

SPEECH CLASS PRESENTATION

The Board then moved to a classroom to hear brief presentations of some of the speech team talents.

CIA COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

The Board then heard Lori Klooz and Jessica Strobe report on the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment projects reporting that a \$250,000 grant had been secured by Mike Holton to assist area schools in developing and implementing either a leadership or entrepreneurship or a combination of the two to the curriculum in their schools. They discussed a possible leadership academy, development of an entrepreneurial curriculum which would probably replace keyboarding as a junior high exploratory class, and also shared information about a speaker they are planning to host later this spring. Holton, who is on the staff of the Center for Rural Affairs, also explained the grant which sought to help bring a community together in its efforts and that the process would be teacher and student led, reporting to the committee and then to the school board. Holton felt too often talk is about brain drain from our communities but he felt it should be brain gain.

RECOGNITION OF PPEA

The Board had received a letter from the Plainview Professional Education Association requesting that they be recognized as the official collective bargaining agent for negotiations this spring.

Scranton moved, Friedrich seconded, to recognize the PPEA as the official collective bargaining agent for certified staff members for the 2008-2009 school year. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL AND AUDITOR

Supt. Hamm recommended that the Board consider a change in its auditor. He presented a bid from Mike Pommer, who serves a number of area schools and public entities including the County of Pierce, to provide this service. It was indicated his services would provide a slight savings but also a willingness to work with the District in steps that could possibly generate additional state aid.

Warneke moved, Hanks seconded, to appoint Rex Schultze and the law firm of Perry, Guthery, Haase and Gessford as legal counsel for the Plainview Public Schools and to appoint Mike Pommer, CPA, as the representative auditor for the District. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

NASB MEMBERSHIP

While Plainview has been a member of the Nebraska Association of School Boards for some time, it was time to decide whether to continue such membership.

Stelling moved, Hanks seconded, to continue Plainview's membership in the Nebraska Association of School Boards. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

MAXIMUM BALANCES IN APPROVED DEPOSITORIES

Nebraska Statute requires that the Board annually identify the maximum amount to be held in the official school depositories.

Scranton moved, Stelling seconded, to designate Midwest Bank in Plainview and Brunswick State Bank as the official depositories of district funds and that maximum allowable balances will be \$2,500,000 at Midwest Bank and \$500,000 at Brunswick State Bank. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

STATE AID

Supt. Hamm indicated that currently the news was super on state aid. He indicated that if the legislature makes no changes, Plainview will be receiving \$262,950.23 additional funds in state aid for the 2008/2009 year. It would bring the state aid figure to \$613,167.71. He indicated that one of the reasons for the increase was that the assessed valuation did not go up, resulting in more state aid, along with other factors.

SHARING OF SUPERINTENDENT SERVICES

While the Board has periodically discussed the possibility of sharing a superintendent with another school district, President Zuhlke had been in contact with the president of the Ewing school district about the possibility of sharing superintendent services. Ewing currently is seeking a part-time superintendent. That school has approximately 140 students. It was pointed out that under such a plan, services could be contracted for at a specified fee or there could be a possible 60/40 split in expenses or other such arrangements that the parties may agree upon. Board members commented that it was felt the local Board should have control of the agreement. The question of where the superintendent would live would be left to the Board to decide. Since the Board had discussed the possibility of sharing a superintendent at its November retreat, Zuhlke felt it would provide opportunity to do so by discussing the Ewing possibility.

Friedrich moved, Warneke seconded, that the school board start pursuing sharing the superintendent with other school districts and to authorize designated board members to have conversations with those districts. Upon roll call vote, the ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Elementary principal Corey Dahl commented on the Safe Routes to Schools project and indicated that decisions were to be made on that very same day on which grant applications would be accepted. He felt that Plainview stood a good chance of receiving approval of its application. Dahl also reported that parent-teacher conferences had 90 percent participation of parents, which was slightly lower than a year ago. He also commented on the APL teaching strategies training that was conducted in late January, feeling that it went very well.

Secondary principal Randy Klooz indicated that parent-teacher conferences went well with 70 percent participation compared to last year's 50 percent. He indicated that Distance Learning efforts are

going well and also felt the APL training went well. APL is an organization that has dedicated its focus and energies to working with professional educators. He further commented on several injuries that had been received in sports activities and the treatment thereof, indicating that all policies in force have been followed and felt the need of better communication to parents and hoped for the possibility of a coach's handbook.

The football schedule for the next two years was presented, showing several Thursday evening games, due to the inability to obtain officials for Friday night games.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zuhlke shared a thank you received from the Bowman family. He suggested that information given to the Board members on energy discussions be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

He invited volunteers who wanted to go with him and Supt. Hamm to meet with representatives of the Ewing school board to discuss the possibilities of sharing. He and Janyce Warneke, who both attended the recent Legislative Conference in Lincoln, commented on the session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Supt. Hamm indicated that Rod Garwood would be here on Feb. 13 to conduct the annual safety audit. He also reported that he was beginning the process of having the entire school eligible for NCA accreditation. In the past only accreditation occurred for 7-12 level.

He queried the board if they wanted to put out for bids for property and liability insurance, a task that has been done every three years. After discussion the Board indicated that he should seek bids.

He also pointed out that the attendance at the Board retreat earned each of the Board members 15 points toward board awards from the state.

Comment was made about receiving a resignation from the elementary department.

The Board members whose terms were to expire this year were asked their plans. Stelling indicated he planned to seek re-election while Scranton and Warneke indicated that they would not seek re-election. Both have served two terms.

There being no further business, the chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

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 regular meeting of the Board of Education of District 5 of Plainview, Neb., held in open session on the 11th day of February, 2008, which meeting was preceded by public notice published in the Plainview News.

Leonald Warneke, Recording Secretary