

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16, COUNTY OF HARNEY, MET AT FRENCHGLEN SCHOOL IN SAID DISTRICT, ON THE 9th day of January 2024 AT 5:00 P.M.**

**Board Present:** Nevada Miller, Debbie Webb, Corbin Hammond and Rene Villagrana were present.

**Others Present:** Earlyna Hammond, Clerk, Carolyn Whitney, teacher, Shannon Criss, Harney ESD, Catherine Hammond, Music.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. Corbin motioned to approve the Agenda with additions/corrections: add Music discussion and update with Catherine; Shannon is present instead of Crystal Hussey to discuss SIA and Early Literacy Grant. Rene seconded. AIF. Rene motioned to approve the December minutes as presented and Debbie seconded. AIF.

January is school board appreciation month and a photo was taken of the board for Shannon and Ms. K gave candy with a Thank You!

### **VISITORS**

Catherine: Music Update. Nevada stated that the Christmas program was awesome! Catherine said she enjoys working with the students and has purchased a few supplies. She would like to continue on and add the group music if approved with Carolyn's help. The board agrees this would be great- Corbin abstained from this discussion. Catherine has talked a lot with Susan O'Crowley at Diamond. Susan encouraged her to purchase a Master Class (online)- would the board be interested in helping to fund this? The total cost is \$997.00. It entails a webinar all online. It's designed to be completed in 6 months but can go at your own pace. It is a different type of teaching method than from the older books. Susan highly recommends it and she is learning a lot. There is no expiration and Catherine can refer to it always. SRSA or maybe SIA funding? Carolyn will check and see what funding source would work and get back to us. Debbie motioned to reimburse Catherine for the \$997.00 and Rene seconded. Corbin abstained. AIF. The board thanked Catherine and appreciates her stepping up and for all of her hard work.

Shannon from the ESD was present to discuss: SIA; Early Literacy Grant; Grant agreements for next session.

Crystal presented the board last month with an annual update on the SIA grant including some of the history of the grant and a handout outlining the budget, program offerings etc. Shannon was present to also include discussion regarding the Early Literacy Grant info. This funding is K-3; 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade is 20% the first year and 10% the second. This grant will happen in two- year allocations. There was opportunity for public input/discussion regarding this information. Shannon stated that the SIA and Early Literacy grants have increased substantially and is floor funded at approximately \$80,000. They will allow carryover into next year due to the delay this year. Currently, the small rurals must be a consortia with the ESD, however in coming years, they may want to manage this funding individually due to the increased amounts. There was discussion regarding the lengthy paperwork, etc and the board can discuss this option at a later date. The overall consensus was that the board didn't feel it would be beneficial to opt out of the consortia.

Debbie motioned for the board to approve the Early Literacy Application (in the consortia) and Rene seconded. AIF.

The SIA grant agreement for 23-24 was already signed last month but Rene motioned for Nevada to sign it again and to approve the SIA consortia. Debbie seconded and AIF. Shannon stated that there is also a Health and Safety component to the grant and that Crystal will get info to Carolyn on what the funding amount is. These monies can be used to improve buildings, carpet, etc.

There was also discussion about finding a music instructor for the small schools/Crane and utilizing some of these grant funds to cover expenses. Shannon stated she will be attending a job fair in the near future and that the ESD is actively looking for a music teacher. She and Catherine agreed to get together to discuss this.

Harney County Equity Team discussion: this was tabled per Shannon and will be placed on the February Agenda with Shannon giving an update then. The board thanked Shannon for attending and for all of her information.

### **PENDING/PAID BILLS PRESENTATION**

Carolyn updated the board on the US Bank Visa credit card fraud discussion: four cards have been affected with fraud as of now. If it happens again, the board would like to research a different credit card company. After bills were reviewed, Debbie motioned to approve them and Rene seconded. AIF.

### **CUSTODIAN/YARD REPORTS**

Ms. K stated that the custodians cleaned the floor in the gym over Christmas break and it looks much better! They also installed the new faucet in the girls bathroom.

### **INTERNAL CONTROL**

A bank statement was opened and Rene performed Internal Control. Checks were signed.

### **SITE COUNCIL REPORT**

None.

### **POLICY UPDATES**

Tabled.

### **TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Things are going well. Some batteries need replaced.

### **TEACHER REPORT**

Carolyn handed out REN newsletters. Thursday is the last day of the second quarter. There will be a visit from PACE January 23<sup>rd</sup>. She is still working on updating the TAG program and will present it to the board when it's done. The Immunization report is due to the state by the 17<sup>th</sup>. Book clubs through SIA will begin this week. The books pulled from the library and Carolyn's collection were put on tables in the gym. All of the books left over will be given to the Harney County library and to the Senior Center.

Carolyn is still working on the library grant. The computerized library program needs to be purchased again. This might be able to be covered with the Library Grant or SRSA- she will let the board know.

Ms. Caitlin did bball here in December and a parent provided lasagna-it was great! Two other parents provided cookies. Rural bball at Crane has started and two students are participating.

The SIA will be providing the following activities: a Valentine's dance in February; Anthony Lakes ski trip; Astoria trip, etc. Carolyn has the parent letter almost ready to go out regarding the Astoria trip to see what they think about youngers being gone multiple nights. Ms. K will give parent feedback to the board.

Ms. Caitlin is going to be in Fields on the 18<sup>th</sup> and will be doing tennis. The students will participate in the Missoula Children's Theatre in February with Diamond. AIR is in April. This Thursday evening and Friday will be a planning meeting for SIA with rural teachers.

There will be a Community Club meeting 2/1 at 4:00 in the gym-a gym use agreement was turned in. Carolyn will get Earlyna Conlon's email so that she can notify him of the February board meeting. Nevada asked for anyone else who might know of someone interested in serving in the open school board position to invite them to attend the February meeting. There is also an open budget board position as well.

#### **SAFETY COMMITTEE/PEST MANAGEMENT**

There is a broken pole on the school fence near the swings. Rene will work on getting new posts.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The February meeting will be held Tuesday, 2/13 at 5:00 P.M.  
 MOE/IDEA funding discussion: even though Frenchglen declines IDEA funds, ODE is saying the school didn't meet Maintenance of Effort for 2022-23 and owes approximately \$1400. According to ODE, eligible expenses can be re-posted or it can be issued back to ODE in a check. This was tabled until Shannon gets back to the board with more information.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Student Investment Account Update: letter to the parents read by Nevada. This will be included in the registration packet – perhaps for eligible students only? The board agreed this letter was fine.

Playground Update: nothing new.

State Land Update: Judge Hart has a meeting with a state realtor tomorrow and will update Corbin after.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Earlyna Hammond, Clerk