

**BOARD MEETING OF THE GILPIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**April 20, 2015**

President Craig Holmes called the meeting of the Gilpin County Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL:** Armstrong – present; Boulter – present; Holmes – present; Ramsey – absent; Taylor - absent.

Board Member Kersten Armstrong read the mission statement.

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the agenda, as amended.**

Holmes asked to hear the Secondary Principal's Report after Congratulations and Celebrations as she would be leaving the meeting early.

There were three additions to the Agenda; Safety Day and Alive at 25 presentation, Approval of Andrew Rothenberger for Technology Support hire for 2015/2016, and approval of salary step increase.

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

During Congratulations and Celebrations Holmes congratulated the middle school baseball team on their win that evening.

Secondary Principal Alexis Donaldson congratulated the whole cast and crew of the recent play "Peter Pan and Wendy". She stated that it was an outstanding production. She also congratulated Spanish teacher Su Henry and her students for a great World Language Day. Donaldson congratulated Curt Halsted and Irene Shonle for the Earth Day presentation, stating it was very informative and she learned a lot.

During the *Board of Education Artist Recognition* Mr. Halsted introduced the April inductee, 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Skylar Webb. Halsted stated that he chose a piece of art work from Webb's winter assignments. He stated that Webb is always working hard and he is very impressed with her art work.

During the *Secondary Principal's Report* Donaldson stated that the first round of CMAS testing for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies is complete. She said that they have discovered that using the Chrome Books is the best way to do the test as it produces the least amount of errors. The Science tests will be administered next week to grade 8.

Donaldson stated that spring sports are in full swing and there are a lot of activities and events going on. Prom will be May 2, 2015, at Invesco Field this year. She stated that our school does a great job of

hosting Prom and looking for unique venues. It is senior crunch time and the seniors have either worked hard up till now for graduation or are working very hard right now to graduate. Graduation will be on May 16, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. Donaldson asked that the Board members please be there by 10:30 a.m. to prepare for the ceremony.

During *Student Participation* MS Science and Robotics teacher Victoria Stephens and first semester student Anna Yocom were present to give a presentation with a robot arm created in class. Stephen's explained that the students take apart and rebuild machines to get an understanding of how they work. The students build machines using Lego Mind Storm kits. For the final in the class the students get to design and build their own machine and have robot wars. Yocom demonstrated how the robot arm worked. She stated that she really enjoyed the class as it was something new and fun.

Donaldson added that she really wanted to recognize Stephens for her outstanding job she does with the Robotics class. It was something new for her and she has put in a lot of time and work to make the class a success.

During the Safety Day and Alive at 25 presentation Dianne Stundon and Brandon Durunda with the Gilpin Ambulance were present to inform the Board what would take place at each event. Stundon explained that this would be the third year for the Safety Day program here at the school. This program is a teaching tool to help kids be safe in their home or school environment. It will be held on May 11, 2015, all day. The Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grades will take part in Safety Day from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades will have the afternoon. Something new this year will be an obstacle course for the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, winner receiving some kind of celebratory party.

Brandon Durunda informed the Board that the Alive at 25 presentation will be held on April 30, 2015. It will involve a staged auto accident with wrecked cars and people. The student body will watch the scene unfold. Then the student body will be transported to the county court house and take part in court room trial. Donaldson stated that there is a lot of work that goes into the planning, coordination and production of this program. It is a very big undertaking and the District is very fortunate to be able to have this fabulous program come to Gilpin County School. She thanked everyone involved for all of their hard work.

During *Public Participation* reporter for "The Week Register Call" Patty Unruh asked if there would be a retirement party for Patti Nichol. MacKenzie stated that per Nichol's request there would be no party.

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the minutes of the April 6, 2015 board meeting as amended.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): ACCEPT the Business Manager's Memo as presented.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the Check Vouchers as presented.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the Financial Statements as presented.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the Quarterly Report as presented.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): ACCEPT the Resignation of Preschool Teacher Patti Nicholl.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): ACCEPT the Resignation of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Ryan Raynes.**

Dr. MacKenzie stated that Ryanes might possibly want to return in a few years after his children have grown a bit. If that were to happen and if the District had an opening we would welcome him back.

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): ACCEPT the Resignation of 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher Meghan DeGuelle.**

Dr. MacKenzie stated that DeGuelle would like to take the next school year off for maternity leave. The District will hire a candidate for the 2015-2016 school year with no intent to rehire so DeGuelle could then be rehired for the 2016-2017 school year if she so chose.

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): ACCEPT the Resignation of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Liz Huxley.**

Dr. MacKenzie stated that Huxley has two small children and would like to be home with them. The District asked her to consider Substituting for the District and she has agreed to do so.

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the 2015-2016 School Year Fee Schedule as presented.**

Dr. MacKenzie provided a list of suggested Fee Schedule changes for each Board member. The first change was to add a Drama Fee to the elementary fees of \$35.00 and to make the middle school and high school Drama Fees both \$35.00.

The second change was to either increase the price for the school lunch by .05 or .10 per lunch. The increase would make up for the increase in supplies and materials for the school year. The Board agreed that a .05 increase would be acceptable.

The third was to have the Traditional and Montessori Pre-School classes run four days a week and it would be the same price for either class. Half days would be \$250.00 a month and full days would be \$500 a month.

The fourth suggested change was to provide full day Kindergarten for no charge. This would hopefully encourage parents to enroll their children for the full day.

The Board decided to table the approval of the Fee Schedule as they would like to have changes reflect on the Fee Schedule. The Revised Fee Schedule will be included in the next Board agenda.

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): AMEND Motion to Table the Approval of the 2015-2016 Fee Schedule until the May 4, 2015, meeting.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the Hire/Contract of Andrew Rothenberger for the Position of Technology Support at the Tier Two Pay Grade.**

Dr. MacKenzie stated that Rothenberger will be an onsite technician. The District will still use the offsite contracted company as well. Rothenberger will be relocating from Virginia. He is an experienced elementary teacher. He has also held the position of Instructional Coach for Technology. He will be able to handle the technology needs of the school and teachers.

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the Step Increase for all staff for the 2015-2016 School Year.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m): Boulter (s): APPROVE the Two Percent Pay Increase for the Staff Members that are frozen on the Pay Grid.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye*

### **CARRIED**

During the *Communications Report* Dr. MacKenzie informed the Board that he had conducted his Superintendent Advisory meeting and five parents attended. The main topics of discussion were academics and lighting in the back parking lots. Also discussed was the possibility of providing students with more academic recognition, instead of one academic awards ceremony a year there could be two.

Dr. MacKenzie informed the Board that there will be a Volunteer Recognition Reception on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium to recognize all of those who volunteer their time at the school. It is in the planning stages but invitations will go out within the next week.

Holmes stated that he had requests from parents that there be better communications on sporting events. He asked that there be specific directions list for each game.

During the *Superintendent's Report* Dr. MacKenzie stated that Stephens is doing a great job and he is impressed with what she has accomplished. He thanked Donaldson for being open and forward thinking in getting the students engaged using research based strategies and technology in the classroom.

The Transportation Audit was accomplished by the April 17, 2015, deadline and we are in compliance. There was a preschool inspection response due on April 15, 2015. There were a couple of things that needed to be fixed, which have been fixed now and we are in compliance there as well.

Dr. MacKenzie went over the District Goals for the State Assessments. The growth that is shown is a good indicator that the teachers are accomplishing what they need to in order to move forward.

During the *Principals' Report* Elementary Principal Scott Eldred stated that he and the elementary teachers hosted the SOAR awards that morning. They recognized the February and March SOAR students. The next SOAR award ceremony will be on May 18, 2015, 7:30 a.m.

The CMAS testing for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science is complete and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies testing will begin April 21, 2015. Aside from a few glitches that were out of our control the testing went well.

Eldred informed the Board that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation will be on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. Also Ms. Patti's Ice Cream Social will be on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. Other upcoming events are the Spring Concerts, Montessori Open House and the Elementary Field Day.

Eldred also informed the Board that he would be reviewing some curriculum resources for Everyday Math in the afternoon of Tuesday, April 21, 2015. He also stated that he put out a call for summer school teachers. There has been some interest. He will meet with those teachers and discuss how best to approach the way to address each school student's needs summer.

The next meeting will include Revised Fee Schedule and Preliminary Budget.

Holmes adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

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Craig Holmes, President

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Kersten Armstrong, Member at Large