

MINUTES OF MEETING
JACKSON SCHOOL BOARD
Jackson Grammar School
January 19, 2010

1. **Call to Order:** The Jackson School Board met at 6:00 p.m. Present were Jerry Dougherty, Genn Anzaldi, Andrew Kearns, Keith Bradley, Dr. Carl Nelson and Gayle Dembowski. There were three staff members present.
2. **Approve Minutes (12-21-09): Motion was made by Ms. Anzaldi, seconded by Mr. Bradley, to approve the Minutes of the Dec. 21st meeting as circulated. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**
3. **Citizen Comments:** None.
4. **Presentation of School Programs/FYI Items:**
 - A. **SAU – Other School Board Reports** – Dr. Nelson noted there will be a Joint Boards meeting on Jan. 28th at KHS Mineral Springs Café to review the Program of Studies. Jackson’s representatives are Messrs. Dougherty and Kearns and Ms. Anzaldi.
5. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Wetlands** - Dr. Nelson stated the report is not yet back from the environmental people. Mr. Dougherty noted when H.E. Bergeron sent out the information in Nov. they said it could take up to six months before hearing back. Dexter Harding, having expressed an interest in discussing the playground, was invited to provide input. Mr. Harding pointed out that when the addition was being planned it was noticed that it would block a lot of the line of sight when monitoring at recess. He said it was felt that it would be really beneficial for safety, for peace of mind, and for reducing stress that comes from having to have extra staff to monitor, if they were to have the blacktop out back as well, thus they are asking if there is any way to make it happen faster, if money can be put into the budget now so that even before we get a decision from the State Wetlands people we would have the money put aside for that.

Mr. Dougherty pointed out there is a big issue regarding the drainage out there, especially if we were to put in the blacktop – it would not be blacktop for a very long time – maybe 3 to 5 years. It was his feeling that we should just go forward with the process as originally planned - the Committee came up with the long term plan for the playground, we have already spent \$12,000, and we should just go forward with the plan. He noted the playground apparatus would likely not impact the wetlands, but the blacktop would; also we are already asking for \$35,000 to be put into the Maintenance Trust Fund, and he has a difficult time asking for more.

Ms. Anzaldi said she understands it is stressful to have the two areas; however, if we tamper any more with the drainage system we run the risk of having flooding in places

we do not have any right now. She said she thinks asking for money ahead of time may not be bad, but if we do have the study, she does not mind so much going to the town. Mr. Kearns pointed out \$25,000 for the blacktop and basketball court is not a quote. Ms. Bennett said Shawn Bergeron estimated the expense for the 2500' area to be about \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Ms. Anzaldi acknowledged it is good to know the priority of the staff moving forward for the playground situation. Ms. Dembowski said they discussed it at length at the staff meeting and the entire staff was in favor of having a paved area closer to the playground.

Mr. Bradley said if we do not appropriate any funds it would be 18 months before anything starts. Mr. Dougherty noted; however, we are appropriating \$35,000 toward it. Mr. Kearns pointed out there is money which was not used on the playground equipment which needs to be used by June 30th.

Dr. Nelson will call H.E. Bergeron to find out where they are at and if there is a ballpark figure for the blacktop and drainage.

Mr. Dougherty suggested having the Playground Committee meet again, discuss a time line, reconsider if we really want to do it or not, and sit down and put a cohesive plan together. He said the real problem is what it impedes as regards doing the rest of the work, not necessarily the drainage issue. Mr. Bradley questioned whether a representative of Bergeron could be invited to attend the next meeting, noting he was under the impression the information was supposed to have been turned into the State last summer; however, the paperwork is dated Nov. Also he would like an opinion as to whether we can “piece-meal” it. Mr. Kearns expressed some concern as well. Ms. Dembowski noted they have already been paid for the plan. Mr. Dougherty suggested Dr. Nelson question Bergeron as to why they are taking so long.

Mr. Kearns suggested looking again at the Bergeron plans and the estimate from Shawn Bergeron, and what it involves with drainage. As for a meeting of the Playground Committee, Mr. Harding said the last time they met they expressed that they liked the idea of having the blacktop out there, and getting as much green space as possible, and he does not feel there are probably any other thoughts on that. It was decided Messrs. Dougherty and Bradley and Ms. Dembowski will meet to discuss cost, feasibility, and a time line.

B. Parking Lot Lights for Whitney Center – Two quotes were received, one from Hauser Electric for \$870, one from Kevin Griffin for \$1,150. There was some discussion as to the number of fixtures that were included and it was felt that the \$290 per fixture referred to had to do with additional fixtures on the building and that the \$870 quote was for the original three. Mr. Dougherty suggested approving the quote from Hauser after confirming that it is, in fact, for three lights. He said his question is “do we want motion detector lights on the building?” The response was “yes.” Mr. Dougherty explained there would be one on the back of the building for illuminating the asphalt back there,

and one for the existing playground apparatus. The Board authorized the administration to proceed with the \$870 quote after confirming it is for three lights.

C. Safe Routes to School – Mr. Kearns said Mr. Kopitsky (who could not be present) was hoping to use money from the grant to bring someone in to do a study that confirms flashing lights at the crossing are a good idea. Ms. Anzaldi said she recommends if we need to do it, we move forward on it sooner rather than later, pointing out they have \$4700 for an engineering study and consensus. Dr. Nelson said the District has to purchase the items and the DOT will install. Ms. Anzaldi said they have been proven to slow people down if they are blinking at the right times. She said we have nine months to a year to complete the study then submit for the grant. It starts in April. The \$4700 specifically must be spent for a study. Mr. Kearns feels the signs have helped. Ms. Bennett feels they have slowed down traffic. It was agreed this will be taken up under Old Business at the next meeting.

Defibrillators – Mr. Kearns reported the Whitney Oversight Committee has expressed that it needs and wants a defibrillator for the Whitney Center. It will cost \$800 to \$900 and he feels money could be found for it. Ms. Anzaldi offered to put him in contact with a company with a discount program. Upon question of liability on the part of someone using the equipment, Dr. Nelson cautioned that they need to provide training in the use of such devices. Ms. Anzaldi said there is a law that any layman can use a defibrillator and not be sued. Dr. Nelson said people can be trained to use one in less than one hour. It was noted also that the Red Cross offers a training course. It was agreed funding for the defibrillator would come from the School District general fund.

6. **Instructional Issues:** None.

7. **Consider Personnel Actions:** None.

8. **Business Affairs:**

A. FYI – 2009-10 Budget Status Report – Dr. Nelson reported the District is “still in good shape” with the 2009-10 budget.

B. Consider Approval of 2010-11 Proposed Budget – [\$2,232,515.00] Dr. Nelson pointed out with the Board’s approval he had added \$3,000 for a deductible insurance pool, also the budget includes the snow plowing.

Mr. Kearns reported he and Mr. Kopitsky had met with the Personnel Committee and they are O.K. with the change in health insurance with the \$3,000 deductible pool; however, even with the new insurance plan, with the premium savings and debit card, some would still be paying more. He said there was request to consider increasing dental coverage by adding \$5800 to the budget. Mr. Kopitsky had expressed he felt they should do it if they can; Mr. Kearns said he is not in favor of it this year. He noted the change would be that a 2-person plan would get up to \$750 coverage. Dr. Nelson explained each family member gets to spend a maximum of \$750 per year on applicable expenses

(Conway teachers have a \$1,000 maximum). It was reported that five Jackson School staff members are under the 2-person plan, 8 under the family plan.

Ms. Bennett said her impression of the Personnel Committee meeting was they would go back and talk to the staff as a whole, and come back to the Board. She said in her opinion they were split down the middle – half are O.K. with it, half feel it would be some expense to them. She said it is a good plan, but it changes the level of coverage and out-of-pocket expense for all staff members - for some it will be an advantage, for some it will not. She said the only other caveat was that some did not have a strong feeling toward change but they want to continue to have an attractive benefit package to attract and retain staff – having polled staff, it was about 50/50.

Mr. Dougherty said he felt \$5800 is a rather big impact on the budget; he does not know whether it makes sense for the dental aspect, he would prefer to see the pool increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Ms. Bennett said one staff member was O.K. with the change, but wondered what guarantee there was that it would continue over a period of time, and maybe a separate dental pool should be established. Mr. Dougherty said he would not advise doing it that way because you cannot buy dental coverage that way. Mr. Kearns said as regards concern it is going away, the flex card is part of this plan. Dr. Nelson pointed out the flex card can also be used for dental.

Ms. Anzaldi said she feels Jackson should at least be on par with Conway and would like to see the numbers with the \$5,000 or \$6,000 added in, noting they cannot use the \$3,000 pool for dental, but can use the flex card for dental. Mr. Dougherty questioned whether Jackson's pool covers added expenses. Dr. Nelson said no, it only covers the deductible, the pool is to keep from hitting the deductible twice. Mr. Dougherty questioned then whether anything that is added to the dental offsets that. The answer: only if they are the same people. Mr. Dougherty said the problem with the dental is, if the money is wasted. Ms. Anzaldi said we are switching over and saving, but then increasing to be comparable to Conway. Mr. Dougherty questioned whether total increases this year are \$45,800 plus \$5800? Dr. Nelson said he will re-run the numbers.

It was suggested that if snow plowing is eliminated it may offset a portion of it. Ms. Anzaldi said she feels it is worth it. Mr. Kearns said if we are going to spend that money, he would prefer to increase the debit card - the health plan he would approve would have the flex card as part of it. Ms. Bennett said if the pool is not spent, the money goes back to the District – both the pool and the money left in the flex cards - it does not sound like the flex card is part of the plan, it is a decision of the Board. Mr. Dougherty proposed the budget be presented as is, then on Feb. 4th at the budget hearing they can reconsider some items, hopefully taking out \$5200 for plowing and adding \$5800 for dental, the wise thing being to add it to the flex card.

Motion made by Ms. Anzaldi, second by Mr. Bradley, to bring the figure of \$2,232,515 for the 2010-11 budget forward to the budget hearing. Carried 4-0-0.

There was some discussion as to how to arrive at the amount to be added to the flex card. Mr. Bradley suggested taking the number of staff and distributing the \$5200 evenly among all possible participants. Dr. Nelson offered to do the math both ways - \$250 per person, and dividing the \$5200 by number of staff.

Mr. Harding questioned whether a warrant article could be added for the blacktop. Dr. Nelson said they can either do it through a warrant article or increase the budget.

Mr. Bradley questioned with regard to the \$10,000 that goes back to the town if we do not spend it, whether we can have a warrant article to take that and put it back in. Dr. Nelson said they can put in a warrant article to raise and appropriate to be taken from fund balance. Mr. Bradley questioned rewording Article #4. Dr. Nelson said that is for the express purpose of building maintenance; if they wanted to do that they would have to close it out and make a new one establishing a reserve fund for whatever purpose the Board chose, closing this one out when it got to, for instance, \$1,000, which would go back to the general fund. Mr. Dougherty said if closing one out for \$35,000 and opening a new one for \$35,000, the money in the other one would offset it. It was noted if the Board is the agent to spend, this could be accomplished just through a hearing.

C. Consider Approval of Warrant Articles –

Article 1 – Budget [\$2,232,515.00] – **Approved 4-0-0.**

Article 2 - \$15,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund (School Buses). Dr. Nelson stated this will bring the total in that account to \$78,000, and the following year would total about \$93,000, which is about the cost of a new bus presently. **Motion made by Mr. Bradley, second by Mr. Kearns, to approve Article 2 as presented. Motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 3 - \$15,000 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (Tuition Trust Fund). Dr. Nelson reported there is currently about \$17,000 in that fund, bringing it to about the average tuition. **Motion by Mr. Kearns, second by Ms. Anzaldi, to approve Article 3 as written. Motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 4 - \$35,000 to be added to the Expendable General Trust Fund (School Building Maintenance Fund). **Motion by Mr. Kearns, second by Mr. Bradley, to approve Article 4 as written.** Dr. Nelson stated there is currently \$36,000 in that fund, to be used for the roof. There was suggestion of including the word *grounds* in the article. Mr. Bradley questioned if we cannot spend any of that money on the playground, are we willing to wait 18 months? Mr. Kearns and Ms. Anzaldi said they like the idea of including grounds in the article. Mr. Dougherty would like to leave it as is and if they are going to add money for the playground, do it under the budget. It was felt if they want to have a new article for grounds and building maintenance, they could say it would be offset with the \$10,000 they have this year left over from the playground.

Ms. Bennett questioned whether the Board would entertain reducing the amount in Article 4. Dr. Nelson said the Maintenance Trust Fund is for just that, for instance, if the roof goes or something should happen to a boiler - then they could create a separate warrant article for grounds. Mr. Dougherty said it is more fair to the voters to know exactly what they are appropriating it for. Ms. Anzaldi commented that historically they have been appropriating \$35,000. **Motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 5 - \$25,000 to be added to Capital Reserve Fund (Special Education). **Motion by Mr. Kearns, second by Ms. Anzaldi, to approve Article 5 as written.** Dr. Nelson said there is presently \$74,000 in that fund. When Mr. Bradley questioned the need for adding to that amount, Dr. Nelson pointed out the possibility of an out-of-district placement occurring. **Motion carried 3-0-1 with Mr. Bradley abstaining.**

Article 6 – to create an expendable maintenance trust fund according to RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the Whitney Maintenance Trust Fund, for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the Whitney Community Center, and to raise and appropriate \$2,000 toward this purpose, and to name the school board as agents to expend from the fund. It was explained it needed to be worded this way because the money is provided by the Whitney Foundation and Board would spend the money.

Ms. Bennett said the Whitney Foundation would like to commit to \$5,000. She was told if the Whitney Foundation wants to donate it, it cannot go directly into this fund. In order to have it funded, the School District will have to raise and appropriate \$5,000 which would then be offset by a donation to the School District from the Whitney Foundation. Ms. Bennett asked that the wording be changed to “for capital projects and improvements.” Mr. Dougherty stated that is not the wording authorized by the RSA; this is establishing a separate fund for the Whitney Community Center specifically, which is supposed to be for the entire community. He said from a budgetary standpoint it will be difficult to track the actual dollars, he does not see this money coming from the Whitney Foundation every year. Dr. Nelson said the DRA is comfortable with the wording.

Motion by Ms. Anzaldi, second by Mr. Kearns, to approve Article 6 with a dollar figure of \$5,000. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Dr. Nelson suggested Ms. Bennett’s request for change of wording become a part of the Minutes at the Annual Meeting. He stated this wording is the way the DRA stipulates that we have to word it.

Mr. Bradley said he feels strongly about adding a new warrant article – Article #7 – to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to be added to the expendable trust fund for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a playground. Mr. Dougherty said he would like it to be added to the budget and explain to the voters what we are doing. Rather than propose an additional article at this meeting, Mr. Bradley agreed to wait for two answers: whether funds from Article 4 can be used for grounds, and whether it should be added to Article #1 (budget).

9. Administrators' Reports:

A. Superintendent – Dr. Nelson noted the budget hearing is to be held on Thursday, February 4th at 6:00 p.m.

B. Principal – Ms. Dembowski reported the fire inspection was done, all items have been taken care of, and they have final approval.

Report on playground – they will need to move some swings.

Ms. Dembowski stated that next week they will have their first lock-down/lock-out trial. Teachers will be working with the children without the alarm. There will be a practice session on Jan. 29th.

10. Citizens Comments: None.

11. Board Member Issues – Board Discussion:

A. Set Date for Next Meeting – February 4, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

12. Signing of Manifest: All documents were duly signed.

13. Non Public Session: None.

14. Adjourn: Motion was made by Mr. Kearns, seconded by Mr. Bradley and carried by unanimous vote, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier
Recording Secretary

Old Business for January meeting:

(1) Safe Routes to School – Flashing Lights