

# Albany School Board

## Meeting Minutes

### February 9, 2010

Present: Board members James Sabina, Laurie Ferris and Colleen Cormack. Also in attendance were Kim Guptill and Carl Nelson. Public: 0

- (1) James Sabina called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (12-8-09) – James Sabina made a motion to approve the minutes. Colleen Cormack seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 2-0-1. Laurie Ferris abstained.**
- (3) **Board Member Comments** – Colleen asked Carl about the GED Options program now being offered at KHS. He explained students in that program come in for a certain # of hours per week (he was unsure of the exact #) for a tutorial to review questions they might see on the GED test, which KHS is able to administer on sight. He said there was also a work study program piece to it and explained there was a process the school had to go through in order to offer this program. He went on to say that to be eligible for the program students must be at least 16 years old and at least one year behind in school. Students in this program are not included in the drop out rate. Colleen asked if students who previously dropped out and took the GED on their own used to be included in the drop out rate. Carl said yes, they used to be. He explained the state made some changes 4 or 5 years ago and began to make the program available. Colleen said she thinks it's great that we offer as many programs as possible to reach the diverse needs of our students, including the GED Options Program. However, she is concerned that we are sending a message of 'look at how great we are, we've reduced the dropout rate', when in actuality we've just changed the numbers or redefined it. Colleen said perhaps she has an old school definition of what a drop is and needs to change that image.
- (4) **Signing of Checks and Manifest**
- (5) **Business Affairs** – The board signed the warrant and budget forms. Overall reduction in the budget is 6.42%.
- (6) **Other Business** – Next Albany board meeting will be April 13, 2010 at 5:15pm. Jamie asked the board if the earlier time of 5:15pm still worked for everyone. It did, there were no objections. The next SAU9 meeting will be in Jackson on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Carl explained we could bring completed superintendent evaluations to that meeting to give to Jane Gray.
- (7) **PUBLIC HEARING on 2020-11 Proposed Budget** – the hearing began at 5:35pm. Public present: Sarah Knox. Carl explained the overall reduction in the budget is 6.42 %. He noted changes were: a drop in high school tuition, a drop in special education costs, a slight increase in transportation and Albany's share of SAU9 expenses went up slightly. We will see a decrease in the tax rate of .45 cents per \$1,000. Sarah Knox asked where the kids are going. She has noticed a dramatic decrease in enrollment. Colleen asked Carl if he has seen an increase in home schooling. He said he has, but not enough to account for the decrease. Colleen pointed out Waldorf School now goes up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade since it moved to its new location two years ago.
- (8) **Colleen Cormack made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45pm. The motion was seconded by Laurie Ferris. The motion passed 3-0-0.**