

Almond-Bancroft School District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
January 25, 2017 6:30 pm
1336 Elm Street
Almond, WI

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

- 1) Call Meeting to Order by President Warzynski at 6:32 pm
- 2) Roll Call-Establishment of Quorum
X Bradley X Danforth X J. Dernbach X K. Dernbach X Ruzicka X Warzynski X Weiss
All board members were present.
- 3) Proof of Posting of Meeting Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.84
Mr. Boxx reported meeting was posted according to Statute
- 4) Approve Agenda
Motion made by John Ruzicka and second by Jerry Dernbach to approve agenda with the move of agenda item 11D to the top of 11) Possible Action Items with Respect to. No discussion. Motion carried 7-0.
- 5) Public Appearances before the Board of Education
None
- 6) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - 6A December 21, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 - 6B January 5, 2017 Special Board Meeting Minutes
 - 6C January 10, 2017 Special Board Meeting Minutes*Bonnie Warzynski postponed the approval of December 21, 2016 regular board meeting minutes until the next meeting.*
Motion made by Roy Danforth second by Debbie Bradley to approve January 5, 2017 and January 10, 2017 special board meeting minutes. No discussion. Motion carried 7-0.
- 7) Approval of Current Expenses and Vouchers Payable
Motion made by Roy Danforth second by John Ruzicka to approve current expenses and vouchers payable. No discussion. Motion carried 7-0.
- 8) Announcements/Reports/Updates/Consent Items/Correspondence
 - 8A Correspondence-Recording Clerk-T. Warzynski
Thank you card from Grandma and Grandpa Welker to Dan Boxx, Jeff Rykal, the staff, and the Board of Education was read. She expressed her appreciation to the staff and administration for welcoming working environment at Almond-Bancroft.

8B District Administrator Report-Calendar

The 2017-18 school year calendar will be reviewed in agenda item 11 G.

8C PK-12 Principal Report

Report on school activities

General Building Updates

Update on programs

Jeff Rykal reported that the Board will see FFA overnight trip on the next regular board meeting agenda. The trip will be February 17-18, 2017 and the students will present for Board approval. The spelling bee was held today, January 25th. First place, Orian Kunst, and second place, Kaitlyn Hint, will advance to the regional spelling bee.

During the January 20th in-service day the staff has a half day of recordkeeping and a half day of CESA 5 training on using video in the classroom in a more effective manner. The 8th grade Washington DC trip initial parent meeting was held today, January 25th. Five students along with parents attended and four other students/parents expressed interest but could not attend the meeting due to conflicts.

9) Donations to the Almond-Bancroft School District

No current donations to report.

10) Policy Development and Review

No policy development or review.

11) Possible Action Items with Respect to:

11D Bancroft decision as to relocation of students

President Bonnie Warzynski asked if any Board member wanted to make a motion on the relocation. Motion made by Jerry Dernbach to leave the Bancroft students in Bancroft at this time second by Keith Dernbach.

Discussion: Jerry feels the board has not received enough information from administration and he feels the board has enough on its plate at this time. Keith Dernbach agreed and believes that misinformation has been reported and he is not happy with the way it has been planned out. He also stated that there should have been a referendum that was binding. He stated that this is a hard decision and as of now he believes that there are too many ifs right now. John Ruzicka replied that the tax payers did decide by non-binding referendum to move the students to Almond. Jerry stated that there is no set decision on the floor plan to move students to Almond. Roy Danforth posed the question if the students stay in Bancroft, will the repairs to windows, doors, dishwasher, etc. be made? Jeff Rykal replied that the dishwasher is functioning just with a leak. Jerry thought that as long as the windows weren't touched they could have storms put in which would not disturb the old caulk. Bonnie stated that the contractor quoted a price to replace windows but the payout over time did not work thru ACT 32. John stated repairs could be made but what about the bussing and loss of instruction time. Also this was put to referendum and overwhelmingly the community approved the move of Bancroft students to Almond. Keith stated that the Board has asked for numbers as to the cost of moving the students to Almond and has not gotten them. Debbie Bradley stated that the Board did not get numbers because the plan was not decided on or approved to move students. Bonnie stated that the Board did ask for quotes on the move. Kim Weiss stated that this is a tough decision on both sides and her deciding factor would be what is best for all students. With declining enrollment, funds for schools going down,

and empty classrooms at Almond she feels she has to go with closing the Bancroft school. She stated that she does not want to see the building sold.

A question from the audience, "I thought it was not a money issue?"

Debbie Bradley stated that her grandchildren go to Bancroft and she sees the value of Bancroft but there are many expenses involving Bancroft school and she believes that bringing everyone under one roof is a good thing for staff and students.

A question from the audience, "What would you think if half of Bancroft decides to send their children to Plainfield?"

Debbie stated that she is trying to look into the future in regards to enrollment.

A question from the audience, "Why has school enrollment dropped?"

President Warzynski addressed the audience and stated that the Board doesn't want this meeting to be an argument and understands that this is an emotional decision but this needs to be a discussion amongst the Board. The time for questions during the meeting is held during the public appearances and there was none. Bonnie also stated that her struggle is that she hates for the district to lose the Bancroft school, it is a good environment for students. If she could say that the environment was going to be just as good in Almond it would be an easier decision. She feels that she has not received good information also with all the recent issues that have come up would right now be a good decision to have administration working on the plan to move students at this time? She also stated that with a new administrator coming in would they have other ideas/ alternatives to offer. John stated that there is no perfect plan for everything. There will definitely be a cost savings by closing Bancroft. We currently have empty classrooms, teachers do not need to be traveling between schools as well as students. Bonnie believes that the board should be comfortable and confident with the building plan before the decision is made to move students.

President Warzynski put the motion to a roll call vote.

John Ruzicka-No, Jerry Dernbach-Yes, Debbie Bradley-No, Keith Dernbach-Yes, Kim Weiss-No, Roy Danforth-No, Bonnie Warzynski-Yes. Motion failed 4-3.

Debbie Bradley moved to bring the 2017-18 school year class to Almond from Bancroft John Ruzicka seconded.

Discussion: Bonnie stated that before we start the process we need to have a viable plan for how it is going to work in Almond. Debbie suggested that due to the fact it has been said by some that the board has not received the information requested that the board should put together a list of what they need to know. Debbie fully expects that the Board would continue to be involved in the move. Debbie would add to the motion with direction from the Board. Dan Boxx suggested that it would be a good idea to have a committee of board members to design the plan and input can be made.

President Warzynski read the amended motion as, Debbie Bradley moved to bring the current Bancroft classes to Almond beginning the 2017-18 school year, following a Board of Education approved classroom layout, John Ruzicka seconded. Bonnie stated a yes vote is to move students to Almond and a no vote is to leave students in Bancroft.

President Warzynski put the motion to a roll call vote.

John Ruzicka-Yes, Jerry Dernbach-No, Debbie Bradley-Yes, Keith Dernbach-Yes, Kim Weiss Yes, Roy Danforth-Yes, Bonnie Warzynski-Yes. Motion carried 6-1.

Debbie Bradley moved to set up a School Board committee with staff, administration, and others as needed to determine a new classroom layout for the 2017-18 school year second by John Ruzicka.

Discussion: Keith Dernbach stated that he would like a contractor to be involved with the committee and a time line put in place for the move so every last thing is done before students

arrive at the start of the year. Every bolt should be in place before the start of school and he does not want to see one thing done after school starts.

Motion carried 6-1 with Jerry Dernbach opposed.

President Warzynski asked who all would like to sit on the committee. Keith Dernbach, Debbie Bradley, John Ruzicka, and Bonnie Warzynski will sit on committee. The meetings will be posted as a Board of Education meeting.

11A Personnel: Resignations- Braden Hunkins-Ass't Baseball.

Jeff Rykal stated that Coach Hunkins took another position which will not allow him to be free to coach. Jerry Dernbach moved to accept Braden Hunkins resignation seconded by Debbie Bradley.

Motion carried 7-0.

Recommendations-

Brad Baumgartner-Ass't Baseball

Sarah Stellmacher-Ass't Track

Jeff Rykal recommends that the board offer Brad Baumgartner the assistant baseball position and Sarah Stellmacher the assistant track position.

Roy Danforth moved to offer Brad Baumgartner the assistant baseball position and Sarah Stellmacher the assistant track position. Kim Weiss seconded.

Discussion: Keith asked if it would be a conflict as Brad is also the middle school baseball coach. Jeff stated that the middle school program is not run through the school and Brad volunteers to coach. Also, middle school practices and games would not be held on nights the high school has a practice or game as they will be occupying the fields then.

Motion carried 7-0.

11B District's Financial Report-Review Accounts-Cash Flow-Accounting Review by Hawkins/Ash

Dan Boxx provided a list of all accounts currently held at the Portage County Bank. He stated the accounts listed as individual class activity accounts will be closed out and the Board of Education signatures need to be updated and all accounts will be clearly labeled in the future. Bonnie questioned what the A-B Support Staff account was. Jeff and or Dan will talk with Sandy Barden as she is listed as a signor on the account along with Pat Leary. Bonnie wants Dan to find out what the 4004092 public funds account is.

Keith Dernbach moved that the signatures/signors on the school accounts will be

102381-Checking, Board President, Treasurer, Clerk

775682-Savings, Board President, Treasurer, Clerk

4004076-Money Market Activity Fund, Dan Boxx or Jeff Rykal

4004092-Money Market, Board President, Treasurer, Clerk

4004535-Money Market Debt Service, Board President, Treasurer, Clerk

4005845-Money Market Act 32, Board President, Treasurer, Clerk

7100012-Checking Activity Fund, Dan Boxx or Jeff Rykal

7100020-Checking, Board President, Treasurer, Clerk

183611971-6 month CD CO Activity Fund, Dan Boxx or Jeff Rykal

7396382460-Line of Credit, Board President, Treasurer, Clerk

Second by Roy Danforth. Motion carried 7-0.

Dan Boxx presented his cash flow worksheet, explaining the revenue, expenses, payroll, taxes, Act 32 funds. Bonnie would like to see a cash flow for the whole year. Dan stated that he started in January to find out where the district was at.

11C Setting Cap on Open Enrollment for Special Education/Regular Education

Jeff Rykal stated that last year was the first year the Board put the open enrollment special education caps in place. The State provides the formulas for figuring out the DPI recommend number of slots. The State allows a 20% fluctuation. Andria Bena explained how the DPI case load factor worksheet was used to configure the weighted number for each current special education student to figure out the number of students we can support with the staff we currently have in place. She stated that we are over for next year except in early childhood. Jeff said that the Board needs to approve the number of slots and that this is a safeguard from a financial standpoint which protects the quality of services provided for all special education students. Bonnie asked if maybe we need to be more careful when denying special education students based on the information she heard at the recent Board Convention. Andria explained how the special needs voucher program works and why it is important to set the number of approved slots as to eliminate any discrimination based on individual student special education needs. She also stated that last year we had one student on the waiting list. Bonnie asked if we need to look at this differently are we overloaded now and do we need to make a change? Andria stated that in the future she would recommend looking at increasing the special education teacher FTE. She also stated that this is not uncommon; many school districts have an overload. Debbie Bradley questioned that the District would only have slots open for special education through open enrollment in early childhood. Jeff stated that the State also recommends placing a cap on all open enrollment in slots. He stated that we are part of the AGR program to keep class sizes lower so the Board will see the elementary classes have fewer openings for open enrollment without having to hire another teacher.

Kim Weiss moved to accept the recommended caps on open enrollment regular and special education for the 2017-18 school year, second by John Ruzicka. Motion carried 7-0.

11E Vehicle Replacement

Dan Boxx stated he believes it would be in the District's best interest to put on hold replacing the retired school van. Bonnie Warzynski asked if they should sell the retired van. Dan stated he could see what scrap price is and could post sale of van in the newsletter and on the school Facebook page stating that the school is taking sealed bids on the van. Debbie Bradley stated that there should be a deadline for bids.

Debbie Bradley moved that we advertise the sale of the old van with sealed bids accepted until February 14, 2017. John Ruzicka seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

11F Math Curriculum/Student Placement/Results

Jeff Rykal stated that he, Erika Spear, and the math teachers looked at the various classes to see what would best fit the needs of the math students. For the coming school year we will not offer algebra as a class for the freshman to take. Next year there will be 6th grade math, 7th grade pre-algebra, 8th grade algebra 1 and algebra 1A for those who need to take algebra slower. Then as freshmen those who took algebra 1A will take algebra 1B and will still be on track to fulfill the college math requirement. Jeff also stated the high school math class offerings will not change for 2017-18, the only change will be that the incoming 8th grade class will be placed into algebra 1 or algebra 1A.

Kim Weiss asked if adjustments will be made if it is found out the student is struggling in algebra 1 or if a student isn't being challenged in algebra 1A. Jeff replied that the student progress will be closely watched and adjustments can be made. Bonnie Warzynski questioned if colleges will take the algebra 1A and B as separate math credits. Jeff stated that he will work on how it will be titled on student transcripts.

11G Review of 2017-18 calendar

Dan Boxx spoke about the reasoning for starting school on the 5th of September as there would only be one day of school then the 4 day Labor Day weekend and that it is difficult to bring students in for one day. He stated that some schools are looking at getting a waiver to start school before Sept. 1st. Bonnie Warzynski mentioned that it is listed as December 24 to January 2 as no school, it needs to be changed to December 24 to January 1. Roy Danforth asked if the class of 2017 will still be able to hold graduation on Memorial Day weekend. Jeff Rykal stated that this is not unusual. Roy asked if they would meet instructional hours. Jeff said he would look into that and also stated that the graduation date is not listed on the 2017-18 calendar. The 2017-18 calendar will be printed in the February/March newsletter. Kim Weiss asked if this was the last year of the three year calendar cycle. Jeff stated it is and before the end of this school year setting the new 3 year cycle could be added to the board agenda. Kim stated that it would be nice to have staff input on the calendars.

11H Administrative Team Responsibilities/Roles

Jeff Rykal stated he supplied administrative team responsibilities in the board packet for review. President Warzynski asked if there was any discussion. No discussion.

12) Items for Signatures

12A Signatures for meeting minutes

No signature items.

13) Dates for Upcoming Committee Meetings and Board Meetings

13A February 15, 2017 6:30 p.m. at the Almond School

13B Future agenda items for discussions

Wellness Meeting

Need to set meeting date for classroom layout in Almond.

14) Contemplated executive session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1) (c) Staffing (e)

Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Bus Contract

Motion by Kim Weiss to move into closed session, second by Debbie Bradley. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote at 8:30 pm.

15) Reconvene to Open Session to act on items discussed in closed session if necessary

Motion by John Ruzicka and second by Debbie Bradley to move into open session. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

16) Adjournment

Motion by Roy Danforth and second by Jerry Dernbach to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.