February School Board Meeting

February 8th, 2021

The Wheeler Central Board of Education regular meeting was held on February 8th, 2021. Chairman Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. She pointed out the location of the Open Meetings Poster. Members present were: Patrick, Freouf, Pokorny, Wright, Derner, Kasselder, Olson and recording secretary Wagner. Absent: None. Roll call: Patrick aye, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye, Wright aye, Kasselder aye. Others present were Jay Johnson, Teresa Smith, Travis Heinz and family, Kaye, Larry and Rex Day, Trina Pelster. Wright made the motion to accept the January minutes and February consent agenda as presented, Pokorny seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye, Wright aye, Kasselder aye.

Patrick opened the meeting by welcoming visitors.

Principal/A.D. report by Mr. Johnson. No report given.

PreK-12 Principal/Superintendent report by Mr. Olson. Mr. Olson noted that staff were preparing for parent teacher conferences on Wednesday, where they will visit with parents virtually and in-person. Mr. Olson reported on the garden level daycare facility progress, reporting that sheet rock is beginning to go up soon. HVAC duct work is also almost complete, as well as electrical. Mr. Olson provided a bid to the board members for tree stump removal. Mr. Olson reported on MAP testing. There was discussion about the Summerland school district potentially looking at a new math curriculum, they will be looking at our Zearn program. Mr. Olson noted that staff are looking at the possibility of an update to the writing curriculum. Mr. Mr. Olson closed by noting the work that the maintenance crew has been doing in the storm shelter are of the old gym.

Report from Americanism sub-committee. Mr. Johnson reported that state guidelines have been released for social science curriculum. It was discussed that staff and students have been doing things such as saying the pledge of allegiance at the opening of the day, as well as participating in a county government day, attending and taking part in a Veteran’s Day program etc., that help meet these requirements.

In old business, review masking procedures as discussed prior to implementation in November. Mr. Olson provided information from local health department in regard to the current state of the pandemic. It was noted that Wheeler Central hosted a vaccination clinic though Loup Basin Health Department for community members who were eligible. There was discussion from both the board and visitors and the pros and cons of continuing with mandatory masking. Pokorny made a motion to make masking optional during the school day, Freouf seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick nay, Wright nay, Kasselder nay, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye. Motion did not pass.

In new business, discuss the addition of meter/electrical outlets for bus engine block heaters (4) in the parking lot east of the elementary. Discussion on the possibility of renting fairground outlets from the Wheeler County fair board. It was also noted for Mr. Olson to inquire with Mid States about reimbursing the cost of the rental that is required for the buses in their fleet. Mr. Olson commented on the great job Trina Pelster has been doing at coordinating and managing the buses and transportation.

Review of Rule 11 Daycare for 2021-22 operation. Looking at next year, current enrollment will be maxed. Recommendation and instruction to continue next year.

Early retirement incentive option. Derner made the motion to accept the retirement proposal for staff members Paul Nordhues and Patricia Collins, with a withdrawal notice deadline of March 5th,, Pokorny seconded. Roll call: Patrick aye, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye, Wright aye, Kasselder aye.

There was discussion on the girl’s state basketball tournament schedule and Covid adjustments. It was recommended by the board that the student athletes remain at the tournament for the duration, regardless of the team’s participation.

Pokorny made the motion to enter executive, Wright seconded. Roll all aye.

Derner made the motion to leave executive session, seconded by Kasselder. Executive session was exited at 9:00 pm.

Derner made the motion to adjourn, Kasselder seconded. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m. Next regular meeting will be April 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.