

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, February 23, 2006
7:00 pm - Library

The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by President Rick Syring. PRESENT: Rick Syring, Sandra Ferneding, Wendy Arends, Eric Rice and Superintendent Michael Grubbs. ABSENT: Garren Elmer. GUESTS PRESENT: Dawn and Larry Shinn, Lori Pearce, Tom and Jane Tervo, Cameron Tormanen, Ruben Malinowski, Curtis Tikka, Leo Foley, Chuck Baker, Nolan Wheeler, Louise Kimball, Mary Eavenson, Jeff, Chauna, and Christian Berry, Brian Thompson and Suzette Milkowski. The AGENDA WAS ADOPTED AND APPROVED. Motion to Approve by Eric Rice, Second by Sandra Ferneding.

The MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING of January 26, 2006 were considered. The minutes were adopted and approved as written. Motion to Approve by Sandra Ferneding, second by Wendy Arends.

There were no VISITOR COMMENTS at the regular time. Those comments were reserved for a time after Brett Blechschmidt's presentation on the financial implications of a levy failure.

Mary Eavenson gave the PTSA Report. She informed the Board of the current fundraisers and current events of the PTSA.

Dr. Grubbs gave the SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT. He informed the board of events in the school including the current enrollment of 120, coming calendar events, gave a detailed report on the vehicles of communication at Green Mountain, reported on maintenance needs including replacement of the hot water heater in the kitchen and the wet rot on the office building, gave a detailed report on drama as a teaching tool, thanked the many volunteers particularly those who constructed our new greenhouse, and gave the board a preview of future board topics including adoption of a new calendar, the board's and superintendent's evaluation employee contracts and continued policy review.

Under OLD BUSINESS, Ms. Kimball, Kindergarten and Title I teacher, gave a report on teaching math in the primary grades and explained how Title I services support the regular academic program.

Dr. Grubbs then reviewed the results of the February 7th M & O election. The election failed with 144 Yes votes (49.48%) and 147 No votes (50.94%). 60.5% of the registered voters in Green Mountain cast a vote.

Under NEW BUSINESS, Brett Blechschmidt gave a detailed report about the financial implications of another M & O failure. He noted that the voters could only be asked one more time to approve an M & O levy for the 2006-2007 school year. Failure to approve a levy would mean drastic cuts in personnel and operations. Over the period of the next school year we would lose approximately \$150,000 from our budget when the loss of matching levy equalization funds were factored in. Such a cut would mean we would have to definitely cut personnel.

Mr. Blechschmidt also noted that since the Board set the rate for the first M & O election, the assessed valuation for the Green Mountain School District property increased by approximately 20%. Thus, the Board, given the higher assessment, could set the levy rate lower and yield more than they could with an equivalent rate pegged to the previous assessment.

Public comment was received. Mr. Baker noted he would love to see a music program reinstated. Ms. Shinn stated that by not having music teacher have to “double-up” for such instruction and the current staff feels unqualified teaching music. Mr. Tervo would like to see addition staff for teaching the basics. Mrs. Tervo sought a clarification about the role of the arts and drama in the curriculum. She stated she did not want to take those things out but rather have them supplement, not dominate, the curriculum. Mr. Malinowski echoed those comments. Public comment was received that they hope the Board set the rate for the next election at a lower rate thus making the chances of passage greater. Dr. Grubbs responded to the above questions, and set forth the calamity for the district if we suffered another M & O failure. Questions about the possibility of annexations, consolidations, and the cessation of Green Mountain School District were explored. Chuck Baker had a question about finances. He stated the bills should be on display for public review. Dr. Grubbs stated the bills are always available for public review and assured Mr. Baker every expense was scrutinized for viability and that proper accounting procedures are scrupulously followed by the district.

After the above discussion, the Board thanked those present for their input, and set the next M & O election for Tuesday, April 25, 2006. The Board set the term of the levy for two years with the asking levy for 2007 set at 2.01/\$1000 assessed valuation and for 2008 set at \$2.19/\$1000. Based on the current evaluations those rates would yield \$210,000 in 2007 and \$240,000 in 2008. Motion to Approve by Eric Rice, Second by Wendy Arends.

FINANCIAL REPORT: A MOTION TO APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable Warrants #16079-16108 in the amount of \$14,483.31; Payroll warrants #16109-16125 in the amount of \$24,864.48; approval of electronically paid payroll taxes in the amount of \$10,912.34; and payroll direct deposits in the amount of \$28,269.14 and Capital Projects Warrants 469-470 in the amount of \$76,000 was made by Eric Rice and Seconded by Sandra Ferneding.

BOARD COMMENTS: The Board+ thanked the guests present for their attendance and invited them to give their input whenever they desired to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m. Motion to Adjourn by Eric Rice, Seconded by Wendy Arends.

Minutes Approved/Amended by:

Rick Syring
Board President
Date: 3-23-06