

Minutes of the Reading School Board

September 16, 2008

Unapproved draft

Attendance:

School Board- John Fike, John Philpin, Justin Sluka

Superintendent- Meg Gallagher

Recording Secretary- Rayna Bishop

Visitors- Tim Bishop, Steve Moore, Diane Moore, Chris Titus, Jason Titus, Marion Brody, John Mitchell, Kris Blanchard, Koreen Henne, Darcy Cole, Lisa Wesinger, Rob Marshall, Karen

Kopycinski

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M.

Motion to approve as written the minutes from August 19, 2008, seconded and passed.

Visitors:

Mr. Fike requested that the visitors take the opportunity to discuss their concerns before the Board proceeded with their business. He instructed that the concerns be clearly stated in a polite, factual, and concise manner.

Concerns voiced include: a perceived level of tolerance of inappropriate behavior, student safety, communication, consistency, weapons, and Title 13.

Mr. Blanchard handed out info on Title 13. Mr. Pentkowski handed out a list of actions taken to improve school safety during his time at RES.

The Board heard all concerns and will give it a lot of consideration. They agreed to review procedures and policies, and find an affirmative plan of action. They requested that if a problem arises, the *specifics* are to be brought to Ray's attention in writing so the problem may be resolved.

Financial:

No statement is available at this time.

Principal Report:

- Mr. Pentkowski talked about the progress made by the Reading Community Recreational Space Committee, and thanked all those that have been involved.
- Mr. Pentkowski showed the actual enrollment numbers per grade.
- On October 16th, at 6:30 P.M. in the Reading Public Library, Madeline Kunin will discuss her book. Students have been invited to ask her questions and present her with flowers.
- On October 22nd RES will host it's annual Open House, during which Sylvia Ledoux will be honored for her many years of service.
- Mr. Pentkowski presented his goals for the 08/09 school year.

Chair Report:

- The Regional meeting is on September 25th. The State School Board will discuss "Education In The 21st Century."
- The Annual State meeting will be held on October 30th and 31st, with 2 main speakers.

Action Items:

- Student meal prices will not be changed. A request to increase breakfast and lunch prices for adults to \$3.00 per meal was approved.
- Motion to adopt VSBA model policy on Animal Dissection was seconded and passed.
- At the request of the bus driver, Dennis got permission from an adjoining landowner to cut limbs from a tree that hung too low over the driveway. The landowner stated that he is willing to remove the whole tree if the Board wishes. The Board would appreciate that.
- A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Reading School calendar. The current calendar is based on the District schedule. Due to the fact that RES is using a trimester grading period, it is necessary to change certain dates. A proposal was made to hold school at RES on November 7th, and not have P/T conferences on that date. The marking period will end on the 14th of November. On November 25th the P/T conferences will be scheduled, meaning that the students will not have classes that day. A motion to approve the new schedule was made, seconded, and passed.

The Board went into Executive Session from 5:50 P.M. until 6:27 P.M. to discuss both student safety and staffing.

A motion to review the weapons policy and to host appropriate signage that represents the policy was seconded and passed.

The Board will do some legal reference work regarding issues raised at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.