

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2007

June 13, 2007
2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Patty Myers called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13, 2007. Carol Will took roll call: a quorum was noted.

Those in attendance at the meeting included the following Board members: Chairperson Patty Myers, Vice Chairperson Angela McLean, Dr. Kirk Miller, and Sharon Carroll. Staff present at the meeting included: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Board of Public Education and Carol Will, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education. Visitor in attendance at the meeting was Bill Sykes, Business Manager, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.

COMMENT

Mr. Steve Meloy commented that this conference call meeting was properly noticed on the Board of Education's web site.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 1 - Establish Executive Staff Salaries

- a. Mr. Steve Gettel, Superintendent, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind's salary request was presented to the Board by Bill Sykes, MSDB's Business Manager, since Mr. Steve Gettel was in Idaho. Mr. Bill Sykes proposed a 5% raise which would bring Mr. Steve Gettel's annual salary to \$80,974.00. Discussion ensued about the significance of the staff and administrators receiving significant raises due to increased funding and the need to be more competitive with other schools. Mr. Bill Sykes was asked specifically about the range of percentage increases to other members of the staff and he responded that they are still negotiating.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to accept the proposed salary of the Superintendent of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind at the annual rate of \$80,974.00 for the 1st year of the contract extended from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010. Dr. Kirk Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop, Mr. Cal Gilbert, and Mr. John Fuller were absent from the vote.

- b. Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Montana Board of Public Education's salary request was presented before the Board. Mr. Steve Meloy requested a 3% increase in his annual salary.

MOTION: Dr. Kirk Miller moved a 3% increase in the Executive Secretary's annual salary for the Board of Public Education for the 1st year of the contract extended from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop, Mr. Cal Gilbert, and Mr. John Fuller were absent from the vote.

Item 2 – 2008 NASBE Board of Directors Vote

During the Board of Public Education's meeting on May 10-11, 2007 the western area ballot for the 2008 NASBE Board of Directors was presented for action. Biographical information was presented for Kenneth Willard, Kansas, President-elect; Greg Haws, Utah, Secretary-Treasurer; and Randy Dehoff, Colorado, Western Area Director. The Board took action to vote for each director on the ballot. Since taking action, some BPE members received an article from the New York Times dated May 19, 2007 titled: *Evolution Opponent Is in Line for Schools Post*, written by Cornelia Dean. The article states that the NASBE's President-elect candidate, Kenneth R. Willard, is "a member of the Kansas school board who supported its efforts against the teaching of evolution." The Board of Public Education considered rescinding its vote, noting that it wouldn't prevent Mr. Kenneth Willard from becoming President-elect but it would state the principle that the Board of Public Education does support the teaching of different theories. Mr. Steve Meloy contacted Ms. Marsha McMullin, NASBE's Director of Special Projects, and stated that the Board could resubmit a new ballot if different action occurred by the Board and it was received at the Association Headquarters by June 29, 2007. On June 12, 2007, the Board of Public Education received a letter from NASBE stating that the Board of Directors have "considered at length all the multiple issues this election raises – everything from [NASBE's] association goals and operating procedures to candidate qualifications and [NASBE's] current level of member engagement." Discussion ensued whether or not the Board of Public Education should resubmit its vote since it was still within the parameters of the deadline and the procedures of NASBE's election process.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to send two letters to NASBE: 1) to address the election procedures and make revision recommendations; and 2) to address the Board of Public Education's stance of teaching evolution according to Montana's Science Standards and that the vote of the Board does not endorse Ms. Kenneth Willard's personal opinions specifically relating to the teaching of evolution. Ms. Sharon Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop, Mr. Cal Gilbert, and Mr. John Fuller were absent from the vote.

MOTION: Ms. Angela McLean moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Kirk Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Storrs Bishop, Mr. Cal Gilbert, and Mr. John Fuller were absent from the vote.

2:45 p.m. Meeting Adjourned