

Official
Weld Re-3(J) Board of Education
Work Session Meeting
January 9, 2013

A Work Session meeting of the Weld Re-3(J) Board of Education was held at the District Administration Office on January 9, 2013.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Haffner called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Answering roll call were:

Deb Gustafson	Present	Bryan Haffner	Present
Cindy Hesse	Present	Fred Jensen	Present
Candace Veldhuizen	Present		

President Haffner asked for a motion for approval of the Board agenda. Director Hesse moved to approve the Board agenda. Director Gustafson seconded the motion.

Deb Gustafson	Aye	Bryan Haffner	Aye
Cindy Hesse	Aye	Fred Jensen	Aye
Candace Veldhuizen	Aye		

President Haffner asked for Board members to review GP-10: Board Member Covenants as a means of monitoring GP-9: Board Member's Code of Conduct.

President Haffner asked if there were any comments from the audience. A parent, Mr. Hargis, stated he has two sons at the high school and is interested in the dog searches at the schools, as well as the new District policy outlining the search process.

Susie Townsend presented a handout to the Board entitled the "Weld County School District Re-3J in Action" in the shape of a pyramid. The pyramid shows how District efforts are aligned and interconnected from the District's Mission Statement all the way down to Student Achievement. The handout also showed how plans are generated and guided by the Board's adopted goals. This indicates how the top five items all lead back to the Board. It shows how important the Board policies are in guiding the District and Board members on what needs to be accomplished. Some discussion took place concerning what goals the Board should be making and what still needs to be done.

Director Veldhuizen made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items: A) October Financial Reports; B) Letters of Employment for Classified Personnel: 1) Ana Maria Mendez, Substitute Custodian for the District, 2) Rosalia Martinez, Substitute Custodian for the District, 3) Claudia Marvin, Substitute Caller; C) Contracts for Replacement Licensed Employees: 1) Ana Kickbush, 1st Grade Teacher at Lochbuie. Director Gustafson seconded the motion.

Deb Gustafson	Aye	Bryan Haffner	Aye
Cindy Hesse	Aye	Fred Jensen	Aye
Candace Veldhuizen	Aye		

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Ed Meier, Director of Business Services presented information to the Board concerning the land and water shares. Conversations occurred pertaining to what options are available for the Board to take in regards to the land and water shares.

Director Veldhuizen made a motion to bring back this topic for Board approval at the first February meeting. Director Gustafson seconded the motion.

Deb Gustafson	Aye	Bryan Haffner	Aye
Cindy Hesse	Aye	Fred Jensen	Aye
Candace Veldhuizen	Aye		

Discussion occurred pertaining to professional development for the Board. There was a discussion of inviting both Linda Chapman and Randy Black to work with the Board.

The Board reviewed a letter from a parent and the response letter from the District pertaining to the attendance policy and contract that parents sign after several notifications of a student's absences. Some discussion took place about possible ways to change the way the contract is presented to parents.

A brief discussion occurred concerning changes to J-28: Student Use of the Internet and Electronic Communications.

President Veldhuizen made the motion to approve J-28: Student Use of the Internet and Electronic Communications, second reading, with the notation that it is revised with date and the Colorado Revised Statutes added to the document. Director Hesse seconded the motion.

Deb Gustafson	Aye	Bryan Haffner	Aye
Cindy Hesse	Aye	Fred Jensen	Aye
Candace Veldhuizen	Aye		

A discussion regarding the first reading of J-15: Compulsory Attendance, J-16: Absences, Excuses and Tardiness, and J-17: Unexcused Absences occurred next. Brigitte Gustafson, Executive Director of Resource Support Services, was available to answer questions the Board had regarding each of the policies. Some of the changes that occurred were administrative procedures and not policy.

Susie Townsend gave information regarding the safety and security efforts planned at the District and schools levels. The District lawyer is in the process of drafting a new policy for the dog searches. The dog search policy is going to be a separate policy from the search policy that is currently in place. She also spoke about school safety, and a threat assessment that will be taking place at each school in the near future. The threat assessment will give a clear picture about the schools and what needs to happen to make the schools safer for students and staff. A mill levy override was suggested as a way to provide funding for safety and technology needed to help keep students and staff safe.

There were several Correspondences to the Board, a letter from Justin Glenn, Colorado Job Insurance email from Susie Townsend, a thank you letter from Greg Bracken, and High School Today Magazine.

Superintendent Townsend updated the Board concerning an OCR complaint that was filed against the District. The District also received a letter from the State pertaining to the Waste Water Treatment compliance. No violations were noted.

Director Veldhuizen spoke concerning the outreach group The Harrison Program and how they work together. There were 30 computers given to the District and the Board should do a thank you card for the donation. Director Gustafson talked about the CASB Winter Conference dates. Director Jensen spoke about an email he received pertaining to the Meet Your Legislators day at the capital that is coming up on February 5, 2013. Director Haffner spoke about the Superintendent Search. There are three applicants at this time but more are expected when closing date is closer.

Each Board member completed GP-4-E: Board Self-Assessment Document.

The Board adjourned at 9:32 p.m. from the Business Section of this meeting and moved into the Work Session.

Director Jensen wanted to know when it is appropriate to answer or respond to the public during the General Public Comment section of the agenda. He also asked for additional information regarding the dog search. Information shared was that the dogs only searched lockers and belongings. Students are not present in the classroom or hallways when the search is occurring. The dogs are sniffing only dogs. While the Board was discussing the dog search each Board member signed a thank you letter drafted for the staff.

Susie Townsend, Superintendent, and Roxie Bracken, Director of Achievement Support Services led a discussion and slide show on the understanding and achievement of the new standards that are to be implemented and were Board approved in December 2011. They spoke of how teachers are now teaching what is on the test and not to the test, the fact that Elementary schools are aligned the best with very little gap between minority groups, and how the new standards are addressing the reading text complexity for students. In addition, they discussed the teaching consistency between schools and teachers. What is taught in one class is the same as what is being taught in another class. Parent Brochures were given to the Board members that contained information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Handouts from the Holyoke school District showing the PowerPoint presentation from the CASB Convention was handed out to the Board members. Some discussion took place in regards to the PowerPoint.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, President Haffner declared this work session Board meeting adjourned at 11:09p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Haffner, President

Cindy Hesse, Secretary