

Official
Weld Re-3(J) Board of Education
Work Session Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2014

A Work Session Meeting of the Weld Re-3(J) Board of Education was held at the District Office on January 8, 2014.

1. **Call to Order** by Mr. Haffner, President at 7:02pm
2. **Roll Call** – Gustafson, Haffner, and Jensen present. Baumgartner arrived at 7:07pm. Veldhuizen was absent.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Review of Agenda**
5. **Discussion Items**
 - 5.1 **CASB Conference Discussion**

Board members discussed the workshops they each attended at the CASB Conference.
 - 5.2 **District Data Comparison**

Board members reviewed data from surrounding school districts. This data was requested by the DAC and was presented and discussed at the December DAC meeting. Financial comparison was made across 12 districts. Achievement & Demographic data was compared. Administrative and Teacher salary data was also looked at.
 - 5.3 **Budget Reductions**

District Office Administration met with building administrators to produce an initial list for potential budget reductions. The budget reduction plan was provided to Board members and discussion occurred around the potential reductions.
 - 5.4 **Mill Levy Override**

The Board discussed options for a Mill Levy override and or a bond this election cycle. There may be pros and cons to putting an override and bond on the same election ballot. Currently, there are no solid projections indicating the need for a bond to build an elementary school in the Lochbuie area but that need is approaching. Board members will contemplate the information and options and discuss further at the January regular session meeting. The Board requested that RBC be contacted to set a tentative meeting with them at the February work session to discuss a mill levy override process at minimum.
 - 5.5 **WCEA Relationship-building**

WCEA has requested an opportunity to build relationships with Board members. They would like to bring information to the Board at a future meeting, and potentially on a regular basis. The Board requested that Dr. Rabenhorst invite the WCEA executive leadership to the February work session to present the information they have collected from staff over the course of the school year.
 - 5.6 **Board Communications to Staff & Community**

The Board discussed a potential protocol response for dealing with parents and other community members, particularly with regard to email correspondence. The Board would like to see policy/procedure developed and added to the Board's Governance Policy regarding email response to public concerns/requests. At this time, concerns directed at Board members will be forwarded to the Superintendent for response on behalf of the Board. The Board would eventually like to see this protocol included on the Board website where people frequently access board member email addresses. Possible instruction on the website for people to understand what they can send and or request of the BOE via email.
 - 5.7 **Special Education Consortium Update**

The CDE has indicated that consortiums like Re-3J's and Ft. Lupton's fall outside of existing statute. Ms. B. Gustafson gave an update on our current situation and the different possibilities that could come of it. Currently the district has four options: 1.) Create a BOCES with Ft. Lupton. 2.) Become a single Administrative Unit. 3.) Join an existing BOCES. 4.) Advocate for a change in the statute to recognize our current multi-district consortium. The superintendents of Re-3J, Ft. Lupton, and the other districts affected who are also in this situation are pursuing option 4.

6. **Other Business / Discussion**

President Haffner gave a business card for Catch Fire. They did a personalized coffee cup for another school district for teacher appreciation; he thought it was a nice gift and wants to hold on to their information as an idea or option for the next teacher appreciation.

Dr. Rabenhorst relayed information from Director Veldhuizen: She wanted to bring up the idea of doing another community focus group for those that may have missed out on the ones in the Fall. The consensus was not to schedule additional focus groups at this time.

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned, by President Haffner, at 10:50pm.