Minutes of meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of Black River Falls on January 13, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the School District Office Board Room.

The regular meeting was called to order by President Mary Jo Rozmenoski at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present:  Axel Dressler, Amy Hoffman, Laurel Meek, Mary Jo Radcliffe, Mary Jo Rozmenoski.

Board Members Absent:  Patty Jacobson, Todd Stittleburg.

Meeting commenced with the Verification of Public Notice.

Pat McKnight was formally recognized with a Board Commendation for her years of support to our district through her work with the Banner Journal.

During Public Comment, Betsy Sedelbauer asked the board to consider changing our board policy to allow us to adopt the standards we see as most appropriate.  The current policy says that we will use the state adopted standards.

Focus on Purpose:  Donna Wojciechowski, Emily Stewart, and Mackenzie Hoeschele presented information to the board on the High School Science Department’s “Boat Project” they are doing in Physics class.  They spoke about the experiment process and what they’ve learned so far.  Sarah Staff spoke about “Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day” and the Tiger Way relating to Forrest Street School.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the consent agenda.  Laurel Meek seconded the motion.  Motion carried 5-0.  The consent agenda included the minutes from the December 16, 2013 Regular Meeting and monthly expenditures.  Shelly Severson spoke about Gifts/Grants.  Mary Byrns has been awarded a Lunda Charitable Trust grant worth $3,700.00 that will be used for recording software.  Two gifts, $1,200.00 from the High School Letter Club and $1,300.00 from the Youth Wrestling Club, were received for wrestling team warm up jackets.

Mary Jo Radcliffe moved to approve the second reading of the Support Staff Handbook.  Axel Dressler seconded the motion.  Motion carried 5-0.
Joe Schmit reported on the capital maintenance projects. The ten year roofing plan will total $400,000-$410,000. They will hold off on larger projects at Third Street and Forrest Street Schools until the Facility Committee makes its recommendations. They have done LED lighting upgrades to lower energy costs. Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the Capital Maintenance Projects. Amy Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mary Jo Radcliffe moved to approve the open enrollment seats available in relation to WI Act 114 Establish Open Enrollment Class Size Criterion for Regular and Special Education. Axel Dressler seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to authorize the creation of a Community Facility Task Force to be charged with the task of seeking PreK-12 solutions to our facility needs. Amy Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. The Community Facility Task Force will be responsible for assisting with identifying and planning for the significant PreK-5 needs, High School improvements, and security issues throughout. The task force will report back to the School Board on a monthly basis. The Task Force is advisory in nature and will make recommendations to the Board. The first meeting of the Task Force will be February 5, 2014.

Shelly Severson reported the next Tiger Tribune will go out in late January to early February.

Congratulations to Julie Tiedens who has been selected as Kohl’s Fellowship Scholar. The ceremony will take place in March, 2014.

Tom Chambers described what the Kohl’s Fellowship is and that winners are entered for “Teacher of the Year”. Final exams at the High School will be January 22-24, 2014.

Dave Roou reported about the Middle School Geography Bee. Nathaniel Greenlaw was the winner. The 26th annual mini-courses will be held January 23rd and 24th. Winter sports including basketball and wrestling have begun.

Mike Lichucki spoke about the Gebhardt Geography Bee. Avery Yaeger was the winner and Caleb Johnson was the runner up. Mike reported the students and staff re-evaluated the Tiger Way upon returning from the holiday break. The Starr assessment window is now open. The fifth grade students had the opportunity to tour the Ho-Chunk Tribal Courts.

Rick Dobbs reported that parent/teacher conferences will be held on February 27th. The staff at Third Street are working on new ideas to use as Tiger Way rewards. A PTO meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14th. The PTO is currently planning the Winter Carnival. Rick also spoke about the free breakfast program that Connie Seiber has been working on. Information will be sent out soon.
Chad Stanley reported the students enjoyed seeing Santa and his reindeer on the last day before holiday break. Chad commended Lauren Jeffrey for her letters from Santa which she wrote to each of her students. Forrest Street’s Tiger Way rewards will be things like “Hat Day” or ice cream treats when students collect a certain number of tiger tickets. The ultimate prize is a dance.

There were three discussion items requested by the board:

1. Bullying – Policy & Procedures - Axel Dressler stated the public needs to know that procedures are in place and are being followed. Shelly stated that our Administrators take bullying very seriously. Bullying incidents need to be reported so they can be investigated. Faith Hanson suggests more attention be given to the bullying issues on the school bus. Mary Jo Rozmenoski suggested having a rotating bus aide or maybe parents would want to volunteer on the buses.

2. Mary Jo Rozmenoski will represent our district at the Delegate Assembly which will meet on Wednesday, January 22nd to speak about the WASB Resolutions. Mary Jo was given input from board and staff members.

3. Mary Jo Rozmenoski will write a letter to the Ho-Chunk Nation President’s office explaining the fact that we are prohibited by law from having an unelected member serve on the school board. She will also explain that board committee policies have been changed to include representatives of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The January Policy Committee meeting was cancelled due to weather.

The January Public Affairs Meeting was cancelled due to weather.

The Curriculum and Instruction Meeting will be Tuesday, January 14th.

The 2014 State Education Convention will be held next week, January 22-24, in Milwaukee.

There were no Other Reports

Future Agenda Items:

Review of the district’s Deferred Expulsion Program. How many students? What type of results?
Mid-Year Progress on Board Goals
Weapons Policy Discussion
Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:00 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(c)(e) for the purpose of discussing Administrative Contract Renewals, Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1) (c). Amy Hoffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken (5=yes).

Axel Dressler moved to reconvene into open session and take action as appropriate on any matter on the meeting agenda, including matters discussed in closed session as per Wis. Stats. 19.85 (2). Amy Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to add rollover language to Jason Janke’s contract. Mary Jo Radcliffe seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to adjorn at 8:40 p.m. Laurel Meek seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.