Minutes of meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of Black River Falls on September 16, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room.

The regular meeting was called to order by President Mary Jo Rozmenoski at 6:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Axel Dressler, Amy Hoffman, Patty Jacobson, Laurel Meek, Mary Jo Rozmenoski, Todd Stittleburg

Board Members Absent: Mary Jo Radcliffe

Meeting commenced with the verification of Public Notice.

New staff introductions were made to the Board by the individual School District Principals.

Public Comment - Betsy Sedelbauer spoke about her concerns with Common Core State Standards.

The School Counselors spoke about their roles in the School District. Their department has changed from guidance to the Wisconsin School Counseling Model. They also spoke about the peer education program they are working with which allows older students to work with younger students. They have been having meetings with students and their parents to lay out a road map to achieve the student’s educational goals.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the consent agenda. Axel Dressler seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. The consent agenda included the August 19, 2013 regular meeting minutes, the August 26, 2013 special meeting minutes, monthly expenditures, employment recommendations (none), field trips (none), and gifts/grants of $4770 from the football alumni and $362 from the High School volleyball players.

Laurel Meek moved to approve the second reading of Policy 453.11 – Automatic External Defibrillator. Todd Stittleburg seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the second reading of Policy 185.2 – Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement Board Committee. Amy Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Axel Dressler moved to approve the second reading of Policy 841 – Grants and Gifts. Laurel Meek seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the second reading of Policy 531.8 – Gifted and Talented job description. Patty Jacobson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Amy Hoffman moved to approve the second reading of Policy 531.9 – Virtual School job description. Laurel Meek seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
The District Administrator’s Report - Shelly Severson reported that Chris Gaier, and Laura Trachsel are recipients of the “Above and Beyond” award from CESA #4. The District also received commendation for meeting the requirements of IDEA. There will be an ACT prep course offered during the school day in the spring semester. The November Board meeting will be held at the Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Building. There will be a ceremony prior to the meeting to recognize the closing of the boarding schools. Shelly requested that if there are any other Board Members who are interested in attending the State School Board meeting in January or the meeting on October 8th to please let Marti Herzberg know.

Forrest Street reports that they will be having PALS testing this week. They are also celebrating good behaviors with a program called “The Tiger Way” which awards students for good behaviors with “Tiger Tickets”.

Third Street and Gebhardt reported their assessments are complete and each child has a growth goal according to the STAR assessment. They also raised $211.50 for a charity during “hat day”.

The Middle School reports that volleyball, cross country and football are in full swing. This is the first year that Middle School football will be traveling for games. They have 26 new students this year.

The High School reported the 1:1 laptops are going well and the teachers have embraced the program. The High School students had the opportunity to explain “The Tiger Way” program to the Rotarians. Homecoming will be October 11, 2013. The Education Enrichment Program will be presenting a tiger run/walk.

Discussion items requested by administration included Common Core Standard BRF Alignment Timeline (Stephanie Brueggen). Shelly Severson will do a survey with the District Teachers to get feedback on their opinions on Common Core Standards.

There were nine discussion items requested by the board:

1. Special Education Services Report – Sherry Holt reported that procedural safeguards are sent out to parents every year. Teachers work with families and students to best support the students educational needs.
2. Bullying Policy – Shelly Severson reported that State Statutes require a bullying policy. She also went over information on reports of bullying during the 2012-2013 school year.
3. Board Self-Assessment – Board Members will fill out this self-assessment form at the end of Board meetings. Shelly Severson and Marti Herzberg will tally them and report the findings on a quarterly basis.
4. Response to Intervention – Shelly Severson reported on the need to meet the student’s unique needs. Two interventions need to be done before a student can be qualified with a learning disability. These assessments give the teachers specific direction.
5. Leadership Team – Shelly Severson reported that the creation of the Leadership Team was to give the District employees a tool to increase communication. Interviews were done because of the large interest shown by employees.
6. First Reading: Policy 811.1 – The Board completed a first reading about Native American/Legal Involvement.
7. First Reading Policy 251.1 – The Board completed a first reading of the Organizational Chart.
8. First Reading: Policy 185.1 – The Board completed a first reading of the Board Policy Committee.

There were no discussion items requested by the public.

A summary was handed out to Board Members, for their review, showing WASB’s current standing.
Policy Committee - Shelly Severson reported that several policies need to be reviewed and updated so policy aligns with practice.

Public Affairs Committee – The first newsletter went out to the public. The forum is coming up on September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. This will give the public a chance to have their questions answered. Axel Dressler commented that he feels the idea of building trust is well on its way.

Curriculum and Instruction/Student Achievement Committee - Virtual School opportunities and the certification needed for Virtual School teachers were discussed. Year around school was discussed. Amy Hoffman stated that there are still a lot of questions regarding year around school and it’s hard to compare Districts with the information available.

There were no Conference/Workshop attendance reports.

The Board will receive information on culturally responsive teaching at the November meeting.

Todd Stittleburg moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Amy Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

*Mary Jo Rozmenoski was called away. Clerk Axel Dressler directed the remainder of the meeting.

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Axel Dressler, Clerk                                                 Marti Herzberg, Recording Secretary