

**Unapproved**  
**Ruthven-Ayrshire Board of Education**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, March 9, 2015, 6:00 PM**  
**Room 214 - Board Room**  
**5:30 History Day Projects - Mr. Olesen and 11th Grade Students**

The Ruthven-Ayrshire Board of Education held its regular meeting with the following in attendance; Larry Conlon, Tracy Enderson, Ray Grandstaff, Darin Malm, Katie Meyer, Susan Sikora, Jon Josephson, Kelli Harmon, and Andrew Woiwood.. Also in attendance was the AEA staff. Absent: Bruce Long. All motions were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

- I. Call to Order** - President Sikora at 6:15 p.m.
- II. Review of District Mission Statement** - Meyer
- III. Approve Agenda** - Motion by Malm to approve the agenda with the change to move item 11. of the consent items to after item III. Approve Agenda. Second Conlon. Motion carried.
  - 11. Summer Reading Programs** - Stefanie Kirk presented the Middle School Summer Reading Program. Grades 5-8 will participate. The session will go from June 1st thru June 19th. Classes will go from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Fifteen students from the Buena Vista University will be helping with the Middle School Students during the program.
- IV. Welcome Visitors and Guests** - President Sikora
- V. Board Learning** - None
- VI. Communications**
  - 1. Citizens or organizations in attendance** - None
  - 2. Received through the mail** - None
  - 3. Through Board Members** - Other local districts are discussing Partial Day Sharing. It was suggested to do advertising or a brochure to highlight the Ruthven-Ayrshire School District. Grandstaff attended the school play "A Diary of Anne Frank". Grandstaff thought the students and staff did a great job on the play and the design of the sets.
- VII. Business & Action Items** -
  - 1. Consent Items** - Motion made by Conlon to approve the consent items. Second by Enderson. Motion carried.
    - a. Minutes** -  
February Board Minutes and the Joint R-A/G-T Board Minutes were approved as is.
    - b. Approval of Bills/Claims**
    - c. Financial Reports** - Presented by Josh Bader of AEA.
    - d. Activity Calendar for March** - The regular School Board Meeting will be held April 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. with the Budget Hearing starting at 6:00 p.m.
    - e. Field Trips**
      - 1. 4th Grade** - will be going to the Palo Alto County Fairgrounds in Emmetsburg on May 6. They will need a bus and a para. The 4th grade will gain

an understanding of agriculture, environment, health, and safety.

2. **Pre-School and Kindergarten** - will be going to the Sanford Museum and Planetarium in Cherokee on April 1st. They will need a bus and sack lunches. The students will be learning about the daytime and nighttime skies.
  3. **Special Olympics** - Mary Smith's students will attend the Spirit Lake Track and Field Special Olympics on Tuesday, April 14th. The bus will leave at 8:15 a.m. and return before the afternoon buses leave. A sub is needed and a vehicle.
  4. **TAG** - Due to changes of Iowa State's OPPTAG investigation series program, the 6-8 TAG students will not be able to attend. The students will travel to UNI instead on March 11th. This will provide the students with a more personalized day. The only cost to the district is for a vehicle and a sub for Mr. Nielsen. UNI is providing 2 classes, lunch, and a tour of the athletic facilities.
  5. **PE** - The date is to be determined. The High School PE classes will go to Spencer Bowl between 8:25 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Two buses will be needed and 1 other driver.
2. **Personnel** - Motion by Meyer to approve the resignation of Larry Swingen as Jr. High Track Coach. Second by Conlon. Motion carried. Motion was made by Malm to approve Chris Olesen as the new Jr. High Track Coach with an Extra-Curricular (Schedule B) Contract for 2104-15. The salary will be \$2,076. Second by Enderson. Motion carried.
  3. **Master Calendar - 2015-2016**. The Master Calendar was presented by Woiwood. The Professional Development Days will be full days for the 2015-16 school year. After the official start date is determined by the state, additional changes will be made to the calendar.
  4. **Board Policy - 304.6 Administrator Evaluation** - Motion by Enderson to approve the 3rd and final reading of 304.6 - In case of a joint administrative position, for example a combined Superintendent/Elementary Principal position, it shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to conduct a formal evaluation of the elementary principal as part of the Superintendent evaluation. Second by Meyer. Motion carried.
  5. **Budget Hearing FY16 Date, Time and Review** - Motion by Conlon to approve April 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. for the public hearing for FY16 Budget Hearing. The regular School Board of Education meeting will follow the hearing. Second by Meyer. Motion carried.
  6. **Budget Guarantee Resolution** - Motion by Malm to approve the Budget Guarantee Resolution stating that the Board of Directors of the Ruthven-Ayrshire Community School District will levy property tax for fiscal year 2015-16 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under Iowa Code Section 257.14. Second by Enderson. Motion carried.
  7. **Drivers Education - Summer 2015** - Mr. Travis Sprague will be the instructor for the summer. He will charge \$190.00 per student, this will include his time and drive time. Currently there are 12 students signed up for Drivers Education. The price for a student to take Drivers Education is \$275.00. Classes will be on Saturday starting in May.
  8. **Open Enrollment** - Motion by Malm to approve the Open Enrollments for students going out of the district: Liberty Norgart, Peyton Bohl, Molly, Emily and Rachel Schany, Joseph and Rachel Chapman all to Emmetsburg; Micayla Salton, Jesse and Hunter Hoffmeyer,

Jaiden and Camdyn Wiggins all to Spencer. Second by Conlon. Motion carried. Motion made by Malm to approve the Open Enrollment into the district for Abigail, Hailey and Nolan Bailey from Emmetsburg. Second by Enderson. Motion carried.

**9. Partial Day Sharing Agreement** - Motion by Meyer to approve the Partial Day Sharing Agreement with Graettinger-Terril for 2016-2019. Second by Enderson. Motion carried.

**10. Palo Alto County Gaming Grant Award** - Motion by Enderson to approve the Palo Alto County Gaming Grant awarded to the Ruthven-Ayrshire CSD on March 1, 2015 for \$25,296.00. It was presented by the Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation. Second by Malm. Motion carried.

**11. Summer Reading Programs** - Woiwood presented the Elementary Summer Reading Program. Ms. Donahue is interested in teaching the Summer Program. It is for the 1st and 2nd grade students. We are looking at working with the library and having the students read books through the summer and get rewarded for the reading they accomplish. April 22nd the staff will meet to discuss the Summer Reading Program. Stefanie Kirk presented the Middle School Summer Reading Program. Grades 5-8 will participate. The session will go from June 1st thru June 19th. Classes will go from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Fifteen students from the Buena Vista University will be helping with the Middle School Students during the program. Motion by Malm to accept the Summer Reading Programs for the Elementary and Middle School. Second by Meyer. Motion carried.

**12. Fitness Center/Weight Room** - Motion by Conlon to approve memberships for the Fitness Center and Weight Room. An annual membership would cost \$100 per individual, \$150 per family, or \$25/mo. for college students and those using the facility for a short time. Also a card/fob reader will be installed through Heartland Security for \$3,700. Second by Enderson. Motion carried.

**13. Summer Projects** - The board reviewed the possible list of 2015 Summer Projects. Quotes and bids are being worked on for the projects. A list for approval will be provided at the April Board Meeting.

### **VIII. Recognition of Staff and Students**

#### **A. "Good News Sharing" - in the Principal/Superintendent Reports**

### **IX. Principal/Superintendent Reports**

#### **A. Principal Report**

1. Iowa Assessment scores are in. The Sophomores were at 100% proficient in Reading and our High School as a whole was 93.3% proficient. The Middle School proficiency rates were not as good, but the individual gains made by students demonstrate that we are well on the way to making the desired improvements. Mr. Woiwood will share more results in his report.
2. Mrs. Alesch and I attended an all day workshop on Standards Based Grading on February 23rd with Mrs. Beisell and Mrs. Kirk and three members of the Graettinger-Terril Staff at Storm Lake. Standards Based Grading is a concept that is getting a lot of attention across the state and nation. The concept offers two important premises to consider: More consistent grading on student work and grading only on achievement of the standard. It holds a lot of promise and Mrs. Beisell and Mrs. Kirk will be doing some piloting of the concepts during 4th quarter.

3. Third Quarter ended Friday. Grades are now due to the office. We will have the remainder of this week to get any incompletes or other issues in anticipation of being prepared for Parent-Teacher Conferences next week.
4. Mr. Borchers and I have been working with High School Students to complete "I Have A Plan Iowa." I will complete this work with the 8th graders this week. We will then be prepared to get students registered for fall courses.
5. Mr. Borchers and Mrs. Cook are also planning for a Freshman orientation program on April 21. Our 8th graders will be transported to Graettinger that day to become familiar with the building, meet teachers, and learn more about the opportunities available to them there in the afternoons next year.
6. Mr. Woiwood and I attended the February 17th meeting of the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors to express our continued concerns about the county roads between Ruthven and Graettinger. There still does not appear to be any definitive plan in place to replace the roads. The new engineer had not yet inspected the roads so we were told that we could get more information after his inspection was concluded.
  - a. On a positive note, the State Legislature has passed the gas tax increase to provide more funding for roads and the governor has signed it. The video that Nick and I made last year of the roads between Graettinger and Ruthven was used by Representative Jones in the course of the debate at the legislature and in her communications to constituents since.
7. R-A Middle School Students have kicked off their Minute-to-Win It Competitions in preparation for a fun night of fundraising and games on March 30. Proceeds from the competition will be used to offset costs for the Middle School trip to Des Moines on April 7.
8. Seniors have finalized their graduation plans. Graduation is at 2:30 PM on May 17th.
9. I plan to attend the Iowa 1:1 Institute in Des Moines on April 8 along with Mr. Olesen, Ms. Kerr and Mr. Hersom. This is the largest event of its type in the Midwest and provides great ideas for using our technology as effectively as possible for our learners.
10. G-T/R-A High School Drama completed their performances of "A Diary of Anne Frank" on Friday and Saturday night in Terril.
11. HS Pops Concert is Thursday night in Graettinger at 7:00 p.m.
12. The MS Play will be held on March 26th and 27th in the R-A Gym at 7:00 p.m.
13. Good News Sharing from the MS/HS Staff:
  - a. Congratulations to all of our Winter Athletic Teams for their excellent seasons:
    - Girls BB was eliminated from our Tournament Play in the Regional Tournament on February 12th by West-Bend Mallard.
    - The Wrestling Team won the Sectional Tournament and then advanced three wrestlers out of the District Tournament to the State Tournament: Kolton Roth, Tyler Hoffman, and Cody Thompson.
    - The Boys Basketball Team earned Conference and District Champion Titles before finally being eliminated by South O'Brien in the Substate Game on February 28th.

- Randy Hough was named Twin Lakes Conference Coach of the Year.
  - Andy Geelan earned 1st Team Conference Honors while Connor Sturgill was named to 2nd Team.
- b. Several students are making up time or doing skills enhancement work in order to be eligible for the Minneapolis Trip.
  - c. Middle School play is cast and practices are started.
  - d. National History Day Fair went well.
  - e. Several Middle School students have exited their WIN programs as a result of much improved winter MAP and Iowa Assessment scores.

## **B. Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report**

### **Good News Sharing - Elementary**

- The Syllabus for Guided Reading in Action was written and approved.

**Professional Development Day** - was held on March 3, 2015 at the Nature Center. Joint Committee Meetings took place on Technology, Standards Based Grading, Safety, RTI/MTSS, PBIS, Core Instruction and Early Literacy. In all committees, there are three general topics to cover and some additional ones. The three general ones are:

1. What are the top 3 priorities that need to be addressed in your committee's area?
2. What resources will be needed to address these priorities (Materials, PD Time, Expertise, etc.) currently and in the next school year.
3. Does this committee need to exist moving forward? If so, what will its focus be? How often will it need to meet?

### **Iowa Assessment Results**

- **Proficiency Level Report** - Shows Grades 2-11 with 112 at Reading Proficient out of 143 Total Students - Total Proficient 78%. In Math - 115 Proficient out of 143 students -Total Proficient 80.4%. In Science 119 Proficient out of 143 students - Total Proficient 83.2%. I would like to see them at 85% proficient.
- **Grade Level Comparison** - Shows the changes per grade over 5 years.
- **Cohort Comparison** - Shows the progression of the class through the years.

**Are these results enough to get RA on the "Watch" list for 2015-2016? Once on the SINA list a district must improve 2 years in a row to come off the SINA list. Will one of the other areas (math, science) put R-A on a "Watch" list for 2015-2016?**

## **X. Information Items:**

1. **Prom Update** - "Fire and Ice" is the theme for Prom which will be on April 11th with the Grand March starting at 7:00p.m. The photographer is Brandon Hanson. The Dinner will be at 8:00 p.m. and catered by Katie Meyer. The dance will be from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a DJ.
2. **Lighthouse Meeting** - The Lighthouse Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Building in Spencer.
3. **Calendar Hours** - We are currently at 1085:05.00 for calendar hours for 2014-15, if we do not have any other early outs, late starts or no school days. This is 5:05:00 over the required state minimum of 1080:00:00. Each day counts for 6:34:00 hours or 394 minutes.
4. **Kindergarten Round-Up** - We will be switching Kindergarten Round-Up from the

evening to the school day. Thursday, April 16th from 9:00 -11:30 a.m. Ms. Donahue and Ms. Williams will switch students during that time. Information will be sent home in their weekly folders and any questions can be asked of Ms. Donahue by phone, email or in person.

**5. Superintendent/Elementary Principal Evaluation** - A Special Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m. to review and discuss the evaluations done by the board members.

**6. Board Elections - Important Dates** - A list of the dates for the school board election were handed out to board members. The school election day will be September 8th.

**XI. Adjourn** - Motion by Grandstaff to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Second by Enderson. Motion carried. The next board meeting will be Monday, April 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The Budget Hearing will take place at 6:00 p.m. before starting the meeting.

***Kelli Harmon, Board Secretary***