

Ralls County R-II School District
Regular Board Meeting

March 16, 2023

Library
Mark Twain High School

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of Ralls County R-II Board of Education was called to order on Thursday, March 16, 2023, by President Ron Evans at 6:00 p.m.

Member	Title	Present/Absent
Ron Evans	President and Member	Present
Pete Hilgenbrinck	Vice President and Member	Present
Michael Boling	Secretary and Member	Present
Jason Liter	Treasurer and Member	Present
Jake Moss	Member	Present
Scott Hodges	Member	Present
Ritchie Palmer	Member	Present

Others in attendance included Tara Lewis, Natalie Gibson, Jennifer Hays, Carey Scherder, Deacon Windsor, Ellen Britt, Cody McCann and Matt Lawson

PUBLIC SESSION

III. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Parent, Amanda Corum, spoke in favor of adding a wrestling program at Mark Twain. Her children are actively involved in a youth wrestling program at Palmyra and she would like to see this opportunity available for her children when they become junior high and high school aged students.

Parent, Sonya Johnston, sent a written concern about the low enrollment of the band program.

1. Ralls County Elementary Tiger Leaders: February

Gabriel Bailey	Lilly Fugate	Aubrey Higgins	Kindal Watkins	Harper Leake
Carissa Conrad	Audrey Perry	Avery Jones	Airion Gauch	Ramona Norton
Aiden Williams	Presli Callaway	Paisley Lake	Melody Crump	Neilee Brown
Bentley Cannon	Maggie Bergthold	Ainsley Conrad		

Mark Twain Junior High - Students of the Month: February

6th- Bennett Bogue 7th- Jared Shuck 8th- Macy Redman

Mark Twain High School

All Conference Band

Cayden Sapp Randi Harris Annabelle Peck Lukas Johnston
Corbin Blackford- 1st Chair Baritone

All Conference Scholar Bowl

Lauren Booth-2nd Highest Points as an Individual

All Conference Basketball

Adalynne Means-2nd Team Sam Northcutt-2nd Team

2. Administrative Reports- Building administrators shared written building updates.

III. 1. Administrative Reports (CSIP 1.1, 2.2 1.10, 1.11):

Administrative Updates: March 2023 -- TEAM TIGER!!!!

ECSE & Special Education (Ellen Britt):

- Team members have worked together to develop schedules and caseloads for 2023-2024
- We have had more interest in the para positions that have been unfilled for some time now.
- I will be working with our RPDC consultant on our 5 files that DESE has selected for our Self Assessment Compliance review on March 13th. Files will be submitted no later than March 31st.

- From time to time our team has students that have high needs such as behavior or mental health. Alternative placement options have been researched that require the district to pay tuition. The closest placement option our district has is a separate Special Education center in Quincy. These placement options are an IEP team decision.
- Gifted referrals are up at the elementary level. Thank you teachers for seeing the greatness in our students!

Ralls County Primary (Carey Scherder):

- Our screenings team has conducted their first round of screenings for next year's Kindergarten class of 2036! They enjoyed being able to utilize their career ladder benefit and be able to host screenings on a Monday when other students were not in the building. This has also helped us not have to utilize subs in the classrooms.
- 1st Grade teachers have had high school Ag students coming over to do science activities with the students. They have had some wonderful activities and everyone has been learning a lot. It has been wonderful to see our older students taking on this mentoring type role for our younger students.
- We had a wonderful week full of great activities during Dr. Seuss week. Andy Smith, our local Farm Bureau agent, came and shared with students K-2 about Thank a farmer and did a read aloud with students about growing strawberries.
- Mrs. Bailey had a wonderful 2nd and 3rd grade program featuring Dr. Seuss with our students on March 2nd.
- Summer school plans are underway. We have sent forms and started promoting our summer program, which will be May 30-June 23 Tuesday-Friday from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- We are excited to welcome our new staff and continue to complete our RCE Tiger Team with interviews for our secretary and 4th grade position. We have been blessed with lots of qualified candidates to fulfill these positions. It just goes to show what a wonderful district we have here and appreciate everyone that helps to make Team Tiger a sought after place to be!
- Our PAT numbers continue to grow. Mrs. Christina McCourt is currently serving 20 families. Through our first two screenings there are 8 additional families so far that will be on a wait list until we are able to free up more spots. We are seeing this need in our community and are excited about getting our community kids school ready by Kindergarten.

Ralls County Intermediate (Natalie Gibson):

- We are busy completing summative evaluations with staff. This time conversing is one of my favorite times of the year as we get to pause and really focus on the growth of the year.
- Our committee has continued to interview candidates for the 4th grade opening. I am anxious to bring more candidates for approval at our next meeting.
- I heard nothing but positive feedback from guests at the Spring Program hosted by Mrs. Bailey, featuring our 2nd and 3rd graders. The students did an amazing job and we had to set up more chairs because so many came to support the kids.
- I greatly appreciate the opportunity to join in the conversation at our TAB meeting concerning Salary & Benefits. Allowing people to have a voice matters more than most realize! Thank you!
- We hosted a Breakfast with Books for any students and two guests on Monday morning. It was a well attended event and we loved having time with the students and their special guests. This was also an opportunity for us to host the annual spring meeting for federal programs.
- Our state principal conference was held the first weekend of March at Tan Tar A. Carey and I were able to have conversations with other leaders about what they're doing that is working. Our organization only meets three times a year and this conference has proven to be invaluable for our professional learning and connections with peers and vendors.

Mark Twain Junior High School (Jennifer Hays)

- Students who qualified (No ds/fs, and no office referrals) attended our Tiger Time on Feb. 17th. Students enjoyed a small snack and participated in a dodgeball tournament. The 7th grade boys won!
- Sixty-one 6th grade students participated in JA Biztown on Feb. 21st. Students were assigned jobs, received paychecks, and paid bills. We had a wonderful group of parents volunteer to help with the event. A HUGE thank you to Mrs. Epperson for organizing the event and preparing our students for the day.

- MTJH has started using a "Office Pass/Threshold" check-in procedure. Teachers are greeting students at the door. If a student seems "off", the student is given a five minute office pass. The student checks in at the office and has some options on what he/she can do to get him/her ready for class. Some examples include - take a walk, sit quietly, or talk to an adult. We are tracking the check-ins to determine if there is a pattern with our students.
- Mrs. McCann organized a tour of HCTC for our 8th grade students. This was the second group she has taken to the vo-tech center. All 8th graders have now toured HCTC.
- Mrs. Lugena will be taking a group of 8th graders and chaperones to the Fox Theater to see To Kill A Mockingbird. 8th grade students have recently finished reading the timeless novel.
- We are getting creative with alternative schedules with some of our students who struggle with behavior issues. We have found ways to provide them with support, while trying to limit distractions in the classroom.
- Upcoming events at MTJH - Fox Theater trip, 6th grade activity night, JH track practice begins.

Mark Twain High School (Deacon Windsor):

- Hats off to Mr. Dameron for solid Young Farmer meetings!!
- Mark Twain has Awesome Teachers and Students!!
- Holy Cow it is already March!!!!
- WinterGuard participants and Ms. Foster have shown Progress all Competition Season long!!
- Scholar Bowl finished regular season 7-3 and anxiously await EMO Trn March 7th - Mr. Bogus has them firing on all cylinders!! EMO results....
- Jostens has been on Campus several times for both Seniors and Sophomores!!
- 3 Cheers Mrs. Palmer for hitting the Scholarship season hard with all Seniors!!
- We have had several Students recently in hospital mode, as of now all is much Improved!!
- Great FFA Week with a solid Supporters Supper and Auction!! Thanks Mr. Gholson and Dameron!!
- High five to Mrs. Bailey and her Drama Club as they continue preparing for the Spring Performance!!
- We had several Lifters compete at Lake Ozark High School and did well!! Thanks Coach Epperson/Hill and Driver Lori!!
- Conference Band Auditions were Feb. 27th and the Concert is March 6th!! We had a Great Showing - Thanks to Our Talented Students and Mr. Hume!!
- Interviews are going really well for various positions!!
- District Band Large Ensemble March 15th!!
- EMO Principal mtg March 15th!!
- I am attending/presenting...Principal Conference March 25-28..
- PT Conferences March 27th!!
- Drama Play, "The trial of the Wicked Witch" March 31st & April 1st!!

Facilities, Athletics, & Transportation (Cody McCann):

-Facilities-

- Matt/Darrell are working on the new welding stations
- Hudl Cameras should arrive soon and be installed
- Seed has been put down on football field and in the courtyard-

-Athletics/Activities-

- Spring sports have started.
- 27 Baseball players
 - Jamboree March 13th @ Mexico
 - 41 Track athletes
 - First track meet March 21st @ Montgomery
- JH track begins March 14th
- EMO Band March 6th
- EMO Scholar Bowl March 7th
- Winter Sports Reception March 8th

-Transportation-

- We are working on summer school routes and starting to plug in students

- Routes are in the works for next year
- Drivers are gearing up for all the spring trips

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

1. Adoption of Agenda/Additions to Agenda
2. Minutes, Bills & Treasurer's Report
 Jake Moss motioned to approve the consent items as presented, Pete Hilgenbrinck second.
 Motion passed 6-0-1, Jason Liter recused from the vote due to conflict of interest.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

1. MSBA Delegate Report – The link for the monthly video report was shared with board members.

VI. ITEMS FOR DECISION

VI. 1 Facility and Long Range Planning (CSIP 4.1, 4.4)

The 20/20 Vision Project spreadsheet is up to date including the contingency refund from Freise Construction for phase 3 and the purchase of lockers in December.

Matt Lawson will be attending the meeting to share information about the MT ground source loop system.

- A. Repair Options
- B. Additive Options to keep fittings from corroding
- C. Additive Options to ensure warranty is valid
- D. New field options
- E. Water tower options
- F. Other information

A recommendation was given to: 1. Follow guidance to keep the newly installed (summer 2021) system in warranty. The price paid included 10 year labor and 5 year parts for the units at MT. and to 2. Prepare for a long range expenditure to repair the system or replace with rooftop units or other HVAC options in the future (after warranty) 3. Use an eco-friendly winterizing additive that is approved for warranty coverage.

No action was taken .

VI. 2 Calendar Development 2023-2024 (CSIP 2.1, 2.4)

The TAB committee met January 24th and drafted a recommended calendar. The shared calendar includes the hours for students along with a listing of the inclement weather day make up schedule.

Jake Moss motioned to approve the 2023-2024 calendar as presented, seconded Scott Hodges, motion passed 7-0.

VI. 3. Wrestling Program StartUp (CSIP 1.10, 2.3)

Cody McCann introduced the option to start a wrestling program at Mark Twain in his director's report in January. Potential coach Tom Roth spoke with the BOE at the February Board meeting. Cody McCann was in attendance at the meeting to answer questions.

It was recommended this decision be delayed until all current positions are filled to ensure we have proper staffing for our current athletic commitments.

Motion was made to table the item until April by Jake Moss seconded by Jason Liter. Passed 7-0

VI.4 eRate Grant Funded Bids (CSIP 4.1)

An eRATE application has been submitted with details on the following page. This equipment list would improve our system and its reliability.

With eRATE, we would pay 40% of the costs if approved and 60% would be paid by the eRATE grant. This is an opportunity for our system to receive upgrades at a greatly reduced cost. The bid window has now closed with two bids obtained through eRATE. Information is included on the following page.

Pete Hilgenbrinck motioned for the bid from Provision Data Solutions to be accepted for \$144,246, with the cost to Ralls County R-II of \$66,246 and \$78,000 refunded through eRATE, seconded by Ritchie Palmer, motion passed 7-0.

VI.5. Bid Collections for March (CSIP 4.1, 4.2)

Open bid opportunities were posted on our webpage February 22 as well as reaching out to current providers and competitors to advise them bids were being collected.

- A. Vehicle Fuels (CSIP 4.4)
 - a. Liter's VP submitted a bid for \$0.09 reduction of pump price minus applicable taxes
 - b. MFA Oil - Contacted, no response, no bid received
- B. Audit Service (CSIP 2.3, 4.1)
 - a. Wade Stables, P.C. has submitted a bid for three years for a cost of \$7200 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, \$7,500 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 and \$7,650 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. If the district is required to have a "single audit" because federal expenditures exceed the threshold, then the cost will not exceed \$9,500, \$9,850, and \$10,000 for the three fiscal years listed above.
- C. Technology Support (CSIP 4.1, 4.2)
 - a. The Fantastechs- submitted a bid for three years
 - 2023-2024- \$81,045
 - 2024-2025- \$83,476
 - 2025-2026- \$85,980

Scott Hodges motioned to accept the fuel bid from Liters VP, seconded by Pete Hilgenbrinck, motion carried 6-0-1 (Jason Liter recused due to conflict of interest)

Jake Moss motioned to accept the audit bid from Wade Stables for three years, seconded by Jason Liter, motion carried 7-0.

Pete Hilgenbrinck motioned to accept the tech support bid from The Fantastechs for three years, seconded by Ritchie Palmer, motion carried 7-0.

VI.6. Mileage Reimbursement (CSIP 1.12, 4.1, 4.2)

The reimbursement amounts paid by school districts in the NE region have been collected and are listed on the following page. Information was requested at the February meeting to inquire which schools have district vehicles, information was shared. Information was also discussed for past four years of mileage reimbursement expenditures and an option to have a vehicle 10 passenger or less that teachers/coaches can transport small groups of students to events without school bus endorsement and CDL.

Pete Hilgenbrinck motioned to increase the mileage reimbursement from \$0.44 per mile to \$0.49 per mile effective March 2023, seconded by Ritchie Palmer, motion carried 7-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

VII.1 "Pilot" 2022 Annual Progress Report (CSIP 1)

The information was available for public viewing March 7, 2023. Our information was emailed to parents, placed on our website in two locations and shared with employees and board members March 7, 2023. The timeliness of the "pilot" will be very helpful as we are currently revising our CSIP plan.

VII.2 Salary and Benefits

- A. Teacher Salary Schedules 2023-2024 (CSIP 1.12, 2.1, 4.1, 4.2)
 - a. TAB Committee met March 2nd
 - b. The current schedule along with 4 proposals are included
 - c. A cost analysis for each proposal is included
 - d. Decision item for March 30, 2023 special meeting
- B. Medical Insurance for Employees (CSIP 1.12, 2.1, 2.2, 4.1, 4.2)
 - a. 1% increase (\$633 to \$639 per month per employee)
 - b. cost analysis is included for comparison from year to year
 - c. discussion to add more eligible employees
 - i. paraprofessionals, bus drivers, cooks
 - ii. minimum hour requirement-currently it is 32 hours and to work year round for support staff

- iii. school must fund at least 80% of the base plan cost, if you wanted to consider employees sharing the cost for employees not currently eligible, they could work more hours and pay 20% monthly.
- d. Decision item for March 30, 2023 special meeting
- C. Extra Duty Stipend Schedule (CSIP 1.12, 3.3)
 - a. The schedule for 2022-2023 is included for review.
 - b. The schedule will adjust once the Base Salary is approved
 - c. If any stipends need adjusted percentage, I need to know this for a future agenda discussion/decision prior to April hiring decisions and contracting

VIII. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A summary of monthly activities toward the district's CSIP Goals was reviewed and discussed.

CSIP Goal 1: Academic Achievement

CSIP Goal 3: Graduation & Beyond

CSIP Goal 2: Community & Communication

CSIP Goal 4: Facilities & Finances

IX. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 1. Academic Achievement Report (CSIP 1.5, 1.6)
- 2. Attendance Report (CSIP 1.3)
- 3. Food Service Report (CSIP 4.1)
- 4. Transportation Report (CSIP 4.1)

Jason Liter motioned to approve the April 13, 2023 regular meeting and all meetings held in the interim, Ritchie Palmer seconded. Motion passed (7-0).

At 7:33 p.m. Pete Hilgenbrinck motioned to close open session and Jason Liter seconded to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues in accordance with 610.021 (3) Jake Moss seconded to adjourn to closed session. Roll call vote: Hilgenbrinck- yes, Hodges-yes, Moss- yes, Evans-yes, Boling-yes, Liter-yes, Palmer-yes, motion passed 7-0.

Jake Moss motioned to hire staff as presented (Judy Lionbarger-ECSE teacher and Samantha Welch-SpEd Teacher) for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Ritchie Palmer. Roll call vote: Hilgenbrinck- yes, Hodges-yes, Moss- yes, Evans-yes, Boling-yes, Liter-yes, Palmer-yes, motion passed 7-0.

Pete Hilgenbrinck motioned to leave closed session at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Ritchie Palmer . Roll call vote: Hilgenbrinck- yes, Hodges-yes, Moss- yes, Evans-yes, Boling-yes, Liter-yes, Palmer-yes, motion passed 7-0.

Michael Boling made a motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m., seconded by Jason Liter , motion passed 7-0.

President

Secretary