**CITY OF DERBY**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL MEETING – DERBY HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

**September 24 2009**

**MINUTES**

**Call to order**

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

all rose and pledged allegiance

**Roll Call**

Present: Jim Stadt, Brad Tobin, Jodi Chevarella, Sheila Parizo, Chairwoman, Ken Marcucio and Rebecca O'Hara.

Absent: Kim Kreiger, Tara Hyder and Casey Picheco.

Also Present: Dr. Tracy, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lois Knapton , Director of Special Education, Sally Bonina, Middle School principal, Assistant Principal Greg Gaillard and Keith McLiverty, City Treasurer.

**Public Portion**

Tom Lionetti - 79 Sunset Drive. Mr. Lionetti wanted to understand item #7 on the agenda.

Dr. Tracy explained the Board of Education's budget includes a second assistant principal at the secondary level.

Mr. Lionetti asked if the Derby-Ansonia game can be held on a Saturday afternoon instead of Friday night.

Dr. Tracy will look into it.

Mr. McLiverty - Treasurer, City of Derby. Mr. McLiverty asked if # 7 is being tabled.

Dr. Tracy suggests tabling it as some board members could not be here tonight.

Mr. McLiverty wanted clarification of how the funds were appropriated for the Middle School. The tax board recognized there was going to be $270,000.00 of expenses associated for the Middle School. Those funds are associated with specific expenses. If you don't use those funds for specific items, you can't transfer that and put it into your operating budget.

Mr. McLiverty wanted to thank Dr. Tracy on his performance. There will be improved communication between the Tax Board and the Board of Education. Mr. McLiverty complimented his leadership.

Anita Duggato is very happy with the openness of Dr. Tracy. The Assistant Principal should be the person who is the proactive person and feels the position should be there.

Mr. Lionetti asked how much the position will be paid. Dr. Tracy said with salary and benefits the position will be paid in the $90,000.00 range a year. Mr. Lionetti feels that money should be spent on teachers.

Public Portion closed.

**Approval of Minutes**

June 10 2009 special meeting.

**MOTION** *to accept by Mr. Stadt, second by Mr. Tobin, all in favor, someone is opposed. Roll Call to accept the minutes: Ms. O'Hara - accept, Mr. Stadt - accept, Mr. Tobin - accept, Ms. Chevarella - abstained (she was not at that meeting), Ms. Parizo - accept, Mr. Marcucio - not accepting, vote: 4 to accept, 1 not to accept and one abstention,* **motion carries.**

**Review of CMT Results**

Dr. Tracy presented information on students who move through the school system over the years in math, reading and writing.

70% of the students who were in the fourth grade in 2006 scored at the proficient level. One year later 75% scored proficient as fifth graders. The next year (sixth grade) less than 82%, as eighth graders about 78% were proficient. They did better as eighth graders compared to fourth and fifth graders. It doesn't show the kids that weren't with the school system the entire time.

Mr. Gaillard presented information on how transients affect the schools.

Ms. Bonina explained there is now a daily student contact reading period. This should provide an opportunity to support student needs.

There is math support periods for struggling students.

All lesson plans must address individual CMT strands especially for the struggling students.

It will take three to five years to improve the situation.

Dr. Tracy said there needs to be a plan in place for those students who enter midyear.

**Dates for Committee Meetings**

The Teaching & Learning Committee will be held on the first Monday of each month.

The Budget, Personnel & Facilities Committee to the second Monday of each month. Dr. Tracy will check with Ms. Kreiger about moving this to Monday.

The Policy & Communications Committee will be held on the third Monday of each month.

This will start in October.

**Assistant Principal Position**

Dr. Tracy suggested this item be tabled as three members are not present.

There was discussion of postponing or having the vote. The members present differed on the way to proceed.

Mr. Marcuccio feels the money could be spent on Middle School sports, teachers or paraprofessionals.

Mr. McLiverty explained how the money allocated by the Tax Board for the Middle School must be spent on specific expenditures.

Mr. Tobin said we are running thin on a very tight budget. Mr. Tobin abstained on the original vote because he wanted to know if it did or didn't go in, what the repercussions of the money aspect would be. He never got any of his answers.

Ms. Parizo said there is a 72,900 square foot building opening up, a program as a model for middle school students, three floor building, so many new things and asking the principal of that school to act as mentor, supervisor, evaluator, hall monitor, disciplinarian and curriculum leader, she will not be able to get her administrative work done. The quality of supervision of the teachers, students and the safety of both will be compromised. The disciplinary hearings have been coming out of the middle school age. This will make an environment that could potentially cause more problems.

Mr. Tobin said this is the first time anyone has ever taken responsibility on this issue in his time on the board.

Mr. Marcucio said you could have a part time retiree.

Mr. McLiverty stressed the action to not approve the Assistant Principal position should not be in the hopes that the board will have the ability to transfer money for other expenditures than otherwise approved by the Tax Board. The intent was to fund that list. Don't take an action tonight by not funding X and think you are going to fund Y.

**MOTION** *by Ms. Chevarella to table until we can talk to the Tax Board and get a clearer picture of what the board can and cannot do, second by Ms. Parizo, in favor - 2, not in favor - 4,* **motion fails.**

**MOTION** *by Mr. Marcucio to eliminate the Assistant Principal position based on conversations with the Tax Board....*

Ms. Parizo is uncomfortable with this motion as it is an open ended motion, based on what? What is the end result? What information is going to allow you to move forward?

Ms. Chevarella asked Mr. Marcucio does he want to know if the money could be transferred.

Mr. Marcucio responded yes if that money, if they will let us do what I said, to bring a part time administrator for the first six months.

Mr. Marcucio said his motion is to put a hold on this, just reverse it the way it is now.

Ms. Chevarella is uncomfortable with making a decision like that, she does not have all the facts. If we are going to lose the money....

Ms. O'Hara asked Mr. Marcucio, you want to meet with the Tax Board?

Mr. Marcucio responded yes.

Mr. Marcucio withdrew his motion.

Dr. Tracy said it is better to check your information first before you vote, rather than to do something and find out later. For the sake of moving on, Dr. Tracy will not take any steps and try to fill this position for the next couple of weeks, we might have to wait a month and get a meeting very quickly, find out what the law is, what we could and could not do and our colleagues on the City side will view that, get that clear and with that knowledge we can have a special meeting and discuss it.

Mr. Tobin suggests anyone who has any questions, please write it down and ask it when the meeting takes place.

**Motion** *by Mr. Tobin to table the vote on reconsideration and obtain a meeting with the Tax Board to get some questions answered and vote at a special Board of Education meeting....*

Dr. Tracy has a friendly amendment...there really is no motion on the table at this point, adopt a motion that directs the board chair, vice chair and superintendent to meet with the appropriate City officials to inquire about the legalities of this matter.

Mr. Tobin accepts the wording to his motion, *second by Mr. Stadt, all in favor,* **motion carries.**

**Mobile Communications Devices**

Dr. Tracy would like the board to authorize spending for not more than $3,600.00 to restore the following cell phone service: 4 cell phones at $520.00 for service (a grievance is already pending regarding removal of that service), 10 blackberries at $3,000.00 for service. E rate provides a federal subsidy for communications, internet and telephone service and they subsidize our telephone service by about 63%.

**MOTION** *by Ms. Chevarella that the Board of Education restore the use of certain mobile communications devices for 2009-2010, as recommended by the Superintendent at a cost not to exceed $3600.00, second by Ms. Parizo, in favor -2 opposed-4,* **motion fails**.

**MOTION** *by Mr. Tobin to put back into service 4 cell phones to put us into good standing with the union contract at this time not to exceed $650.00, whatever is on the bill, second by Mr. Stadt, all in favor,* **motion carries.**

**Executive Session**

a. Superintendent's evaluation

b. Litigation matter

c. Contract matter

**MOTION** *to go into Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. for the purposes of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation, a litigation matter and a contract matter by Mr. Marcucio, second by Mr. Stadt, all in favor,* **motion carries.**

**MOTION** *to come out of Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. by Mr. Stadt, second by Mr. Tobin, all in favor,* **motion carries.**

**MOTION** *by Mr. Tobin with a second by Mr. Stadt that the Board of Education adopt the evaluation as discussed in Executive Session of the Superintendent's performance for 2008-2009 and authorize the Chairwoman to move forward with appropriate signatures including Dr. Tracy's and the Chairwoman's, all in favor,* **motion carries.**

Dr. Tracy suggests deferring action on the food services contract until the October 15th meeting.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** *to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. by Mr. Tobin, second by Mr. Stadt, all in favor,* **motion carries.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Denise Cesaroni*

*Recording Secretary*

**\*\*\*\*These minutes are subject to approval by the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.**