

MINUTES
April 27, 2010
Special Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, School District #14, Toole County, Montana, was held in the Board Room of the Administrative Offices at 1010 Oilfield Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Elda Nichols.

Members present were: Elda Nichols, Barb Mercer, Greg Matteson, Joe Sisk (via phone), and Brian Aklestad. Member(s) absent: Mark Grotbo and Michelle Edwards. The superintendent and clerk were present throughout the entire proceedings. Visitor present was Mary Ann Harwood.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comment on any public matter

None

Community Positive Comment on District Operations

None

ACTION ITEMS

May 4, 2010 Levy Election

The board met to discuss the annual school election. Chairperson Elda Nichols asked Clerk and Recorder Mary Ann Harwood to attend to share her knowledge about elections. Chairperson Nichols read a letter she had received from Tony Koenig, Senior Counsel of Montana School Board Association. Tony's letter stated that it might be a good idea for the district to cancel the election to eliminate the risk of a taxpayer contesting the election due to problems with absentee ballots and missing the newspaper deadline. The first absentee ballots mailed out had an error made by the printshop that was not caught before they were mailed out. Trustee Brian Aklestad voiced his concern that Clerk/Election Administrator Denise Flesch had made too many mistakes including official stamp missing on the absentee ballots, late newspaper deadline, and not getting all of the first mailing of absentee ballots back. Because of these errors he didn't see any other option than to cancel the election. Clerk Flesch informed the board members that she had spoken with Paula Jaconetty (Clerk and Recorder in Choteau), and three veteran clerks and they said they have had the same errors and have never cancelled their election. Clerk Flesch told the board that she had also spoken with Denise Ulberg from OPI and she told her that the General Fund Levy is not a moving levy and that we should not cancel our election. Clerk Flesch also informed the board that Clerk and Recorder Paula Jaconetty said that school election law permits the election administrator to declare any ballot official whether it's stamped on the back or not and that you do not have to cancel your election. Mary Ann Harwood said that if her ballots are not stamped with the official ballot stamp they are considered void. She also said if absentee ballots need to be recalled that you would need to get the voters ballot back before you could send them a replacement. Mary Ann said it was up to the trustees whether or not to cancel but if it were her election she would cancel.

Trustee Aklestad was upset that the district had not informed the public of the need of the High School Building Reserve. He said the absentee voters were not informed whatsoever before they voted. He also felt that the million dollar figure was scaring the voters off since they have not been informed. Mr. Genger reminded the board members that a list of highly needed repairs had been previously emailed to them so that they could get the information out to the public. Trustee Greg Matteson also reminded fellow trustees that cancelling the election might hold up the

process of the repairs that are needed for the football field/track. Mr. Genger assured Trustee Matteson that if the building reserve passes on the rescheduled date of June 22nd that the timeline will remain the same on the repairs for the football field and track. The clerk will send out letters to the absentee voters informing them of the new date for the school election and post cancellation notices.

A motion was made to cancel the May 4, 2010 school election.

Motion: Brian Aklestad Second: Barb Mercer – passed unanimously.

Resolution for Election

Resolution to call for an Elementary Levy Election

A motion was made to accept the resolution to call for a June 22nd school election.

Motion: Greg Matteson Second: Barb Mercer – passed unanimously.

Resolution to call for a High School Levy Election

A motion was made to accept the resolution to call for a June 22nd school election.

Motion: Greg Matteson Second: Joe Sisk – passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD

Regular Meeting, Monday, May 10, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

Board Room, District Administration Office, 1010 Oilfield Avenue, Shelby, Montana

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Elda Nichols adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

BUSINESS MANAGER/CLERK

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD