

A Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ozark Mountain School District.

Type: Regular Session

Place: St. Joe Campus – Library

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Date: March 16, 2020

Members Present: Jesse Rose, Brad Gibson, Gary Lovell, Donald Morris, Mona Elliott, and Travis Freeman

Members Absent: Ben Taylor (Joined remotely at 6:10 p.m.)

Ozark Mountain School Board President, Mr. Jesse Rose, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m...

Donald Morris made the motion to accept the February 17, 2020 Board Minutes as presented, Gary Lovell second the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Saylor presented to the Board the Financial Report for the month of February 2020, with an ending balance of \$1,806,427.80. Mona Elliott made the motion to accept the February Financial Report as presented, Brad Gibson second, and motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Saylor shared Board Policy 1.6.1. – Attending Meetings Remotely, an amendment that had been sent by ASBA to their Model Policy guide. This policy would allow any Board member, who was not able to attend in person, the opportunity to participate during general session of the District's Board meetings. The Board member attending remotely would not be allowed to enter into Executive Session, and the Board member could only attend remote meeting three times per year. Donald Morris made the motion to accept Board Policy 1.6.1. – Attending Meetings Remotely, Gary Lovell second the motion and the motion unanimously passed. At this time, Board member Ben Taylor joined the meeting, via ZOOM. Mr. Taylor was welcomed by all and wished a speedy recovery.

Next on the Agenda was the 2020-2021 School Calendar. Mr. Saylor shared with Board the recently board approved SY '21 Calendar and recommended that the graduation date be moved up by one week to May 8, 2020. Mona Elliott made the motion to accept the recommendation to move graduation up one week to May 8, 2020, Donald Morris second and the motion unanimously passed.

Next on the agenda was the Proposed Salary Schedules for Certified and Classified employees for SY '21. Mr. Saylor shared with the Board the mandated salary requirements for Certified employees and recommended that the Board dissolve the MA +15 column to the Certified salary schedule due to the fact that the State Department does not recognize this field in their required salary schedule and the mandated pay scheduled has surpassed that column. Mona Elliott made the motion that the Board accept the recommendation for the Certified Salary schedule for SY '21 and forward on to Certified PPC for their review. Donald Morris second and the motion unanimously passed. Mr. Saylor then made the recommendation to accept the Classified Staff salary scheduled for the SY '21, noting that the only changes to the salary schedule for classified employees was to increase the state mandated minimum wage requirements to \$11.00 per hours. Donald Morris made the recommendation to accept the proposed Classified Staff SY '21 salary schedule and to send it to the Classified PPC for review, Gary Lovell second and the motion unanimously passed. Both Certified and Classified salary schedules for School Year 2020-2021 will come back to the Board for final approval after the PPC committees approve.

Next on the Agenda was Ozark Mountain's solar agreement. Mr. Saylor shared that he, and Board member Gary Lovell, recently attended a meeting with the solar company, the legal team, and the agency representing Ozark Mountain and Mt. View School Districts to discuss the agreement and the

demands of all parties. During the meeting, details were hashed out and the legal formalities were discussed. After conclusion, terms were developed and have now been sent to Entergy for review. Entergy now has 60 days to review. Mr. Saylor's stated that there was no vote needed for this agenda item but was to simply inform the Board of where Ozark Mountain was with the solar agreement.

Mr. Saylor's shared with the Board the Slate of Resignations and New Hires for the 2020-2021 School Year. Through the Letter of Intent notices that were sent to district employees, Administration was notified that three employees were not planning to return to the district for the upcoming school year. Ellen Perkins, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher at Western Grove, Meredith Meyers, School Nurse at Bruno-Pyatt, and James Thomas, Bus Driver at St. Joe. Mona Elliott made the motion that the Board accept the resignations as presented, Brad Gibson second the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

## **Resignation:**

### **Certified**

#### **Name**

Ellen Perkins

#### **Position**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher – Western Grove

### **Classified**

#### **Name**

Meredith Myers

James Thomas

#### **Position**

School Nurse – Bruno-Pyatt

Bus Driver – St. Joe

Next, Mr. Saylor's shared developments pertaining to ALE for SY '21. Searcy School District declined to enter a revised agreement with OMSD for SY '21 and they have opted to pull their ALE students from the Leslie Campus. Mr. Saylor's recommended that OMSD consider doing the same. At this time, Donald Morris made the motion that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss personnel, Gary Lovell second the motion and Ben Taylor left the meeting while the Board entered Executive Session at 6:25 p.m...

At 7:10 p.m., Donald Morris made the motion that the Board resume Regular Session, Gary Lovell second, and the motion unanimously passed. Ben Taylor again joined the session, via ZOOM. Mr. Saylor's then made the recommendation for New Hire of Meredith Clouse as ALE Director/Teacher.

## **New Hires:**

### **Certified**

#### **Name**

Meredith Clouse

#### **Position**

ALE Director/Teacher

Mona Elliott made the motion that Ozark Mountain hire Meredith Clouse as ALE Director/Teacher for SY '21. Brad Gibson second the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Saylor's provided an update on COVID-19 for the OMSD school board members. To say that the past week was crazy would be an understatement. Governor Hutchison had issued several statements and Commissioner Keys had issued memos on how school districts were to handle this virus. However, things were changing so quickly that often before Ozark Mountain can send out notifications, guidelines have already changed. Here's what we know at this time. Governor Hutchison has declared that schools will remain closed until April 17, 2020. Additional AMI days have been granted and they might be extended for up to 20 days. The USDA grant that Rose Saylor's wrote and OMSD received will allow us to purchase some equipment for deep cleaning. At this time, all employees are to report to campus tomorrow, March 17<sup>th</sup> to clean and plan AMI packets. We are in uncharted times and the district will

comply with the recommendations of Governor Hutchison and Commissioner Keys until further notice. Mr. Saylor will keep the Board, faculty and staff, and students updated as changes occur.

Next on the agenda was OMSD Basketball for the 2020-2021 School Year. Mr. Saylor shared that spring was the time for which schools developed schedules and asked the Board how they wanted him to proceed. Travis Freeman asked Mr. Saylor if he felt that he could make the current situation more financially feasible and alleviate the problem that exists when some years a team may not have enough players to practice and compete. Mr. Saylor said that he would make every attempt possible to do this in a manner that was fair to all three campuses and their communities. Mr. Freeman then made the motion that the board give Mr. Saylor the authority to make all decisions regarding this situation with 100% Board approval. Mona Elliott second the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

In general discussion, Mr. Saylor discussed the concession stand managers on each campus this past school year and wanted the Board's feedback on the positions. All parties thought that the concession managers did a wonderful job this past year and would like to continue the positions going forward. Also, in general discussion, Mr. Saylor pointed out the Enrollment Comparison Report from March 10, 2020 to same time last year noting that there had been an enrollment increase of 42 students.

With no other items on the agenda Donald Morris made the motion to adjourn at 7:24 p.m., Gary Lovell second and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

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Board President, Mr. Jesse Rose

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Board Vice President, Mr. Ben Taylor