

**SUNBURST SCHOOL DISTRICT #2
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

BOARD MINUTES

April 3, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 8:00pm by the Chairman, Lisa Kearns with the *pledge to our flag*. The School District No. 2. Trustees present to constitute a quorum were:

Lisa Kearns, Chairman
Jonette Johannsen, Vice-Chairman
Lisa Samsal, Trustee

Scott Griffin, Trustee
James Nagy, Trustee

Guests and staff in attendance were:

Christina Barbachano, Superintendent
Dan Nau, K-6 Principal
Peggy Tobin, Business Manager

District Staff – See attached list

2. **APPROVE/REVISE/AMEND AGENDA**

Action 1

Jim moved to approve agenda as written. Jonette seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA**

Discussion

Lisa K. began the public comments by providing information in hopes of dispelling some of the rumors that have been going around the community. She addressed Peggy Tobin's Administrative contract which represented the same amount as her previously approved Classified contract for 2016-17 made up of \$21/hour for 2,080 hours (\$43,680.00) plus the annual cost of the current health coverage which totals \$11,170.68. The classified contract totaled \$54,850.68 which was rounded up in the administrative contract to \$55,000, so yes, there was an increase of \$149.32. Ray Christiaens asked when the health insurance was added to her contract and Peggy replied that it has always been part of her compensation package since she was first hired on April 15, 2013. She does not receive any other health benefit from the district nor does she now qualify for overtime or comp time as she could have while she was under the classified contract. Lisa K. also clarified that the board approved spending \$35,000 on the Superintendent's house. Following hail damage in October, the district also received an insurance claim for \$22,000. Very little work has been completed and the district has only spent \$17,000 to date to purchase materials.

Annie Dunk asked if it has been established whether or not everyone is keeping their job. Lisa K. answered that no decisions have been made for 2017-2018 as we still have many unknowns. The decision at the last board meeting to take protested taxes was for the current school year of 2016-2017. Stacey Koon pointed out that there has been a concern for the past couple of years about the finances of the school and that nothing that has been discussed in the past few months is new. She read notes from previous minutes which supported her comments. The previous administrative said that they didn't want to have to make cuts, etc. Stacey went on to say that what has changed is that Christina wanted to provide information as it became known. Stacey reminded us that Christina went and got more money from NaturEner for salaries. Stacey also commented that she works in the oil field and doesn't know from one day to the next whether they will have a job or not. Christina has gotten a bad rap. Stacey continued that at the interviews a question was asked and Christina's response was that she'd support the student during any investigation. The staff felt that she wouldn't support them. She knew it would be a hard road for Christina but she thinks it's a shame that we haven't been able to work together to solve these problems. Jeanne Nagy commented that a core group has been undermining everything being done. Christopher Blair feels it has been very disheartening to hear what was said in the last board meeting and what has been said about other people. He continued that he likes the people in the community and in this room, but he wonders if he should feel afraid to send his children to school if he were to become a board member. Amanda Nix responded that she takes extreme offense to his comment. She can't think of any teacher who would take anything out on a student. She said that we are professionals and always care for the needs of the children. Christopher responded back. Kim Bloch also took offense to the comment. Lisa K. requested that everyone direct their comments to the board and not dispute each other's comments. Kim felt that at the last board meeting all of the comments made were directed toward making everything work. Lisa K. pointed out that she received a call from an attendee who felt they didn't get to finish their comment. They were shot down and

criticized. Val Becker spoke next and had been unaware of some of the issues occurring. She has met with Christina and feels that Christina was very fair and she felt that she had been listened to. Val continued that she was very sad to hear about the resignation, and she wishes that Christina would reconsider but she also will understand if that isn't possible. Sara Brown said that, as a Superintendent, the budget crisis has nothing to do with anything Christina has done and yet she's being vilified for it. Stacey reported that there are currently multiple Superintendent and Principal positions still open and expressed concern about our finding a replacement. Halee Koon said that as an unofficial student rep, it is very sad. Most of the other kids feel the same way. Christina has been very helpful to many students and Halee wanted to express this. Val McAlpine said that after Christina's announcement was made to the students, she (Val) was shocked at the number of students that came out of the auditorium extremely distressed, crying and upset that Christina is leaving. Sally A. wants to apologize for interrupting Mike W. when he was trying to comment on the decreasing population at the previous board meeting. She will be calling Mike to apologize.

Jeanne Nagy had an unrelated question. She has been asked to cover the candidate forum for the five trustee candidates and wanted to know what the rules are about having the spouse of a teacher on the board. Lisa K. responded that there are no policies in place regarding this. The one thing that they wouldn't be able to do is serve on the nominating committee. Scott said that when he went to the trustee training he asked that and they kept saying that every board member votes on every issue. Christina gave the example of Ronan where there are 5 of the 7 trustees whose spouses are teachers. Annie said that she felt the open forum at the last board meeting was awesome and let everyone voice their opinion which is good as long as they aren't rude and inappropriate. She confirmed that the board is in an awful position. Scott agreed and pointed out that this isn't over and we have a hard road to hoe. Lisa K. said that this will take an entire team and a positive attitude. Stacey asked about the "kiln issue". Christina responded that this was one of many rumors. She told them that Alex and she have a very high end computerized Kiln (approx. \$3,000) to use for art. She asked Liberty to check into wiring a receptacle for the kiln and in February they actually came and put it in. She is paying the \$177 charge for that herself. We were going to get some money for supplies for the kiln from another source but that has been put on hold. Lisa S. wanted to say that she is feeling very disappointed in those people who chose to be part of the problem instead of part of the solution and she hopes that this won't continue. Stacey asked if there couldn't be another month for Christina to reconsider. Christina responded that she's had 2 community members and 1 staff member come in the entire year to talk to her. She said that her door has always been open. There are lots of rumors about why she's leaving but the stress of the past year has eroded her family. She acknowledged that she sucked at compartmentalizing and keeping work at work and home at home and her family has to come first. Lisa K. wanted to express her appreciation to Christina for coming in to a very difficult situation and she appreciates Christina's role, all she's done, her support of our students and staff. She did ask Christina if she wouldn't reconsider.

4. **ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF SUPERINTENDENT** Action 2

Jonette moved to accept the resignation of Christina Barbachano and release her from her three-year contract. Lisa S. seconded the motion and it passed unanimously but reluctantly by the trustees.

5. **APPROVE MTSBA RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/7-12 PRINCIPAL FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR** Action 3

Lisa K. reported that she has spent a lot of time on the phone with MTSBA as we have a lot of factors that we don't have answers for. The letter went to the staff because by state law we were required to. MTSBA recommended that because it is so late in the year, we would be better off getting an interim Superintendent/7-12 Principal rather than trying to do a search now. Joe Brott with MTSBA is working on a list of candidates but didn't have it completed in time for tonight's meeting. This is the decision before the board now. Amanda asked what "interim" meant and Lisa responded that it is for one year. Christina pointed out that if the board likes the interim they can be rehired for another year or be given a permanent position. Ray asked for clarification about normal length of contracts, and there was further discussion and explanation. Lisa K. put before the board whether they want to hire an interim for one year until the school can do a full search. Scott moved to approve hiring an interim Superintendent/7-12 Principal for the 2017-2018 school year with the intent of looking for a more permanent solution in the December-January time frame. Jim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. **PLAN SEARCH FOR INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/7-12 PRINCIPAL**

Discussion

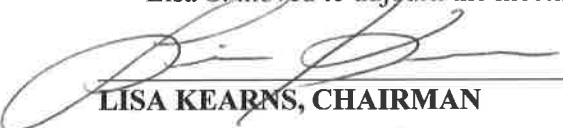
The trustees discussed which two would serve on the search committee. Lisa K. and Scott will serve. Sara Brown asked, with the hiring of an interim, would the work continue on the District House. The board confirmed that that is their intension. Christina reviewed the issues currently being addressed such as the windows, cost of heating because of the windows, the west side of the house damaged by hail, etc. Lisa K. reported that Joe Brott said having a district house would be our saving grace to bring in someone for an interim time.

7. **NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING—August 23rd, 2016 at 7:00 PM**

8. **ADJOURN**

Action 4

Lisa S. moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53pm. The motion was seconded by Lisa K. and passed unanimously.



LISA KEARNS, CHAIRMAN



PEGGY TOBIN, CLERK

DATE: 4/18/17

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SUNBURST SCHOOL DISTRICT 2
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

April 03, 2017

GUEST LIST

PLEASE SIGN IN!!

NAME	REPRESENTING
JIM WHITEFORD	Tom Hilland
Harcy Koon	Ray Co
Ula Omdahl	Sally Aschim
Jeff + Amanda Nix	Elizabeth Smith
Shannon Dunk	
Annie Dunk	
christopher Blair	
Val McAlpine	
Sara Brown	
Tami Hawehubz	
Crystal McAlpine	
Hilly Hull	
Kim Block	
Q M Casey	
Tal Bar	
Utta Dunk	
Colleen Hilland	
Thy J. Watters	
Alex Aschim	