

RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE REOPENING OF THE APPLETON PRISON

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the State of Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is housing 560 inmates in county jails where they cannot receive critical rehabilitation services available in State correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections projects the State of Minnesota's prison population will grow by at least 500 inmates by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is seeking \$141.5 million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction of a 500-bed expansion at Minnesota Correctional Facility, Rush City to accommodate projected prison population growth; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota would incur additional costs such as interest, debt service, maintenance, and annual operating costs associated with expanding Minnesota Correctional Facility, Rush City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton is home to a vacant and well-maintained 1,600-bed prison; and

WHEREAS, 350 people from 24 surrounding counties worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 million for the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, many ancillary businesses in the region and their workers benefitted when the Appleton prison was in use; and

WHEREAS, the region offers robust infrastructure to provide rehabilitation services for State of Minnesota inmates and a great quality of life for working families; and

WHEREAS, the cost to the State of Minnesota to lease the Appleton prison is estimated to be \$6-8 million per year, plus annual operating costs; substantially lower than constructing and maintaining new, permanent correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is practical that the State of Minnesota do its due diligence to fairly consider the costs associated with leasing and operating the Appleton prison before constructing new, permanent correctional facilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on November 16, 2015 the Ortonville Board of Education by unanimous roll call vote declared its support for a proposal for the State of Minnesota to lease and operate the Appleton prison with State of Minnesota public employees to provide much needed jobs and economic development for the people of West Central Minnesota and to provide effective services for inmates needed to reduce recidivism.

Ortonville Public School
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 16, 2015

The Ortonville Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the library.

Members Present: Michael Hamson, James Nelson, Jay Ross, Kathi Thymian, and Holly Wellendorf

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jeff Taylor, Julie Schneider, LuAnn Hansen, Joel Stattelmann, Mike Swenson, Betsy Baldry, Beki Hughes, Bill Powell, Mark Baldry, Susan Baldry, Steve Berkner, Rob Foley, Jake Foslien, Kim Quast, Tanny Meyer, Scott Meyer, Missica & Mathew Lowe, Lynell Dwyer, Mindy Peters, Lois Banken, Christine Boyle, Dan Angelo, Janet Molsom, Isaiah Longnecker, Mark Muenchow, Marlowe Klepel, Brent Peterson, Kyla Powell, Stefanie Haugen, Trevor Keller

15-173 Agenda: M/Nelson, S/Hamson and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the following additions: 15-174.2 Add \$24,669.35 to the November 2015 bills for a total of \$414,079.48

15-190 Approve Gymnastics Assistant (Destiny Eastman)

15-174 Consent: M/Ross, S/Wellendorf and unanimously carried to approve the following consent items:

15-174.1 The October 19th, 22nd and November 9th meeting minutes as presented.

15-174.2 Payment of the November 2015 bills in the amount of \$414,079.48

15-174.3 Expenditure/Revenue Summary and Investments

15-174.4 Student Cash Balance Report

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

15-175 Betsy Baldry (Request to Address the School Board): Betsy Baldry's son was a victim of hazing. He had reported bullying incidents in the past and school administration hadn't taken any action to correct the behavior, so he was reluctant to report the hazing. They as a family decided it had to be reported to help solve the issues of hazing and bullying. She is proud of her son for taking action, but reported that he has been severely bullied since his reporting. They have been forced to transfer their son to a different school because he doesn't feel safe in Ortonville anymore. She believes in the power of one and each of us has the power to make a difference. She recommended using SchoolMessenger Quick Tip as a way to encourage bullying reporting. She also volunteered her help to implement any program that would help reduce bullying in our school. The school is currently using SchoolMessenger so it would be an added feature to this program. Supt. Taylor will make the necessary contacts to implement this program.

15-176 Principal's Report: Mr. Stattelmann reported on the following past month's activities: Attendance review meeting, genetic testing by American Screening, Bonanza Geology Day, kindergarten field trip to the Brookings Children's Museum, Ortonville FCCLA team hosted the regional meeting, implementation of the guided reading program and Response to Intervention, Bonanza history education day, administration and counselor attended school law conference. ICU reward day, parent teacher conferences, Veteran's Day program, Dramatic Literature performances, math standards and curriculum review. He also reviewed results of a teacher/student technology survey.

15-177 Referendum: Since the referendum did not pass the District must look at different ways of funding our student's education. Gary Lee, MSBA, suggested that the board consider taking advantage of the \$300

board approved referendum per APU that would need to be approved in July 2016. This along with the \$424 LOR (Local Options Revenue) that the board already approved would give the District a total of \$724. In the referendum brochure the District listed the following items of things that might happen if the operating referendum failed: 1) The School District would need to come back to the voters in the fall of 2016 to seek referendum approval. 2) The District may continue to spend down reserves but this trend cannot last for long. 3) Board would need to consider making various reductions of programs and staffing to help balance the budget. 4) The way Ortonville Schools has done business and educated our students will change if this does not pass. Supt. Taylor asked the board how they wanted to proceed. If the board chose to do a mail-in ballot the next election could be held in May 2016 a regular election would be the November 2016 general election. A district can only hold one operating levy referendum election per calendar year unless they are in SOD. Bill Powell recommendations: Keep it simple; get students involved; go to the public don't expect the public to come to you. Marlowe Klepel said the public wants accountability.

15-178 Negotiations Update: The negotiators have had 10 meetings and have not reached an agreement. OEA refused the board's final offer of 6.006% over two years. On Monday, November 9, 2015 Supt. Taylor was notified by Mr. Foley, OEA president, that OEA had filed for mediation.

15-179 SW/WC Service Coop Board of Directors Voting Ballots: SW/WC Service Coop Board of Directors voting ballot were completed by all attending board members.

15-180 Acknowledge \$12,000 Donation from the Ortonville Public School Foundation for the Auditorium Seat Project: The board acknowledged a \$12,000 donation from the Ortonville School Foundation to offset expenses from the auditorium seat project.

ACTION ITEMS:

15-181 Approve Date to Hold Special Election to Fill School Board Vacancy: M/Nelson, S/Ross and unanimously carried to set May 17, 2016 as the date of the special election to fill the school board vacancy with two polling places being open from 12-8 PM.

15-182 Review and Approve the World's Best Workforce Summary Report: M/Hamson, S/Nelson to approve the "World's Best Workforce" summary report as presented. Opposed: Wellendorf. Wellendorf felt the goals needed to be more defined and measurable. The board scheduled a working meeting on Monday, November 30, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the library to more thoroughly define student achievement goals.

15-183 Approve Final Audit Report: M/Nelson, S/Hamson and unanimously carried to approve the FY2015 audit report as presented and the actuarial valuation as presented at the September meeting.

15-184 Resignation of Chris Fellows (Jr. High Girls' Basketball Coach): M/Ross, S/Wellendorf and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Chris Fellows as Jr. High Girls Basketball Coach.

15-185 Resignation of Kelly Gustafson (Assistant Gymnastics Coach): M/Wellendorf, S/Hamson and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Kelly Gustafson as Assistant Gymnastics Coach.

15-186 Resolution in Support of the Lease and Operation of the Appleton Prison by the State of Minnesota: M/Nelson, S/Hamson and by roll call vote unanimously carried to approve a resolution in support of the lease and operation of the Appleton Prison by the State of Minnesota. They are looking for area support for the prison in Appleton as this provides many jobs for the area.

15-187 Amend Policy 533 Wellness: M/Ross, S/Nelson and unanimously carried to approve Policy 533 Wellness as presented. The following was added to the existing policy: The school district discourages the use of budget funds for the purchase of foods unless they meet the USDA Smart Snack rules. Supt. Taylor

also reviewed the Wellness Year Summary that detailed 2014-15 changes and activities in the Food Service Program. This is a new requirement for School Food Service Programs.

15-188 Approve Pre-School Para Position Contract with Milissa Dick: M/Hamson, S/Nelson and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Milissa Dick as a pre-school para. This position will be funded with Department of Education Pathway II scholarship grant money. The position will begin November 19th and end when preschool ends in the spring.

15-189 Approve Boys Basketball Cheer Advisor (Tierra Hansen): M/Wellendorf, S/Hamson and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Tierra Hansen as basketball cheer advisor. The cheering squad will only be cheering at home and tournament games with practices on away game days.

15-190 Approved Gymnastics Assistant (Destiny Eastman): M/Nelson, S/Wellendorf and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Destiny Eastman as gymnastics assistant.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Board Member's Reports: Ross: attended Veteran's day program and was impressed with student conduct at the program.

Superintendent's Report: Prairie Five has requested our permission to add heat to the old bus garage where they store their buses. They will incur all costs for the installation and monthly costs to provide heat. Their current monthly garage rent is \$375. They have agreed to pay an additional \$35 per month during the winter months to cover any additional electrical fees. Administration met with Cathy Myrla, SW/WC Service Coop, to begin the process of reviewing math curriculum and standards in grade 7-12. An outside review was a recommendation from the "World's Best Workforce Committee Meeting". Ms. Myrla has been instrumental in improving our elementary reading curriculum. Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 19 and 24. Early out is scheduled for November 25. November 26-27 is Thanksgiving break.

Upcoming Opportunities: MSBA Leadership Conference is scheduled for January 14th and 15th.

Confirm Meeting Dates:

M/ Nelson, S/Hamson and unanimously carried to change the times for the Monday, December 21, 2015 meeting as follows: Regular Board Meeting (5:30) & Truth-In-Taxation Meeting (7:00) PM

Adjourn: 9:06 PM

Kathi Thymian, Chair

Jay Ross, Clerk