

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

Type: Regular

Place: St. Joe Campus – Administration Building

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Date: April 15, 2019

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

Members Absent: None

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

Ben Taylor made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 27, 2019 Regular Board meeting and the April 3, 2019 Special Board meeting as presented. Donald Morris second the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Saylor reported the March 2019 month end financials of the District with an ending bank balance of \$1,567,834.43. Travis Freeman requested that for future meetings, a prior year comparison be made available to the Board. Donald Morris made the motion that the Board accept the Financial Report for March 2019, Mona Elliott second the motion and motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Norman Hill was then asked to share with the Board any updates to the financial status of the district and his prediction of funding for the minimum wage increase for classified personnel and the wage increase(s) for certified personnel, as the result of the passing of HB 1145. Mr. Hill stated that currently there is no funding source on how the districts will sustain the increases, and that 123 school districts in the state of Arkansas (99 with < than 1,000 in student enrollment) will face significant financial hardships by the end of the four year mandated raises. Mr. Hill believes that in order for OMSD to survive, the District will have to change their mode of thinking and “hunker down” for at least two years, and then re-evaluate. His recommendations to the Board were to not increase any expenditures, possibly consolidate to one campus, and to talk to our local Senators and Representatives. After fielding questions from the Board, Mr. Saylor thanked Mr. Hill for this time and expertise on the matter.

Next on the agenda was Personnel Policy. Mr. Saylor recommended that the Board accept the Certified Policy Manual and Salary Schedule as presented to the Board and approved by the Certified PPC. Ben Taylor made the motion to accept, Donald Morris second the motion and the motion passed. Mr. Saylor recommended that the Board accept the Classified Staff PPC Manual with revisions to Policy 8.6 – Sick Leave Bank. Travis Freeman made the motion to accept as revised, Brad Gibson second, motion passed.

Mr. Saylor shared with the Board a survey that was drafted to send to all employees of Ozark Mountain School District. The survey pertained to a 4-Day School week and requested employee input. Ben Taylor asked if there would be any cost-savings to the 4-day week and Mr. Saylor stated that we probably would not know the cost-savings for at least a year. However, a 4-day week potentially could be an attractive incentive to recruit and retain good teachers and additional students. Mr. Saylor stated if OMSD decided to try the 4-day school week, it would not be implemented for at least another year. The Board agreed that surveying the employees of the District would be a good idea to provide feedback; Mr. Saylor will email survey by the end of the week.

Donald Morris made the motion that the Board move into Executive Session at 6:29 p.m., Travis Freeman second the motion, and the Board moved into Executive Session.

Travis Freeman made the motion that the Board reconvene at 7:02 p.m., Ben Taylor second the motion and the Board resumed regular session.

Mr. Saylor made the recommendation to accept the resignation of Mrs. Kelsie Smith as Kindergarten Teacher at Bruno-Pyatt. Mona Elliott made the motion to accept the resignation as presented, Donald Morris second, motion passed.

Mr. Saylor made the recommendation to hire Mr. Josh Manes as the Part-Time Boys Basketball Coach at Western Grove with a 190-day contract and 3 periods per day. Travis Freeman made the motion to accept the recommendation as presented, Brad Gibson second the motion, motion unanimously passed.

With no general discussion, Mona Elliott made the motion to adjourn, Travis Freeman second the motion, and meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m..

The next regular Board meeting for Ozark Mountain School District is scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted.

Board President, Mr. Jesse Rose

Board Vice President, Mr. Ben Taylor