School Board Committee: Instructional

Date: December 15, 2008

Committee Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Chair, Chris Casko, Martin Honigberg, Jennifer Patterson

Other Board Members Present: Betty Hoadley, Megan DeVorsey

Administration: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Larry Prince, George Rogers

Board Members-Elect Present: Jack Dunn

Staff: Nancy Siff and Heidi Fyfe – Elementary Reading Specialists

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Instructional Trust
The first issue was a request from the Superintendent to withdraw $48,000 from the instructional trust to purchase literacy materials for the elementary schools. Ms. Siff and Ms. Fyfe explained that these materials are designed to help at-risk students increase their rates of learning in literacy. These materials are known as a “leveled literacy intervention” and are designed for a teacher and a group of three students. Classroom and Special Ed teachers will be trained to use these materials with their students. Ms. Siff reported that she has been trained and is piloting these materials with some of her students and has seen much success. She highly recommends this purchase.

Mr. Casko made a motion, seconded by Ms. Patterson, that the Instructional Committee recommend to the full Board that $48,000 be taken from the Instructional Trust to purchase these “leveled literacy intervention” materials. The motion carried on a 4-0 vote.

RMS Wrestling Coach
The second issue was a request from principal George Rogers to add another assistant RMS wrestling coach this year due to enrollment numbers. The funding for this position would come from the reallocation of budgeted funds not spent on other athletic coaching positions. In addition, the committee heard a status report on RMS athletic and intramural programs. Any requests for program additions for the 2009-2010 school year will be presented as part of the 2009-2010 budget process.

Principal Rogers reviewed the sections of school board policy #690.1 (Athletic Philosophy and Guidelines) pertaining to RMS as well as the recommendations of the National Associations of Middle Schools pertaining to athletics and intramurals. After discussion, the committee recommended that Principal Rogers develop a more specific philosophy and guidelines for RMS athletics and present specific recommendations for the committee to consider.
Ms. Patterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Honigberg, to add the additional RMS wrestling coaching position at a stipend of $1,049 for the 2008–2009 season. The motion carried on a 4-0 vote.

The meeting adjoined at 6:30 p.m.

Kass Ardinger, Chair  
Robert B. Prohl, Recorder

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