SMS Board Work Session 4-6-16

Call to order 5:20pm by Greg Bloomfield

A work session of the Syringa Mountain School Board of Directors was held at 4021 Glenbrook Drive in Hailey, Idaho on April 6, 2016. Board Member Attendees included Greg Bloomfield, Phoebe Pilaro, Bobbi Filbert, Stefanie O’Neill, Amy Jonas, Jessica Banks, and Randy Flood. Also in attendance were Julie Evans and Kristin Funk . Board Members not in attendance included Ben Rogers. Taking minutes in the absence of Svea Grover was Stefanie O’Neill

Phoebe Pilaro requested that Greg Bloomfield bring the board up to date as to where Syringa Mountain School (SMS) and the Blaine County School District (BCSD) are at on negotiating H0570. Greg stated that the BCSD has acknowledged receipt of the requested documents as of 3pm on April 6th, 2016. Gwen Carol Holmes sent an email to Greg requesting physical addresses of all enrolled students in order to proceed with consideration of the SMS request. Greg emailed Gwen Carol back asking her to proceed with due diligence and let her know that SMS would have the addresses by Friday.

Greg also stated that he called BCSD Trustee Liz Corker and asked that the BCSD move forward with due diligence and put this matter on the April 20th agenda. Shawn Bannion had responded to Greg via email, saying that the addresses are necessary to figure out bussing, etc… Greg asked Shawn to start due diligence immediately.

Amy Jonas asked why SMS does not have the students address on file. Greg answered that Svea Grover stated that we only have some of them on file. Greg said that Svea sent an email out to the student body, requesting physical address as soon as possible. Stefanie O’Neill offered to come into the office and call parents who had not responded so as to meet the Friday deadline for physical addresses. Bobbi, Randy, Amy, Greg, Phoebe, Jessica, and Greg agreed that this is a good idea as time is running out.

Phoebe asked if the Board Members present had read the email from Tamara Baysinger with the Public Charter School Commission. Most answered in the affirmative. Greg said he called Tamara earlier in the day but had not heard back.

Phoebe asked to speak. She acknowledged that no one on the board is an education specialist and that that is what the Board needs at this point. Phoebe stated that she feels that Dr. Mary Gervase is best qualified to handle the coordination of H0570 for SMS. Bobbi Filbert said that Mary’s organization skills would be beneficial to SMS at this time. Amy Jonas, Greg Randy Flood, Stefanie O’Neill, Kristen Funk, Jessica Banks, and Julie Evans agreed. Stefanie said that in her brief dealings with Mary she found her very on point, knowledgeable, and easy to work with. Phoebe then offered to personally pay Mary as a consultant to lead the H0570 campaign. Phoebe said she met with Mary earlier in the day and that Mary agreed to take the job if it were offered. Greg asked Phoebe how much it would cost to hire Mary. Phoebe said $5,000. Phoebe also said that Chris Pilaro would be contributing as well. Greg asked that the checks be made to SMS and that SMS pay Mary directly. Phoebe agreed.

Motion

Jessica Banks made a motion to hire Dr. Mary Gervase as an independent consultant to guide and lead Syringa Mountain School in negotiations on H0570.

Bobbi Filbert seconded the motion.

Any Discussion: No.

Ayes: Greg Bloomfield, Randy Flood, Jessica Banks, Amy Jonas, Stefanie O’Neill, Bobbi Filbert, and Phoebe Pilaro.

Nays: None

Motion Passes

Bobbi said that H0570 is a very confusing bill and that SMS needs talking points… Julie Evans suggested that we write talking points on post cards. Talking points suggestions were:

\* Syringa is asking for an equitable and fair distribution of funds to benefit all of the public school children in Blaine County.

\* Adding Syringa to the Blaine County SD portfolio of schools will assure their position as the Leader in education for the State of Idaho

\* Syringa is a niche school in Blaine County

\* Not very education system is going to work even amongst children in the same family.

\* Syringa fills the need for a tuition free alternative to the Community School

\* Syringa is looking forward to working with the BCSD to forward public education within Blaine County.

Bobbi asked Stefanie O’Neill to email the talking points to Mary. Stefanie agreed.

Greg stated that because Terry Ryan wrote the bill he would be a strong person to have speak to the BCSD on the behalf of SMS, along with Congresswoman Wendy Horman. Kristen Funk agreed. Phoebe suggested that now might be a good time to finish filling the Board. Bobbi said that she feels things might be too complicated with Ho570 to do that at this time. Stefanie and Amy agreed.

Bobbi suggested that we start a list of people to speak at the BCSD meeting. Discussion turned to how many can speak. Bobbi believes that 5 people can each speak for 3 minutes. If someone goes over that time is taken off of the 15 minute total. Stefanie suggested that we ensure that the speakers stay on message and keep everything positive.

Randy asked when we would know if SMS was on the agenda for the April 19th meeting of the BCSD. Greg said that he was confident that we had the two trustees to put us on the agenda and he is under the impression that the due diligence process has started.

Bobbi asked if the Board thought that Ellie Gilbreath would do another story on KDPI. Greg said he could ask. Julie Evans suggested that Greg and Mary sit down with Tony Evans and Greg Foley of the Idaho Mountain Express. Phoebe asked who had received the press release. Stefanie stated that it was sent to The Weekly Sun, Idaho Mountain Express, NPR Boise, KTVB, KBOI, KMVT, Eye on Sun Valley, Sun Valley Magazine, Idaho Statesman, and Magic Valley Times News.

Bobbi stated that time is of the essence and asked if the board should meet prior to the scheduled April 13th work session. Greg will talk to Mary and see if she can meet sooner. He will get back to everyone.

The work session was adjourned 6:20pm until the April 13th, 2016 work session, unless Greg is able to arrange a meeting sooner.

Submitted by: Stefanie O’Neill – SMS Board