

DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES FOR MARCH 12th, 2015
BOARD MEETING

Policy Meeting
Professional Development Room

March 12th, 2015
5:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The Dolores School Board meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. on March 12th, 2015.
- II. ROLL CALL - Members present were: Vangi McCoy, Dee Prock, Deanna Truelsen, and Linnea Vass. Joye McHenry was not in attendance. Sherri Maxwell, Elementary Principal, Brandon Thurston, MS/HS Principal, Jimmie Lankford, Assistant Principal, Tammy Hooten, Business Manager, Scott Cooper, Superintendent, and several parents, students, and community members were also in attendance.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Dee Prock to amend the agenda and place policy GCBA-E, Administrative Staff Salary / Compensation on hold until the next meeting.
Votes: McCoy-aye; Prock-aye; Truelsen-aye, Vass, aye.

IV. POLICIES:

CODE	TOPIC	READING
IKF	Graduation Requirements	HOLD
GCBA-E-3	Administrative Staff Salary / Compensation	HOLD
JICH♦	Drug & Alcohol Use by Students	HOLD
JICH-R	Drug & Alcohol Use by Students - regulation	HOLD
† New Policy ♦ Required by law		

The following policies were discussed in detail:

IKF – Graduation Requirements – Dr. Cooper explained to the audience the recent history of this policy and why the policy was being reviewed. He also asked for input on the policy from the audience. Mr. Gordanier, the High School Ag teacher gave several documents to the Board and administration. He asked if they had any questions about them as they relate to Ag classes counting toward Math and Science credits. Ms. Prock asked how many Ag. class students the current policy applied to. Mr. Gordanier stated that there were five students last year, three of which substituted four years of Ag. classes for one Science credit. He stated that he would have to check to see how many of those students went on to college. Five students will qualify this year, but four of those don't need to substitute the credits. The ACT scores handout that Mr. Gordanier provided shows that the students that took Ag. Math and Science classes had comparable ACT scores to those that did not. Mr. Thurston stated that there are two to three students per year that waive the credits, but that the changes being recommended to the graduation policy are bigger than just the Ag. piece. What is needed, is to clean up the language regarding 7th graders taking High School Algebra classes. Currently there are Middle School

regarding 7th graders taking High School Algebra classes. Currently there are Middle School students taking other High School classes besides Algebra. The district wants to honor those students by giving High School credits. This would support students by enabling them to move further academically more quickly. Currently the policy reads that only 8th graders taking Algebra I would get High School credit. The current policy also states that classes taken in Middle School will not count toward the High School GPA. It was discovered that it is being counted toward the GPA. Mr. Thurston said that this is affecting seventeen High School students, so Ms. Dibsie, the Registrar, has cleaned that up in the PowerSchool database. Mr. Thurston provided the Board with a handout, and talked about the recent discussion with staff members regarding Band members getting ¼ credit per season towards P.E. requirements, and Ag. students receiving 1 Math or Science credit after completion of 4 years of Ag. There was a split vote amongst the staff regarding the Ag. credits. Mr. Thurston brought up the point that the state is requiring students to be tested on Algebra II, regardless of whether they have taken the class or not (Dolores does not require Algebra II to graduate). Also, teachers will be evaluated in part on the test scores. Several parents discussed their concerns about changes to the Graduation Policy. Mrs. Nelligan's concerns were 1. The Middle School classes for High School credit, 2. P.E. credit and sports, 3. Ag. – she read part of a letter her husband wrote addressing this issue. She also stated that most students that take the four years of Ag., go into Ag. careers, not on to college. 4. Class ranking – Dolores honors classes are on a 5.0 scale, where colleges are on a 4.0 scale. Why? Dr. Cooper explained that there are too many issues with this policy to solve tonight, so he would like the Board to put the policy on hold for now.

A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen to form a committee of parents, students, teachers, and administration to study policy IKF and come up with a recommendation that will be equitable for all students. The Board would like to hear from the committee on a regular basis with recommendation made to the Board in March 2016.

Discussion: Mr. Thurston stated that the following changes that were not disputed need to be made right away so that current and future students can benefit from them: All students who have completed a **High School class** with a "C" or better **prior to their Freshman year** will earn one Pass credit. This credit will show on the high school transcript; however, it will not count toward **the required credits** necessary for graduation or the students' High School GPA.

Mr. Tallmadge discussed the need for a Consumer Math class. Mr. Mellott asked whether the state or districts chose the assessments, and if the assessments are under local control, why couldn't the district eliminate the Algebra II portion of the assessment so that teachers wouldn't have to be evaluated on those scores.

Mrs. Maxwell recommended having several committees made up of interested parties (including parents and students) address each issue of policy IKF, such as one committee studying the Ag. credits, one studying the P.E. credits, etc. These committees would report their findings to the Board when the policy is addressed again.

Mrs. Truelsen amended her motion to include the changes to policy IKF discussed above – to include "a High School class" (rather than just Algebra), "prior to Freshman year" (rather than just 8th grade), and "the required credits" (rather than just 3 Math credits). Vangi McCoy seconded the motion.

Votes: McCoy-aye; Prock-aye; Truelsen-aye, Vass, aye.

GCBA-E-3 – Administrative Staff Salary / Compensation – Due lack of time, and as per the motion under Approval of the Agenda, GCBA-E-3 will continue to be on hold until the next board meeting.

manual, and that they just need to know if alcohol is detected, not the specific reading. Mrs. Truelsen asked what happens if a student doesn't pass. Mr. Thurston stated that the parents are notified, and the SRO will be there. The dance will be set up so that other students wouldn't see what happens to those that don't pass the breathalyzer test.

The discussion was running into the time set for the regular board meeting, so further discussions were cut short.

A motion was made by Deana Truelsen and seconded by Dee Prock to approve the purchase of the needed breathalyzers and add an amendment to the policy JICH that states all students will be required to take a breathalyzer test as a condition of admission to school sponsored dances and celebrations in accordance with policy.

Votes: McCoy-aye; Prock-aye; Truelsen-aye, Vass, aye.

V. ADJOURNMENT WAS AT 6:10 p.m.


Board President 4-9-15
Date


Board Secretary 4-9-15
Date