

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION
 REDFORD UNION SCHOOLS, DISTRICT NO. 1
 September 17, 2007

A special meeting of the Redford Union Board of Education was held September 17, 2007, in the Auditorium at Redford Union High School, 17711 Kinloch, Redford Township, Michigan. President Pytel called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Present: Brenner, Caloia, Gubachy, Isabell, Pytel, Wujcik

Absent: Calvert

President Pytel read a letter submitted by Calvert to the audience.

Superintendent Rhodes spoke to:

- The change in location for the special meeting and the posting of notice to the public.
- Community input and additional special meetings for input if needed.
- Rules governing public input on the proposed dress code change and encouraged anyone interested to speak.

MOVED by Isabell, seconded by Caloia, to approve the agenda of the September 17, 2007 special meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

- Marie Gazley, 18227 Indian, school administrators need to enforce current dress code. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Chris Gazley, 18227 Indian, unfair to punish the kids that follow the dress code. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Stacey Rumptz, 18515 Garfield, opposed to school uniforms

Superintendent Rhodes assured the audience that a vote was not going to take place at this meeting. That the proposed plan is for the 2008-2009 school year. That the community will have input and will be heard before a decision is made.

Isabell commented that she was the one that brought up the vote on school uniforms. Isabell stated there was a miscommunication and that she was trying to get clarification on the process.

Pytel explained the Board policy act that would require a first reading, an open meeting, and a second reading. Looking for input and concerns of the community.

- Linda Kick, 19480 Nagaunee, brought examples of school uniforms

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Special Meeting
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I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. President
Remarks

IV. Superintendent
Remarks

V. Adoption of
Agenda

VI. Open Input
From the
Community on
the District
Dress
Code/Uniform

Superintendent's
Comment

Isabell Comment

President Pytel
Comment

and spoke regarding the affordable expense. In favor of school uniforms.

- Shawn Banks, 17438 Indian, in favor of appropriate dress and school dress code but not a school uniforms.
- Emily Lewandowski, 20555 Centralia, not everyone should be punished for the few that choose to break the current dress code. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Leeann Burr, 18522 Indian, opposed to school uniforms.
- Joseph Fielder, 8836 Pierson, enforce the current dress code, opposed to school uniforms.
- Wade Natho, 20020 Bennett, large part of the district is lower income and feels it will cost more to cloth children in uniforms. Enforce current dress code, opposed to school uniforms.
- Peggy Elequin, 25441 Southwick, root of problem is that administrators are not enforcing dress code and parents are allowing children to leave the house not dressed appropriately. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Allison Schmidt, 18689 Five Points, brought a petition from the swim team to oppose school uniforms. Teachers do not enforce current dress code.
- Michael Miville, 20461 Norborne, has attended schools with both uniforms and enforced dress codes. Attitudes of students that do wear uniforms are rude. Enforce current dress code, opposed to school uniforms.
- Kathleen Bisaro, 18720 Seminole, not for or against uniforms but aware of the difficulty in enforcing dress code in the building.
- Michael Darcangelo, 17203 Ryland, strongly for a strictly enforced dress code. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Stephanie Folk, 20469 Norborne, concerned with the cost of uniforms and the self expression of students. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Rebecca DeGrand, 20523 Gaylord, concerned with the cost of uniforms and opposed to school uniforms.
- Laurie Green, Sumner, feels there should have been an agenda for the special meeting and information for the audience. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Rebekah McCurry, 20539 Gaylord, opposed to school uniforms.
- Joseph Azovrovitz, 15810 Woodworth, enforce the current dress code. Parental involvement needed. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Lisa Santti, 17706 Centralia, Opposes school uniforms.
- Kenneth Morgan, 17661 Fox, more time should be spent on class room size not revisit school uniforms. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Lamond Wheeler, 19544 Olympia, enforce the current dress code, opposed to school uniforms.
- Thalia Wheeler, 19544 Olympia, opposes school uniforms.
- Debbie Miracle, 17422 Delaware, would like it explained why the Board of Education is pursuing school uniforms when the community does not want it. enforce current dress code, opposed to school uniforms.
- Lavinea Lavelly, 16811 Lenore, the community is not financially able

to institute a mandated school uniform. Teachers need to enforce current dress code, opposed to school uniforms.

- Mark Wierimar, 25369 Ivanhoe, current dress code is not being enforced. The board should have a proposal with a first and second reason and then put it to a vote at an election. Opposed to school uniforms.
- Christopher Brown, no address given, current dress code should be enforced. Opposed to school uniform.
- Tina Kleinknecht, 16662 Negaunee, enforce current dress code, opposed to school uniforms. With petitions of 200 signatures of people that are opposed to school uniforms.
- Nolan Langell, 16978 Nareborne, opposes school uniforms due to the cost and the loss of self expression.
- Leonard Wemette-Leff, 19921 Wakenden, students should be comfortable in school and it is very hot in the upper floors of the high school. Opposes school uniforms.
- Chelsea Marlow, 19354 Denby, parent involvement needed, enforce current dress code, opposed to school uniforms.

Caloia stated that the reason she addressed this issue is because of her experience with Redford Union High School student interns from last school year. Caloia addressed the high school students regarding their dress and then addressed the instructor. Caloia feels that if the staff cannot enforce the current dress code the board has no choice but to institute a school uniform policy. Upon further research Caloia found that there has been a 50% increase in violent crimes in this district. Caloia referenced Long Beach California where there was a 43% reduction in school suspensions after moving to a school uniform. The pros of instituting uniforms is that it increases class room behavior, aids in higher academics, provides a sense of unity. Caloia states that students can express themselves in dress on the weekends.

Caloia commen

Superintendent
Rhodes Comment

Superintendent Rhodes spoke to the benefits of the Alternative Ed Program. Pearson has been a success for students that might not do well in a larger setting.

Superintendent Rhodes thanked the parents for their input and asked for the parent support regarding the current dress code.

General Comments

David Battistelli spoke as a teacher from the district and asked the Board to consider telling the student what they can't wear not what they should wear. Battistelli feels that issues such as funding are much more important to address than school uniforms.

Karen Moran, High School principal clarified a shortage of books that have now been ordered. Ms. Moran invited parents to open meetings that she has posted in the newsletter to address concerns and issues.

Additional comments were taken from the audience that continued the
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sentiment to enforce the current dress code and opposed school uniforms.

MOVED by Isabell, seconded by Caloia to adjourn the meetings at 9:07 p.m. Ayes all. Motion carried.

VII. Adjourned to a closed session

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Gubachy, Secretary

Redford Union Board of Education

/vmg