

WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION
 REDFORD UNION SCHOOLS, DISTRICT NO. 1
 May 19, 2008

Work Study Meeting
 5/19/08
 Call to Order

A work study meeting of the Redford Union Board of Education was held May 19, 2008, in the Gymnasium at MacGowan Elementary, 18255 Kinloch, Redford Township, Michigan, 48240. President Gubachy called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Present: Brenner, Caloia, Calvert, Gubachy, Pytel

Roll Call

Absent: Isabell, Wujcik

MOVED by Pytel, seconded by Calvert to adopt the agenda of the May 19, 2008 work study session as presented. Ayes: All. Motion: Carried.

Adoption of
 Agenda

MOVED by Pytel, seconded by Brenner to waive the reading and approve the May 12, 2008 open and closed minutes of the Redford Union Board of Education as amended. Ayes: All. Motion: Carried.

Approve
 Minutes

Kathy Robbins, Principal of MacGowan Elementary thanked the Board of Education and the Superintendent for taking the time to come celebrate “what is right in Redford” with the MacGowan staff and parents. Ms. Robbins thanked the literacy specialist Laura Dorais and Brooke Munson for their work on the Powerpoint presentation created for this evening to exemplify the vision that Children and Education is our passion here at MacGowan.

Kindergarten through
 1st Grade Curriculum

Ms. Robbins highlighted the forest, zoo, ocean themed hallways that have been created by staff artist and the continued work to include flipper, chick-a-chick-a-boom-boom and other works in progress. All rooms have universal alphabet and word walls. The goal is to maintain a consistent routine with adults at every door to greet students with a positive word every morning. From the pledge to a song to care rules the students are exposed to positive re-enforcement. An important part of the curriculum is called Education through Music, it educates through song experience and game movement and helps children develop in relationships, rhyming and literacy. There are currently 16 staff members trained. 1st graders have a 90 minute block for literacy instruction. Reading is celebrated all the time at MacGowan but in the month of March it was a school wide event ending with a cumulated Powerpoint of pictures and a visit from the farm animals. One challenge that the building professionals work with is the large class sizes of 29 – 32. As a team of creative professionals a Kindergarten rotation program and a Kindergarten literacy program have been developed and implemented. Many outstanding special education programs are available including hearing impaired, autistic programs and self contained special education classrooms. There are parent volunteers that help out throughout the building. There is an outstanding student intern program with Redford

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Union High School. Large motor skills are stressed and motor moms and dads assist in that program. At risk students are assessed to provide instructional support where needed. MacGowan is a school dedicated to excellence. Ms. Robbins thanked her staff for their hard work and dedication.

Ms. Robbins spoke regarding the developmentally kindergarten or young fives program. There is a lot of interest in a full day kindergarten by parents yet very costly for a school district. Offering such a program will be cost effective because the district will be given the state foundation allowance for the student in the developmentally kindergarten. It will keep more residents in the district with a program of this kind. Currently most residents request wavers from the Superintendent and attend Livonia who have a young fives program. Ms. Robbins would like to offer one session for the 2008-2009 school year with a class size of 16 -18 students.

MOVED by Pytel, seconded by Caloia to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.
Ayes all. Motion carried

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Cozette Calvert, Secretary
Redford Union Board of Education