

Public Hearing

July 21, 2010

Mr. Rice called the July 21, 2010 public hearing meeting of the Eastern Local Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Eichinger, present; Mr. Rice, present; Mr. Hall, present; Mr. Will, present.

PUBLIC HEARING: The purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing regarding the potential re-hiring of retired employees Mr. Howie Caldwell and Mr. Archie Rose.

Mr. Rose spoke on his behalf. He has enjoyed his tenure at Eastern Local School District. He thanked the board and administration for their support. Mr. Rose would like to offer his services to the district in the future in whatever capacity the board would approve. He does not want to stand in the way of any progress. The example given would be the addition of Spanish to the curriculum and the transfer request of Ms. Marten.

Mrs. Taylor arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Kirk Reed spoke on the behalf of Mr. Rose. Mr. Reed spoke highly of Mr. Rose and the past 14 years they have worked together in the social studies department. Mr. Reed speaks as a mediator to present a possible solution that would be of interest to all parties, Mr. Rose and Ms. Marten. Mr. Reed spoke of creating a part-time position within the social studies department that would only be filled for two to three years during the transition from French to Spanish. Mr. Rose could fill this part-time position and Ms. Marten could be transferred into the vacant full-time social studies position.

Mrs. Paula Morrison spoke on behalf of both individuals. Mrs. Morrison has two children attending Eastern High School. Both children have passed all portions of the OGT. Mr. Rose and Mr. Caldwell both exhibit concern and compassion for the children at the high school. It is important to have their presence in the building to greet the students. It is also important to have a varsity coach in the building for the athletes to see each day and be encouraged to perform at their academic best.

Mrs. Gail Swatzel spoke on behalf of both individuals. Mrs. Swatzel's children are open enrolled into our district from Alexander Local. They chose to come to Eastern due to the academic quality of the district. When they chose the school her oldest daughter, now attending the University of Rio Grande majoring in pre-med, researched all the districts in the area and Eastern Local had the highest test scores of the other districts. Her younger daughter presently attends the district. She is not the most academic student, but Mr. Caldwell pushes her to succeed.

Mr. Eichinger asked Mr. Reed what his average class size was in social studies this past school year. Mr. Reed estimated the average size was 22 to 24 students. Mr. Eichinger asked if all the students had passed their OGT in social studies. Mr. Reed responded they had not. Mr. Eichinger added it is vital that teachers are involved in many facets of a student's life both curricular and extra-curricular.

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Mr. Will asked of the contract had provisions for part-time instructors. Mr. Edward stated the inclusion clause of the contract mentions part-time instructors, but the suggestion of part-time was not accepted well by ELEA a few years back. Mrs. Ritchie added the contract does not clearly define what benefits would be extended to a part-time position. The insurance benefits of a family plan are close to \$20,000. Mrs. Smith responded that ELEA would consider a MOU to address these needs.

Mr. Eichinger commented the transition period of a new employee is a crucial time. Research shows we don't do a good job during this transition. A part-time employee could make this transition better. Mr. Edwards discussed the district's finances. We deficit spent this past year by approximately \$170,000. Mr. Eichinger said that was a good point and maybe at this time we could not afford to transition into a different foreign language. Maybe we need to stick to the basics and make the best choices for our students.

Mrs. Beverly Maxson spoke. Mrs. Maxon has two children that have been involved with the district. One child has graduated and one attends Eastern High School. Mrs. Maxson stressed the need to consider the experience both men have and can offer the students. If the district needs to make cuts; the district should look in areas beyond instruction, particularly in areas that have increased over the past few years.

The board recessed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. for a short break before beginning the regular meeting.

President

Treasurer