

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, April 21, 2008**

Mr. David Powell called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education of U.S.D. 487 at 7:00 p.m. April 21, 2008. Board members and other staff present were: Mr. Bret Beye, Mr. Alan Stuart, Mr. Rod Erickson, Mrs. Diana Floyd, Mr. Phil Brockmeier, Mrs. Stacey Berndt, Superintendent John Thissen, and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The minutes of the March 27, 2008 special meeting was removed from Agenda Item 2. Mrs. Stacey Berndt moved (Brockmeier) to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rod Erickson moved (Floyd) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 24, 2008 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Phil Berndt spoke regarding requests made to the Board by two individuals now attending the Adult Learning Center, to attend the May 2008 graduation ceremony. He asked that the Board pay special attention when considering these requests as it relates to the intent of the Adult Learning Center.

Mrs. Anita Skelton addressed the Board on the "red room" and the effect this room has on her child as well as other elementary age children when a discipline issues arises. She asked the Board to consider finding an alternative solution.

Ms. Dicey Durham voiced her concerns with the lack of training provided to staff when dealing with military families in the District. She suggested resource packets as a form of information and training in the future. Mr. David Powell asked that Mr. Thissen research this concern and come back to the Board with suggestions.

4. PARENTS AS TEACHERS REPORT

Mrs. Renae Riedy was present to update the Board on the recent Self-Assessment Site Audit that took place. This is a state required visit whose purpose is to identify the strengths of the group and see where improvements can be made. She discussed several standards they reviewed, noted the many strengths the program has and where work was needed.

5. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rich DeMont reported on the following items at the Elementary

- Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for Friday, May 2nd. There are approximately 30 kids expected to attend.
- A list of class field trips through the end of the year were presented

- Kansas Assessment testing was completed April 11 while MAPPS testing will begin the second week of May

Mr. Steve Mies reported on the following activities at the MS/HS

- Junior/Senior prom was held on April 18 with a “Community Prom” following on April 19.
- Five new members were inducted into National Honor Society. They are; Ryan Schlesener, Ronessa Strome, Amanda Vargason, Jake Meyer and Alan Simmons
- The class of Anatomy and Physiology, which is the ITV class taught by Mrs. Kim Coover traveled to KU Medical Center where they met with 3rd year college students
- This year’s 5th grade class will tour the Middle School May 1st in preparation for the 2008-09 school year

Jon Utech reported on the following:

- MAPPS testing will run from April 28 to May 16
- Data entered into the Skyward software is being checked over for problems
- The District is collaborating with Centre regarding Skyward training

6. EDUPHORIA PRESENTATION

Mr. Gene Geissert gave a brief presentation on his role in utilizing the maintenance side of the software. He demonstrated how requests came in and the process to which they are assigned to maintenance or custodial staff until request is completed and a survey is administered.

7. NORTH CENTRAL ACCREDITATION REPORT

Mr. Rich DeMont and Mr. Steve Mies gave summaries regarding the accreditation findings received from Ms. Trudy Salsberry, KSU Professor and the rest of the four member team that did the review. The team will recommend NCA Accreditation for all buildings. A written report should be received in about 20 days.

8. SENIOR TRIP REQUEST

Ms. Elizabeth Beye, Senior President and senior sponsors were present to request the Board to allow a group of seniors and sponsors to travel to Colorado for their senior trip. Phil Brockmeier moved (Berndt) to approve the request. Motion carried 7-0.

9. GRADUATION LIST

A list of HHS Seniors was presented to the Board for approval for the purposes of High School diplomas. Alan Stuart made a motion (Floyd) to approve the list as presented pending all graduation requirements is met. Motion carried 7-0.

10. HERINGTON ADULT LEARNING CENTER REQUESTS

Two requests were submitted by students of the Herington Adult Learning Center, to participate in the HHS graduation ceremony.

A. Executive Session

At 8:05 p.m., Diana Floyd made a motion (Erickson) for the Board to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing matters affecting students; with the Board returning to the open meeting at 8:10 p.m. and that Mr. Thissen attend. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of the individuals; Motion carried 7-0.

Upon returning to the open session, Diana Floyd made a motion (Beye) to approve the request of Mr. Anthony Scott and Mr. Trent Svitak to participate in HHS graduation on May 18, pending fulfillment of all graduation requirements. Mr. Thissen is to develop a policy that addresses this issue for future requests. Motion carried 6-1 with Phil Brockmeier casting the no vote.

11. ADDED SUPPLEMENTAL POSITION

A request was made by Mrs. Julie Albrecht to add a supplemental position for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) at the High School. This was her first year sponsoring the 13 member group. She listed the functions and responsibility of this group and what student competitions are available. The Board asked Mr. John Thissen to meet with Mrs. Albrecht to determine actual time spent out of the normal duty day and look at the State compensation comparisons for the position and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

12. BOND ELECTION

A brief summary was given by John Thissen on activities of the four sub-committees assigned to the Bond Election and what each group was contributing to the effort.

13. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 8:26 p.m., Diana Floyd made a motion (Berndt) for the Board to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel; with the Board returning to the open meeting at 8:50 pm. and that Mr. Thissen attend. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 7-0.

Upon returning to the open session, Diana Floyd moved (Erickson) for the Board to return to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel; and that the Board returns to the open meeting at 8:55 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Employee Overtime

The Board was given the employee overtime report for March 2008 payroll.

C. Action on Personnel

Diana Floyd moved (Beye) to accept the resignations of Valarie Greenemeyer as Elementary aide, Danielle Retzlaff as Middle School English teacher and Kris Burkholder as Middle School Counselor. Motion carried 7-0.

Stacey Berndt moved (Brockmeier) to hire Troy Biehler to the Middle School Science position and Tracy McGuyer as Middle School English teacher. Motion carried 7-0.

Diana Floyd made a motion (Brockmeier) to grant Mrs. Sandra Garrard's request for a personal day on May 23, 2008. Motion carried 7-0.

As required by law, the Board completed the second evaluation of Superintendent John Thissen. Stacey Berndt made a motion (Floyd) to extend the contract of Mr. John Thissen through June 30, 2011. Motion carried 7-0.

14. VEHICLE SCHEDULE

A minivan, suburban and bus needs to be purchased. Mr. John Thissen asked Board members to allow him to obtain bids for all three vehicles. Bret Beye made a motion (Stuart) to allow Mr. Thissen to seek bids for all three vehicles and bring the information back to the Board at the May regular meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

15. TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE

Mr. Jon Utech presented the Board a list of technology equipment being used at all buildings. During the discussion that followed, Mr. Utech briefed them on anticipated hardware and software upgrade needs and informed the Board bids would be obtained and brought to them for approval.

16. ELIGIBILITY

The Board reviewed the eligibility policy that Mr. Mark Cook took back to the committee after suggestions were made at the March Board meeting and revised. Discussion followed and Mr. Cook was asked to return to the committee with suggested changes and present an "improved" policy at the May meeting.

17. CURRICULUM COORDINATION COUNCIL

Mr. John Thissen provided the board with three curriculum courses that needed approval and introduced the art curriculum for review. Mrs. Diana Floyd made a motion (Beye) to approve Accounting II, Statistics and Poetry for the 2008-09 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

18. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

B. Credit Cards

Credit card statements were presented to the Board for all District cardholders.

C. School Property

Morris County sent a valuation notice regarding land in the Latimar area that was erroneously assigned to the District. After discussion with the Rural Vista District and some discussion with the Latimar mayor, it was determined the property belongs to the City of Latimar.

D. Minnesota Trip

Mr. John Thissen informed the Board of a scheduled trip to visit schools in Minnesota May 7-10. The purpose of the trip is to tour and observe the schools that are utilizing the project based learning curriculum.

E. Calendar

Additional preparation is being done on the 2008-09 calendar. Collaboration days are being included due to the request from the NCA visiting team.

F. Summer School Plans

Summer school plans are being outlined and will be presented at the May meeting.

G. TEEN

Mr. Thissen informed the Board there is a push to reorganize TEEN into becoming an inter-local service center. Martin Luther King Day has been labeled a technology in-service for all TEEN Districts.

H. District Wireless Assets

Pete Robertson discussed the District's wireless assets and the lease offer made by Unison Spectrum LLC with Mr. Thissen and gave him names of other law firms that could provide beneficial information.

19. VOUCHERS

Bret Beye made a motion (Brockmeier) to approve all vouchers as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

20. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- A. Classified Handbook Presentation
- B. IBB
- C. State Assessment Results
- D. Military Families
- E. Summer School
- F. Tree Huggers Club
- G. Art Curriculum
- H. Technology

21. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mrs. Diana Floyd distributed a Healthier Herington flyer with information regarding monthly meetings and topic discussions at the meetings.

The Community Prom was a great success and thanks were extended to Ms. Megan Clark for allowing the community to utilize the Prom decorations.

Contacts need to be made with the community promoting the upcoming Bond Election.

22. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:05 p.m., Bret Beye moved (Floyd) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____

David Powell, President

Date: _____