

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, February 18, 2008**

Mrs. Diana Floyd called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education of U.S.D. 487 at 7:00 p.m. February 18, 2008. Board members and other staff present were: Mr. Bret Beye, Mr. Alan Stuart, Mr. Rod Erickson, Mr. Phil Brockmeier, Mrs. Stacey Berndt, Superintendent John Thissen, and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield. Mr. David Powell was absent.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Rod Erickson moved (Beye) to adopt the agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rod Erickson moved (Beye) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 21, 2008 as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

A public “thank you” was given by Mr. Rich DeMont to the City of Herington administration and staff on their willingness and effort in removing snow at the Elementary school and snow routes.

4. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Jon Utech reported on the following:

- State testing in Reading begins February 19 at the High School
- Batteries were replaced in laptops around the buildings
- The server for Skyward arrived and installation of it and the software is scheduled for February 29
- Data has been uploaded to Skyward for evaluation
- Software has been purchased to aid in developing an online “help desk” reporting system for all personnel. The software also produces forms used in requesting leave, expense reimbursement and time sheets.

Mr. Steve Mies, MS/HS Principal reported the following activities:

- The Dickinson County Spelling Bee was held February 13, 2008 in the Herington Middle School gym. Josh Brunner placed 1st in the bee for the second year in a row and will be traveling to the State Spelling Bee in Topeka March 15.
- Announced Josh Patterson is a finalist for the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program and has been offered a full ride scholarship to Kansas University
- HS Scholars Bowl qualified for state but did not advance.
- Five HS athletes qualified for the state wrestling meet in Hays. Senior Darrell Melcher was crowned state champion in his weight division

- Herington Middle School is hosting a wrestling meet tonight

Rich DeMont, Elementary School Principal, reported the following activities:

- Students and faculty attended an assembly on February 8 on the Iditarod Trail Race sponsored by the PTO
- Hoops for Heart raised \$4,252 for the American Heart Association
- Students will be participating in the County Spelling Bee February 13
- Scholastic Book Fair begins on Friday, February 15
- The Salina Coop has agreed to present the faculty with the state's new Multi Tiered Support plan, which is expected to be utilized in the future

5. NCA REPORT

Mrs. Rosann Otte and Mrs. Beth Blackwell reported that the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) visit is scheduled for April 1 and 2. This is the final year of the five year program so all reports and analysis must be completed for the visit. Handouts were then distributed to the Board and explanations of the standards, assessments and analysis procedures were given. Mr. Alan Stuart complimented the committee on the tremendous time and effort put into completing the required reports.

6. SOUTHWEST PLAINS REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER

A motion was made at the January regular meeting regarding the agreement to become members of the Southwest Plains Regional Service Center with a change to the dates within the agreement. Mr. John Thissen explained the membership dates of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 are the standard dates within this agreement and cannot be changed. Stacey Berndt made a motion (Stuart) to accept membership with Southwest Plains Regional Service Center as stated in the original agreement. Motion passed 6-0.

7. HERINGTON SCHOOL'S WIRELESS ASSETS

An offer was made by Unisom Wireless Inc to lease the four wireless frequencies the District owns but no longer uses. Mr. John Thissen suggested since time was not an issue in releasing these frequencies that more time be taken looking into the various options and financial advantages the District may have.

8. TEEN

Mr. Thissen reported of the changes taking place within TEEN over the last two years with more expected. Due to differences in each of the five District's schedules, providing IDL classes to students is becoming a growing concern. The group is considering POD casting as a future option. Several groups within TEEN have been "brainstorming" to find some common direction. Mr. Thissen will keep the Board updated as changes take place.

9. BOND ELECTION

A calendar of events was included in the Board packets with regards to the upcoming May 6, 2008 bond election. A copy of a letter written by Mr. Thissen and mailed to all community members that attended the second facility meeting was included.

10. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 8:05 p.m., Rod Erickson 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 8:35 pm. and that Mr. Thissen attend. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 6-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Alan Stuart moved (Brockmeier) 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 8:45 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 6-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Alan Stuart 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 8:50 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 6-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Rod Erickson moved (Berndt) 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 6-0.

B. Employee Overtime

The Board was given the Employee Overtime report for the January 2008 payroll.

C. Action on Personnel

Rod Erickson moved (Berndt) to accept the resignation of Mrs. J. Denise Wood as High School Science teacher. Motion passed 6-0.

Rod Erickson moved (Brockmeier) to approve the request made by James Lynn II, currently attending the Herington Adult Learning Center, to participate in Senior Commencement in May 2008 pending fulfillment of all graduation requirements. Motion passed 6-0.

Rod Erickson moved (Berndt) to approve the request made by Mr. Phil Berndt for a personal day of leave on March 24, 2008. Motion passed 6-0.

Rod Erickson moved (Berndt) to offer Mrs. Stacey Connors an employment contract for the Elementary Teacher Aide position vacated by Mrs. Holly Donahue. Motion carried 6-0.

Stacey Berndt moved (Stuart) to extend administrative contracts through the 2009-10 year to the following:

- Mr. Steve Mies, MS/HS Head Principal
- Mr. Mark Cook, MS/HS Assistant Principal,
Athletic Director
- Mr. Jon Utech, Director of Technology
- Mr. Rich DeMont, ES Principal

Motion passed 6-0.

11. VEHICLES

A list of all District owned vehicles was presented to the Board. Included in this list was year of vehicle, number of miles and years of use left on all buses. Consensus was to put a plan together including purchase options, removing unused and/or inoperable vehicles and shuffling current vehicles for staff.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

B. Credit Cards

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

C. Calendar

Four options of the 2008-09 District calendar was presented to Board members. Mr. Thissen stated the calendar committee will meet Thursday, February 21, after receiving input from other staff and one option will be presented for discussion at the March Board meeting.

D. Hiring Incentives

Mr. Thissen addressed this issue noting a Science teacher would need to be hired as soon as possible. Ideas were presented to the Board as possible options.

13. RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

The Board received minutes of the Recreation Commission via email since requesting it at the January meeting. Consensus was to continue receiving minutes this way instead of in the board packets.

14. VOUCHERS

Bret Beye made a motion (Stuart) to approve all vouchers as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

15. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. Superintendant Evaluation

B. PAT Audit

C. IBB

D. Science Teacher Hiring

E. Eligibility-changes in policy

F. Eduphoria software-demo of software

G. Project Based Learning

16. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

A thank you was extended to Mr. Steve Mies, Mrs. Carol Mies, Mr. Mark Cook and Mr. Rich DeMont for attending athletic events on a regular basis.

Jim Barton with Rural Vista USD 481 expressed interest to a Board member in partnering with USD 487 requesting legislation to speak to both Boards. This could be extended to an in-service and cost could be shared equally between the two Districts.

A request was made of Mr. Thissen to look into the cost of a defibrillator for the buildings. Mr. Thissen was also asked to oversee the removal of downed trees still present at the Elementary from the recent ice storm.

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:44 p.m., Bret Beye moved (Berndt) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
Diana Floyd, Vice-President

Date: _____