

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, January 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. January 21, 2008. Board members and other staff present were: Mr. Bret Beye, Mr. Alan Stuart, Mrs. Diana Floyd, Mr. Rod Erickson, Mrs. Stacey Berndt, Superintendent John Thissen, and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield. Mr. Phil Brockmeier was absent.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alan Stuart moved (Berndt) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2007 and the special meetings of January 2, 2008, and January 9, 2008 as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. James Lynn, a student of the Herington Learning Center by choice, requested from the Board the opportunity to be allowed to attend Senior Prom and walk with the Class of 2008 during graduation ceremonies in May.

Mr. Jacob Mueller, a junior at Herington High School, addressed the Board regarding the current Bond Issue. He voiced his approval of the new facilities even though he would no longer be a student in the Herington District. He did ask that better care of the facilities would occur.

4. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

- Students placing in the grade school spelling bee were: Ryan Florea 1st place, Nathan Simpson 2nd place and Jordan Griffith 3rd place
- PTO is sponsoring an assembly on the Iditarod Race in Alaska
- Fast Forward group has been selected for this semester, directed by Mrs. Christine Trapp
- In-service on January 2, 2008 was utilized primarily with the use of the interactive boards. Several demonstrations and presentations were given by administration and teachers using the boards.
- January 21 was another in-service day. Staff members traveled to Junction City to tour the new Middle School facilities.
- Elementary student activities for Hoops for Heart is designated for January 23, 2008

Mr. John Thissen reported HS/MS Principal Steve Mies would not be present to address the Board regarding activities at the HS/MS buildings. He was attending Middle

School activities in place of Mr. Mark Cook who was absent due to his mother's death. Thoughts and prayers were conveyed by the Board to the Cook family.

Mr. Thissen distributed the tentative 2008-09 seven period classroom schedule for Board review. He noted the differences from the current block schedule in that students would attend the same classes every day and a sliding Seminar class would be put into place. Some of the advantages of this schedule include more planning time for teachers, more contact time with the students, and the option to enroll in additional elective classes. Mr. Thissen noted the staff had mixed feelings regarding this change, but the overall consensus was that of support.

Mr. Jon Utech informed the Board of current activities throughout the District:

- Preparation for the upcoming state testing
- Teachers are administering "practice tests" to students
- Batteries were purchased for all laptops
- Migration from Prostar to Skyward is in progress
- District technology committee met
- Staff was surveyed and equipment needs, goals for the year, and upcoming training necessities were reviewed
- Current equipment was evaluated and future replacement of some items was discussed.

Mr. Thissen informed the Board more Vocational Ed state funding could be available in the future. At least one student is required to complete a full year of each program to be eligible for the aid. Mr. Thissen traveled to Topeka to attend a Curriculum Coordinating Council meeting in which the State is heavily promoting CareerBuilders.com, a web based program used to educate students in making career choices based on what fields they excel in prior to graduating.

5. SOUTHWEST PLAINS REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER

The Board was presented with an Agreement for Associate Membership in Southwest Plains Regional Service Center, Gold Commitment Membership with the recommendation by Mr. John Thissen to approve the agreement. Mr. Thissen asked the Board to review the advantages of membership to this center and compare the member vs. non-member rates. After further discussion, Diana Floyd made a motion (Erickson) to change the effective date in paragraph 4 and adopt the agreement as amended. Motion passed 6-0.

6. CURRICULUM COORDINATING COUNCIL

Mr. John Thissen asked the Board to review the new courses the High School would be offering to students for the 2008-09 year as well as minor changes to some of the current courses. Additions and changes were necessary due to State requirements on assessments as well as changes made to the Vocational Ed programs already in place. Diana Floyd moved (Berndt) to accept the changes as recommended by the council. Motion passed 6-0.

7. BOND ELECTION

A Plan of Finance was distributed to the Board by Mr. Dustin Avey of Piper Jaffray outlining the different scenarios of the Bond Issue, wording of the ballot question

and the impact on additional property taxes. A motion was made by Alan Stuart (Berndt) to sell the bonds in a series of three years if the bond issue passes. A final look at the ballot question brought on changes recommended by Board members. Diana Floyd made a motion to approve the notice of bond election as follows:

SHALL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 487, DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS (HERINGTON), ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$29,500,000, TO PAY THE COSTS TO (A) CONSTRUCT, EQUIP AND FURNISH (I) AN ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL COMPLEX (INCLUDING AN AUDITORIUM AND GYMNASIUM), (II) REMODELING, RENOVATING, AND, WHERE IT IS COST EFFICIENT, UTILIZING THE EXISTING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND AREAS OF THE EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL, (III) A NEW TRACK AND FOOTBALL FACILITY, (B) DEMOLISH OR RESPONSIBLY DISPOSE OF ALL UNUSED SECTIONS OF THE EXISTING SCHOOLS, AND (C) MAKE ALL OTHER NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS RELATED THERETO; ALL PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF K.S.A. 10-101 ET SEQ.; K.S.A. 25-2018(F); K.S.A. 72-6761; AND K.S.A. 75-2315 ET SEQ.?

A roll call vote was given by Mr. David Powell with the motion passing unanimously 6-0.

A five minute break was taken by all Board members. Upon returning to the meeting, Mr. John Thissen informed the Board he will be meeting with Ms. Jillian Brown of Smoky Hill Education Services the following week to discuss options and ideas for promoting the bond issue.

8. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 8:49 p.m., Diana Floyd made a motion (Beye) 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 8:59 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, Diana Floyd 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 9:04 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Employee Overtime

The Board was given the Employee Overtime report for the December 2007 payroll.

C. Action on Personnel

Rod Erickson moved (Berndt) to hire Mr. Marcus Hawkes as the 2nd assistant High School boy's basketball coach and Larry Bazor and Charles Ballentine as bus drivers. Motion passed 6-0.

9. EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Mr. John Thissen reported to the Board that twenty individuals were present at the introductory Healthier Herington meeting January 9, 2008. The first official meeting of

January 16 consisted of 60% school employees, 20% hospital employees and 20% city employees.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

B. Credit Cards

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

C. TEEN

Mr. John Thissen informed the Board four separate bids were submitted by vendors at the January 16 TEEN Board meeting to provide internet service for the 2008-09 school year. AT&T submitted the lowest bid was accepted by Board Members. Podcasting was a discussion topic as TEEN is investigating this program tremendously. Mrs. Kim Coover was recognized as the instructor most used throughout the TEEN network program.

11. RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Recreation Commission. By consensus, these minutes will no longer be included in Board packets but will be provided through email.

Suggestions were also made that Building Reports, if possible, be handled in the same manner.

12. VOUCHERS

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

13. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. NCA Update

B. Review Evaluations

C. Administrator Contracts

D. Project Based Learning

E. Bond Election Preparation

14. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Comments were made regarding 6th grade participation in school activities and the impact it has on the Recreation Center basketball program in Junction City. Questions arose as to why the Blue Ribbon sign was not yet displayed at the Elementary.

Suggestions were made as to the possibility of displaying highway signs, city entrance signs and banners in the school gyms to announce this prestigious award. BC Motors agreed to place signs on their property introducing the schools, hotel and other places of interest in Herington. The Board asked that investigation be done on announcements made from the April 2007 Board meeting that U.S. Stone and Senior parents of the After Prom Committee of 2007 would donate rock and money respectively to help erect a school monument.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 p.m., Diana Floyd moved (Beye) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
David Powell, President

Date: _____