

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, March 24, 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. March 24, 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

Agenda item **4.5 ART CLUB TRIP REQUEST** was added to the agenda by Mr. John Thissen. Mr. Rod Erickson moved (Beye) to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Revised March 12, 2008 minutes was presented to the Board. Mr. Rod Erickson moved (Beye) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 18, 2008 and special meeting of February 27, 2008 as presented and the special meeting of March 12, 2008 as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

4. MANNING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGER

The Board heard a brief presentation by Mr. Dwayne Bridges and Mr. Craig Shonk of Manning Construction Company Inc., regarding the cost and service benefits the District would receive by selecting a Construction Manager vs. a General Contractor if the proposed Bond Issue passes and new facilities are built.

4.5 ART CLUB TRIP REQUEST

Mrs. Cathy Crouch, High School Art teacher, made a request to the Board for herself and several art students to travel to Omaha, NE, April 26 and 27, 2008, for their annual Art Club Field Trip. Phil Brockmeier moved (Stuart) to approve the trip as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

5. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

- State assessment testing began March 4
- Parent Teacher Conferences were held March 10 and 11
- Evaluations for all certified staff have been completed and turned in to the District Office
- The National Blue Ribbon sign has been placed on the North side of the Elementary Building and looks very flattering

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

- “Hats off” to Mrs. Deb Geissert and Mrs. Beth Blackwell for the effort in preparation for the upcoming NCA visit
- Parent Teacher Conferences were held on March 10 and 11
- State assessments have begun and are scheduled to continue through the week of April 14
- Herington is hosting a Quiz Bowl on March 25 for seven other schools

Mr. Jon Utech reported on the following:

- MAPS testing is scheduled to begin in May
- The technology committee met April 9 to discuss the anticipated hardware and software upgrades that would be needed for the upcoming year. Additional training classes were also discussed.
- Eduphoria is up and running thanks to the effort of Mrs. Barb Barlow
- Skyward software is installed and testing on the program is well under way. Training for individual staff groups will begin April 1
- Mr. Utech has been working with TEEN in the internet transition to AT&T

Mr. Mark Cook reported on the following athletic activities:

- Based on current standards, any student athlete with a GPA of 3.5 or higher is awarded all academic/all league honors. Mr. Cook presented thirty awards to students meeting this criterion. He also presented twenty-six awards on assessment standards.

6. EDUPHORIA PRESENTATION

Mr. Jon Utech gave a brief presentation to the Board on the new Eduphoria software that was recently purchased. The “help desk” software has been utilized by staff members on a daily basis and is working exceptionally well in reporting and responding to technical and maintenance issues that may occur.

7. HERINGTON SCHOOL’S WIRELESS ASSETS

Unison Spectrum LLC submitted an updated proposal to lease the wireless frequencies license that was granted to the District by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Board asked Mr. Thissen to have an attorney review the proposal and come back to them at the April meeting for further discussion.

8. PROJECT BASED LEARNING

A second trip was made to Erie by Mr. Thissen and two staff members. Further explanation was given by Mr. Thissen as to what the program consists of and the advantages of teachers of different subjects working together with students and creating interest that may not be there otherwise. A suggestion was made in regards to traveling to Minnesota, where the program has been underway for several years, to get a more complete understanding of the benefits to the students after they have completed high school.

9. ELEGIBILITY

Mr. Mark Cook presented to the Board a revised version of the current Eligibility Policy. This policy has been updated and improved by a committee made up of teachers, coaches and counselors from the Middle School and High School. After much discussion, Mr. Cook was asked to make some minor changes to the wording and present it at the April Board meeting.

10. HIRING INCENTIVES

Mr. John Thissen presented statewide signing bonus information as submitted by KASB and requested support from the Board in offering incentives to teacher applicants to fill positions currently vacated for the 2008-09 school year. Diana Floyd moved (Erickson) to authorize the use of up to \$4,000 in increments as needed for moving expenses/signing bonuses for hiring teachers. Concern was expressed at setting a dollar amount. Motion failed 1-6.

Diana Floyd moved (Berndt) to authorize Mr. Thissen to develop and implement a plan offering incentives within the limits of the existing District Policy that allows a signing bonus option that can be administered and reported back to the Board. Motion carried 7-0.

11. CALENDAR

A modified version of the previously submitted Draft A school calendar for 2008-09 was presented to the Board by the calendar committee. Mr. Thissen asked the Board to review and come back to the April board meeting with approval.

12. BOND ELECTION

Mr. Thissen reported to the Board that the Bond Issue Committee will be meeting Tuesday, March 25, to receive updates from the four sub-committees. Mr. Thissen also advised the Board he was not aware of any organized opposition as of yet.

13. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 9:40 p.m., Stacey Berndt 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 10:00 pm. and that Mr. Thissen attend. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Employee Overtime

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

C. Action on Personnel

Stacey Berndt moved (Floyd) to hire Martha Mell as Elementary night custodian, Nancy Ubias as High School Science teacher and give Nick Fuemmeler and Linda Strome a track supplemental for the High School and Middle School respectively. Motion carried 7-0.

14. VEHICLE SCHEDULE

An updated vehicle schedule was presented. Mr. John Thissen informed the Board he was looking at a possible bus replacement and suburban or mini-van purchase. Mr. Thissen discussed the option of an additional vehicle purchase to be utilized in the transportation of special education students to Salina. An employee is currently using a personal vehicle to transport the students. With the hourly rate of pay and the cost of mileage reimbursement currently in place, the option of using a District vehicle could be cost effective.

15. HERINGTON EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Executive Session

At 10:10 p.m., Diana Floyd made a motion (Brockmeier) 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 10:20 p.m. 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 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 10:25 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 7-0.

16. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

B. Credit Cards

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

C. HALC Graduate

Mr. Thissen gave recognition to Brittany Miner as the first individual to complete her high school credits and receive her diploma through the Herington Adult Learning Center.

D. Driver's Education

Mr. John Thissen briefed the Board on a Virtual Driver's Education program supported through Greenbush. Classroom work is done online so a teacher would only be needed for the actual driving part. He stated he would have additional information for the Board to consider for the summer of 2009 driver's education program at the April meeting.

17. VOUCHERS

Rod Erickson made a motion (Floyd) to approve all vouchers as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

18. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. PAT Audit

B. IBB

C. Eligibility

D. NCA Results

- E. Outcome with regards to next year's Preschool
- F. Approve graduation list

19. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The junior parents with the permission of the junior class will be hosting a Community Prom on Saturday, April 19, 2008 to raise funds for next year's After Prom. Tree limbs at the Elementary still need to be picked up. The Christian Athletic Banquet will be held April 18, 2008 at the High School.

20. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:35 p.m., Bret Beye moved (Stuart) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
David Powell, President

Date: _____