

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, April 19, 2010
6:30 P.M.**

David Powell called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education of USD 487 at 6:30 p.m. April 19, 2010. Board members and other staff present were: Alan Stuart, Phil Brockmeier, Stacey Berndt, Bret Beye, Beki Denning, Anna Gustafson, Superintendent John Thissen, and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Anna Gustafson moved (Denning) to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Phil Brockmeier moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2010, regular meeting and the special meeting minutes of March 4, April 8 and April 10, 2010. Motion carried 7-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Ben Meyer addressed the board regarding the softball cooperative agreement between Herington and Rural Vista USD 481. As the parent of a Herington softball player, he voiced his support in the continuance of the program. Because the district has a dual sport policy in effect, several Herington girls are members of both track and softball and have identified track as their primary sport. Days where track meets and softball games are held on the same day, Herington would not be able to field a softball team if White City players were not members.

4. BIKING ACROSS KANSAS

Cindy Roberts and Phyllis Smith were present to inform members of the approaching event June 9-10, in which Herington will host more than 800 bikers traveling across the state. Arrangements have been made to house the group overnight at Herington High School. Individuals will have the opportunity to utilize the facilities to shower, sleep and purchase food from one of the 19 food vendors that will be offering an evening meal and breakfast the following morning. Changes were made to the original route so the group will have the opportunity to pass by Herington's lake and observe its beauty and exceptional camping area. Plans are being made to offer entertainment throughout the evening and busing will be accessible to those who wish to site see.

5. SENIOR TRIP

Senior sponsor Deb Geissert and Class President Allen Simmons were present to request permission of the board to participate in a senior trip to Dallas, TX. An itinerary was made available in addition to the list of sponsors accompanying the students and the

rules of the trip. Phil Brockmeier moved (Berndt) to approve the senior class trip to Dallas, TX. Motion carried 7-0.

6. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT

In the administrators' absence, Mr. Thissen asked members to review the elementary and middle/high school activities reports and asked for questions or comments:

Jon Utech reported on the following:

- The district's technology plan can finally be submitted to the state after several failed attempts due to state website portal problems
- State testing is complete with the exception of the Science tests
- Licensure expenditures are being analyzed to determine if there are other ways to lower costs due to challenges with the budget
- Several options are under review in an effort to offer wireless internet with KBI at an even lower rate by utilizing the TEEN network. Discussions will continue with our staff, TEEN and KBI to produce a cost effective plan
- Surveys will be given to staff to gather information on technology use and projected needs, including training. Analysis will be made regarding the high school's one to one initiative with the laptops provided to students.

7. HOLLIS + MILLER

The Hollis + Miller team is currently working on the track project and several ideas with regards to placement of the field events were submitted to the board for review. Concerns were voiced and suggestions made by members as to location of a few events and the effect it could have on other events during a meet.

Brick samples for the outside of the building, wall and floor materials, color schemes for different areas inside the building, and a slideshow presentation of the media center was provided for review.

Finalized documents for the project are scheduled to be printed May 27 for board approval by June 1, 2010. In an attempt to utilize local contractors and boost the economy in Herington as much as possible, a "meet and greet" with local businesses, Hollis + Miller and Hutton Construction will be scheduled in the next couple weeks at the District office. This informal meeting will provide Hutton an idea of what local businesses would be interested in bidding on for the construction of the project. Packages could be created and possibly sent out early for bid on the dirt work and masonry.

8. LICENSE FOR MICROSOFT/TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT UPDATES

Cost analysis was provided to members regarding estimated expenditures for the 2010-11 school year. Currently we purchase an annual Microsoft School Agreement which costs the district an average of \$22,000 per year. The fee is based on the district's computer count at the time of renewal. This agreement provides us with licensure for all operating systems and Microsoft Office 2007 updates. This is a good plan if you are updating software and operating systems on a regular basis. At this time, the district updates only when computers are purchased. With this in mind, a proposal for non-

renewing the annual Microsoft School Agreement and outright purchasing updates for the operating systems and Office on the existing computers would cost the district \$43,504. Another proposal to purchase 85 middle school laptops with the latest operating systems and Office and purchase upgrades to the older version operating systems and Office of existing district computers would cost \$78,069. The old computers at the middle school would then be transferred to elementary classrooms for student use. Concerns were voiced and more discussion followed. Members asked Mr. Thissen to prepare a recommendation for the May regular board meeting.

9. CALENDAR

The calendar committee finalized the 2010-11 school calendar and Mr. Thissen presented it to board members for approval. Bret Beye moved (Gustafson) to approve the calendar as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

10. SOFTBALL AGREEMENT

Discussion began regarding the two-year renewal on the softball agreement with White City. Two questions were brought before members as to the financial obligation of Rural Vista in the six-year collaboration. Is this collaboration necessary because of numbers? Should USD 481 be responsible for a portion of the expenditures? USD 487 pays the salaries of the coaches, purchases all uniforms and equipment, and supplies transportation to all games. USD 481's only financial obligation is the transportation from White City to Herington. The main reason for the collaboration was to save the softball program. Can the board now ask USD 481 to share the expenditures after 6 years? Consensus by members was to continue the relationship between districts as is.

11. STRATEGIC PLAN

The revised mission statement and priorities were presented to members. Discussion followed so members not able to attend the April special meeting could ask questions. Bret Beye moved (Gustafson) to approve the mission statement. Motion carried 7-0.

12. TECHNOLOGY PLAN

With the teamwork of the Curriculum and Technology Council, the Kansas State Department of Education Technology Plan was presented to members for approval. Bret Beye moved (Berndt) to approve the plan submitted to the State. Motion carried 7-0.

13. STUDENT HANDBOOK CHANGES

Suggested changes and deletions by administration to the Student Handbook for the 2010-11 school year were presented to members for discussion. A few concerns were voiced and modifications were suggested. More changes will occur and discussion continue at the May board meeting.

14. BOE POLICY (Section GB-GC with H)

The following changes were suggested to Section GB-GC with H:

GBRH Leaves and Absences

Full-time employees will be credited with **paid leave in accordance with the negotiated agreement.**

In place of the next four paragraphs, insert **Reference the negotiated agreement for the scope and number of days allowed for personal leave, sick leave, jury duty and professional leave.**

If the employee leaves.....for unused sick leave, **except as identified in the negotiated agreement.**

GBRJ Substitute Teaching

(2nd sentence) The superintendent **may** meet with potential substitutes....

(6th sentence) The board shall establish.....teachers each **July.**

The handbook shall include information.....attendance centers, ~~maps of the school district and of each attendance center,~~ a current copy of the school calendar, a copy of the board's **mission statement and priorities,** suggestions...

GCA Compensation and Work Assignments

Overtime

(This sentence is to be inserted in Classified Handbook) No non-exempt employee.....without the written permission of the appropriate supervisor.

Compensation for Out-of-Town/Overnight Trips

Insert this policy in the Classified Handbook

GCI Classified Employee Evaluation (See GAK)

Delete this section

GCRG Leaves and Absences (See GBRH)

Paid Leave

Full-time employees will be credited with **paid leave in accordance with provisions in the classified handbook.** Unused leave will be accumulated to a maximum of 60 days. ~~The maximum number of days available in any fiscal year is 100 days (strike)~~

Sick leave is available for.....employee ~~or the illness of the employee's spouse, child, grandchild, parent or the parent or child of the employee's spouse~~ and others.....

Bereavement leave is.....limited to **two** days per occurrence. **(this sentence needs to be added to the Classified handbook)**

Personal leave is for the purpose.....workday. **Reference classified handbook for limit on personal leave.** **Except in emergency circumstances,** requests for personal leave.....

HAE Board Negotiating Agents

(2nd paragraph) Each year the board **may** designate its agents.... the superintendent and the board president **may** make recommendations..... (it was suggested by KASB to leave this paragraph in policy even if not utilized each year)

15. ATTENDANCE AND GRADES

The attendance policy as written in the student handbook was reviewed. Nineteen

students were identified this semester as having grades affected due to this policy. A survey of other districts within our league showed all but two were utilizing some form of attendance policy. Two districts tied attendance to loss of credit while two other districts tied attendance to loss of extracurricular activities and detention. One district records a 0 as a grade after 8 absences. The two districts not participating in any kind of ramifications on attendance issues reported big problems on student attendance and teachers have voiced the need for something to be done. No action was taken.

16. REQUEST TO WALK WITH GRADUATES

A request was made by Shanna Gischer, a student at the Herington Community Learning Center, to walk with the 2010 graduating class. Stacey Berndt moved (Gustafson) to approve the request. Motion carried 7-0.

17. 2010-11 BUDGET AND 2011-12 BUDGET

Dale Dennis spoke at the last Superintendent's meeting and expressed a very cautious update on the State's financial situation. Mr. Dennis believes legislative decisions will be made by May 15 due to the May 21st date to notify staff with pink papers. Mr. Thissen regretfully stated with decisions still up in the air, districts were still in the "wait and see" mode.

18. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AND SUMMER SCHOOL

The board continued discussion regarding a possible cut to these programs as tabled from the March board meeting. Cutting summer school would save the district an estimated \$16,000. Cutting the after school program at the elementary for 2010-11 could save an estimated \$30,000. After much discussion and hesitation, Stacey Berndt regretfully made a motion (Beye) to cancel this year's summer school program. Motion carried 6-1 with Beki Denning casting the opposing vote. No motion was made on the after school program.

19. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 9:28 p.m., Anna Gustafson 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 9:33 p.m. and invited Mr. Thissen into the meeting. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Teacher Hire

Stacey Berndt moved (Gustafson) to hire Charles Boggess as the high school Science teacher. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Action on Personnel

D. Employee Overtime

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for March 2010.

20. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

A summary was provided through March 2010.

B. Credit Cards

Credit card statements were supplied for all cardholders for Board review.

C. Kansas Broadband Internet

The last required report is to be submitted to FCC for approval. The process of installing equipment was slowed down a little due to decisions made on the placement of lines.

D. IBB

The last meeting held was shorter than intended due to the legislature's lack of decisions made to the state's budget. Preparations were made for the next meeting in discussing issues dealing with money. The next meeting is scheduled may 4th from 5-8 p.m.

E. Board Member Replacement

A formal letter of resignation was received by Beki Denning. Interest was expressed by one individual in the community but a formal letter of interest has not been submitted.

21. VOUCHERS

A motion was made by Alan Stuart (Beye) to approve vouchers as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

22. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- A. Building Project
- B. Policy
- C. PD 360

23. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Members thanked the City of Herington for the community building. Prom was the first event held in the new building. Praise was given to Megan Clark and Junior parents for an excellent event.

24. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:44 p.m., David Powell declared the meeting adjourned.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
David Powell, President

Date: _____