

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, April 18, 2011
6:30 P.M.**

Bret Beye called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education of USD 487 at 6:30 p.m., April 18, 2011. Board members and other staff present were: Stacey Berndt, David Powell, Ben Meyer, Rod Erickson, Alan Stuart, Anna Gustafson, Superintendent John Thissen and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

David Powell moved (Gustafson) to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anna Gustafson moved (Powell) to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2011 regular meeting and special meeting of April 4, 2011. Motion carried 7-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

LaReina Cates was present asking members to consider waiving a repair fee for damages sustained to her daughter's laptop. Ms. Cates believes her daughter was not responsible for the damages and stated after several conversations with Jon Utech and a vendor in Junction City an exact cause of damage has never been determined. The laptop had been turned in previously for monitor issues. Her daughter worked on the laptop one evening at home. When she tried to boot it up the next morning, the monitor would not come on. Ms. Cates stated there is no visual damage that would indicate pressure point issues or irresponsibility. Although she signed the technology contract at the beginning of the year, Ms. Cates feels this issue does not apply to the contract. Board members informed Ms. Cates they would need time to study the existing contract before any decision can be made.

11. SENIOR TRIP REQUEST

The item was moved up on the agenda as the presenter for the therapy dog had not arrived. Kayci Schlesener, spoke on behalf of the senior class of 2011. She asked members to approve the request of a senior trip to Branson, MO from May 7th to May 9th. An itinerary and rules for the trip was provided. She informed the board nineteen students will be traveling with three sponsors and a bus driver. David Powell moved (Berndt) to approve the senior trip request. Motion carried 7-0. Mr. Powell recommended direction be given to future classes as to a minimum number of students required to approve future trips.

4. THERAPY DOG PRESENTATION

Debe Knight, school employee, business owner and community member, was recently accepted to a registered Pet Partner Therapy Team through Delta Society. Ms. Knight developed one of her breeding dogs, Akela, into a therapy dog that works with

children struggling to read. She has given demonstrations at the Elementary where a student will read to Akela through Ms. Knight. Teachers and students have responded very positively which could increase some student's achievement in reading. She loves working with children and is willing to volunteer her and Akela's time every Friday to work with students on a one-to-one basis in reading and therapy. She assured members she carries her own insurance. Mr. DeMont received several student recommendations to work with the team. Students are recommended by classroom teachers and will receive one visit with the team while other students will receive more time as necessary. Ms. Knight asked members to allow her team to begin working with students immediately through the end of the year. David Powell (Berndt) moved to allow Debe Knight and Akela to work with students from now through the first quarter of the 2011-12 school year. At that time, a report will be given to determine if further work can be done.

5. GOVERNMENT DEALS PRESENTATION

Govdeals.com is an online for profit Auction Company that provides a means to sell surplus or unwanted items or buildings. Carol Wollard, a representative for the company, explained the process to members. Pictures and descriptions are posted online to view and bid. Salvage dealers or individuals with a winning bid would remove the items purchased at their own expense in a timeframe designated by the board. The board would create an agreement that must be signed by each company or individual prior to removing anything from the property. Ms. Wollard added most dealers have liability insurance that takes care of any issues that could occur during the removal process. By doing this, it would allow the district to sell items and equipment piece by piece at the existing elementary that would otherwise have to be torn down and disposed of at the district's expense. Govdeals.com would retain 7.5% of each sale. There would be no additional cost to the district. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

6. SALE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROPERTY

Pastor Geist and several representatives of the First Baptist Church spoke to the Board regarding their interest in the existing elementary. There is still much interest in the property with possible considerations in keeping the gymnasium, preschool building and music room. Pastor Geist has initiated communication with Heartland regarding the preschool building. A consultant has been hired by the church to look at their current facilities and make a recommendation as it pertains to the interest in the elementary project. Pastor Geist intends on bringing his congregation up to speed with the findings of the consultant by May 1 and will have a proposal for the board at the May meeting.

7. SCHOOL MONUMENT

A project initiated by the After Prom committee in 2007 to establish a monument/sign at the school campus was revisited. This project was put on hold due to the bond issue at that time. Vic Brunner and Beth Blackwell, representatives of the Class of 2007 were present to inform members companies approached in 2007 have been contacted to see if they are still willing to donate materials and labor as stated in 2007. Members asked that other classes or community members be given the chance to donate as well. Consensus was that the board was willing to put money into this project as well. More information will be provided as they obtain current costs of materials.

8. TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM

Middle school instructor, Craig Albrecht has spent time researching Easytech from Learning.com. This package offers a complete K-8 curriculum and uses standards identified at the national level. This program would replace the current program created by Mr. Albrecht. CTC has reviewed the software and agrees this would be a very beneficial program. Easytech can be purchased at a cost of \$5,000 with no annual renewal fee. Additional cost would be required only when the district would decide to update. Curriculum for the high school will be presented at the May board meeting. David Powell moved (Berndt) to accept the proposed technology curriculum for grades K-8. Motion carried 6-1 with Alan Stuart opposing.

9. REQUEST TO WALK WITH GRADUATING CLASS

Melisa Hakes, a current student at the Herington Community Learning Center, will complete the necessary requirements to graduate by May 15, 2011. She has requested permission to walk with the Class of 2011 at graduation. Ben Meyer moved (Gustafson) to allow Melisa Hakes to walk with the Class of 2011 pending all requirements are met. Motion carried 7-0.

10. 2011 GRADUATING CLASS

A list was provided for all students expecting to graduate this year. David Powell moved (Berndt) to approve the list as presented pending completion of all requirements by each student. Motion carried 7-0.

12. BIDS FOR MAIN GYMNASIUM BLEACHERS

Three bids have been received to replace the bleachers in the high school gymnasium. Mid State School's bid came in at \$130,513; Carroll Seating provided a bid of \$117,971 and Heartland Seating's bid was \$148,423. All bids include the removal of the exiting bleachers. Mr. Thissen contacted Ed Carlson with Hollis + Miller asking on the significant differences on price. Mr. Carlson was not concerned and stated each company has different specifications and standards on the materials used. Each bid also includes differences in spacing between seats as well as color. Carroll Seating has bid spacing of the bleachers at 10" in depth, does not include maroon seats in this bid and cannot guarantee completion prior to the start of the 2011-12 school year. Heartland Seating's spacing is 12". Consensus by the board is the spacing needs to be wider than the bids provided and asked Mr. Thissen to send out new specs and have the companies rebid with 32" spacing on the chair backs and 24" spacing on the other seats. A special meeting will be held within the next two weeks to approve a vendor.

13. HANDBOOK

Revisions were made to the elementary and high school handbooks as recommended by the board. In reviewing the high school section, consensus by members was to remove the Repeated Academic Classes paragraph. Members felt this section caused unnecessary issues regarding scholarships and student rankings in the class. A suggestion was made to proofread all handbooks and correct grammatical errors prior to final print.

14. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 8:45 p.m., Anna Gustafson made a motion (Powell) for the Board to go into executive session following a five minute break for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel; with the Board returning to the open meeting at 9:20 p.m. inviting Mr. Thissen into the meeting. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 7-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Stacey Berndt 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 9:30 p.m. and invited Mr. Thissen into the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Anna Gustafson moved (Meyer) 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 9:40 p.m. and invited Mr. Thissen into the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Evaluations

C. Resignations

Resignation letters were submitted by Middle School English teacher Tracy Wilson and High School Counselor Tammie Svitak.

D. Hires

In one motion, David Powell moved (Gustafson) to accept the resignations of Tracy Wilson and Tammie Svitak and hire Beth DeMont as High School Art Instructor. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Employee Overtime

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for March 2011.

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

A summary was provided through March 2011.

B. Credit Cards

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

C. IBB

The first IBB meeting was very productive and identified issues the group will work with for the 2011-12 school year. Board members agreed a retraining session would be helpful for members that have not attended a training seminar at an earlier time. A suggestion was made to refocus the issues for certified staff as a team and individual issues should not be considered for discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd at 5:30 p.m.

D. Tours

The first two of twelve scheduled elementary tours have been given. Mr. Thissen reported the tours were received very well and community members were very appreciative and optimistic of the project.

E. 2011-12 School Calendar

A revised calendar for the 2011-12 school year was included. Board action will be recommended soon.

16. VOUCHERS

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

17. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- A. Construction Project
- B. Sale of Elementary School Property
- C. PAT Presentation
- D. Broadcast Class Presentation
- E. Website Discussion
- F. Mill Creek League Admission

18. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Stacey Berndt, as board member and parent, expressed a huge thank you to Megan Clark for an outstanding job with prom this year. She accompanied students to Marion for the after prom party and complimented the students as well in their behavior.

Members asked that the Herington Recreation Commission be informed the softball field scoreboard needs to be repaired.

Stacey Berndt and Bret Beye will represent the board onstage during graduation.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:55 p.m., Bret Beye declared the meeting adjourned.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
Bret Beye, President

Date: _____