

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, August 16, 2010
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. August 16, 2010. Board members and other staff present were: Alan Stuart, Stacey Berndt, Anna Gustafson, David Powell, Rod Erickson, Superintendent John Thissen, and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield. Phil Brockmeier was absent.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Thissen requested the addition of **5.5 Technology** and **16F. Construction Project** to the agenda. David Powell moved (Berndt) to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anna Gustafson moved (Erickson) to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2010 regular meeting and the special meeting of August 3, 2010 as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Janet Wade visited Greensburg school district to tour the new school. Greensburg achieved LEED platinum status. In comparison, the new elementary is designed to exceed Greensburg's functionality. She urged members to continue to receive frequent and detailed reports on the progress of sustainability issues. She also looks forward to the day Herington has some "buzzing" in town like Greensburg did.

Ms. Wade then addressed the board regarding home school students and the desire to join extracurricular activities provided by the district. She encouraged members to allow these students the opportunity to participate since the families are paying taxes.

4. ENROLLMENT REPORT

Rich DeMont reported current numbers at the elementary:

- As of August 16, total enrollment was at 222 compared to 214 at this time last year. There are possibly 2 more students enrolling this week. The smallest class size is 14 while the largest is at 22. Board members asked Mr. DeMont to report numbers of students with an IEP or SIT team requirements as well as aides assignments at the next meeting.

Steve Mies reported on the Middle/High School numbers and activities:

- Current middle school numbers sit at 90 compared to 98 for the September 21, 2009 count.
- Back to school night was well attended with 81% participating
- Current high school enrollment is 151, down four compared to the September 21, 2009 count.

- The district signed up for the “adopt a school” program through Ft. Riley with the optimism it will help the relationship between the two locations and have a positive effect on enrollment
- Several staff members attended “A day in the life of a soldier” at Ft. Riley

5. ASSESSMENT SCORES

Proficiency scores were reported by the building principals:

Elementary

Study Island, a software program utilized provided much help. Teachers were able to pretest and group students by ability.

Middle School

Students had the opportunity to enroll in a Dynamics class offered. Every student passed the Reading assessment.

High School

Scores improved in both Math and Reading compared to last year. The state has not finalized how the two separate Science tests administered will be combined and a performance level was not assigned yet.

The district will have to wait to see if we made Standard of Excellence as the State has not released that information. David Powell made a motion (Berndt) for the Superintendent to communicate to administration, staff, students and everyone involved recognition and appreciation of this accomplishment. Motion carried 6-0.

5.5 TECHNOLOGY

Jon Utech presented members with an update on technology for the beginning of the year:

- Laptops for the middle school have been individualized and assigned to each student
- High school laptops have been upgraded and minor repairs complete
- The elementary now has laptops available for every grade
- Staff laptops are upgraded and returned

With the enhancement of technology within our district, Mr. Utech stated technology no longer is a goal. It has become a tool to achieve those goals created by the board.

6. STUDENT ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER USE POLICY

The computer use policy was presented to members for review. This yearly contract must be signed by both students and parents acknowledging the rules of the district as it pertains to internet use by students.

7. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Strategy has been set on the district strategic plan and should now be referred to as the district improvement plan. Mr. Thissen informed members he had presented the plan at a Herington Civic Club meeting. They agreed to have the next meeting at the high school and eat the school lunch. By doing so, they feel they can get students and teachers involved with the organization. Much of the in services will tie into the

improvement plan as well. The mission and goals are set but the objectives will constantly change.

8. PRESCHOOL COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

An agreement with Heartland Programs was presented for approval. This agreement represents the fourth year we have collaborated with Heartland in providing a preschool for the community. David Powell moved (Berndt) to adopt the agreement for the 2010-11 school year. Motion carried 6-0.

9. ATTENDANCE/GRADES POLICY

The board revisited the existing attendance policy. Discussion turned to finding ways to discourage unexcused absences without applying a grade reduction. To recommend a formal meeting with the student, parent/s and anyone else involved runs into problems since some parents do not attend so an actual meeting never takes place. Mailing out certified letters will require every letter to be well organized and unique based on each individual case. Members will contact the Superintendent prior to the next regular board meeting with individual thoughts and ideas to create a policy that can be approved. The suggestion was also made to include administration and staff participation in creating a new policy.

10. TRACK INFIELD WATERING SYSTEM

Discussion began regarding the infield of the new track. A watering system can easily be installed now at a lower cost while construction is going on rather than to wait until completion of the track and install it at a later date and higher cost. David Powell suggested either waiting to see if there would be any extra money to complete this or look at other alternatives. He would like to know where the money was coming from to complete this before approving the idea. Anna Gustafson made a motion (Stuart) to move forward in installing a watering system inside the track during construction of the track. Motion carried 5-1 with David Powell voting no.

11. BOE POLICY (Section JA-JGCA)

The following changes were recommended to Section J:

JA Goals and Objectives (See BDA,CM,CMA, GAA and JCDA)

David Powell suggested having students look at this policy and give their recommendations to Mr. Thissen to present at the next board meeting.

JB Attendance Records

Second sentence; The primary responsibility for recording.....using **the form** prescribed.....

JBC Enrollment (See JBCA and JQKA)

Non-resident Students (between paragraphs 1 and 2)

Admission shall be approved by board action.

Part-Time Students (1st paragraph)

Part-time students may enroll with the **board's** permission if they complete all paperwork in a timely fashion ~~and are in attendance no later than _____ (insert date)~~ **Part-time students may be admitted only**

Transferring Credit

In the middle (~~junior high~~) school.....

Homeless Student Regulations

Coordinator

The Board designates the following individual to act as the district’s homeless coordinator: **Superintendent, District Office, 19 N Broadway, Herington, KS 67449, phone 785-258-2263, fax 785-258-2982**

JBD Absences and Excuses (See AEB, IHEA, JBE and JDD)

Excused/Unexcused Absences

Insert the district’s policy here

Significant Part of a School Day

Insert the district’s policy here

JBE Truancy (See AEB, IDCE, JBD, and JQ)

(1st paragraph) The building principal (~~or~~)-shall report students.....

Dual Enrollment Students

This paragraph needs to be in alignment with the list of schools in policy IDCE

LIFETIME EARNINGS INFORMATION

This information needs to be updated as current data is available.

JCABB Searches of Students (See JCAB and JCAC)

(2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence) The students shall be requested.....but not limited to, pockets, purses, **all bags/cases.**

JCAC Interrogation and Investigations

Coordination with Law Enforcement

School administrators **may** meet periodically.....

JDC Probation (See JCDBB and JDD)

(1st paragraph) Any punishment, suspension.....principal **or Superintendent.**

JDD Suspension and Expulsion Procedures

Reasons for Suspension or Expulsion

- Willful violation of any published, adopted student conduct **policy**

JDDA Drug-Free Schools (See GAOB and LDD)

Student Conduct

Insert local sanctions as stated

JDDB Reporting to Law Enforcement (See EBC and JDD)

(third bullet)

- To have engaged in behavior.....the **principal or superintendent** shall...

JFA Peer Grading of Assignments

Use Option II:

JFC Graduation Exercises

Students who have completed the requirements for graduation **will be given board approval** and may be allowed to participate in graduation exercises unless participation is denied for appropriate reasons. Graduation exercises shall be under the control and direction of the building principal, **Superintendent or designee.**

12. SUBURBAN REPLACEMENT

A bid was provided by Green Ford in Abilene, KS, on a 2011 Ford E-150 8 passenger van at a price of \$21,202.00. David Powell moved (Stuart) to accept the bid and purchase the van. Motion carried 6-0.

13. 2010-11 BUDGET ADOPTION

The 2010-11 budget was presented to the board for approval. David Powell moved (Gustafson) to adopt the budget as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

14. OUT OF DISTRICT REQUESTS

Additional out of district requests were made. A list was provided to board members. Stacey Berndt moved (Gustafson) to approve the list to include Derek Evans to the list. Motion carried 6-0.

15. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 8:15 p.m., David Powell made a motion (Gustafson) for the Board to go into executive session following a 5 minute break for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel; with the Board returning to the open meeting at 8:40 p.m. and invited Mr. Thissen into the meeting. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Resignations

C. Hires

In one motion, Stacey Berndt moved (Gustafson) to offer employment contracts to: Joyce Freed, bus driver; Jana Siegrist, elementary aide; Irasema Savin, part time elementary secretary and supplemental contracts to: Megan Clark, high school cheerleading sponsor; Van Donahue, assistant high school football coach, contingent upon the numbers where they are now in two weeks. Motion carried 6-0.

D. Employee Overtime

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for July 2010.

16. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

A summary was provided through July 2010.

B. Credit Cards

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

C. Lunch Program

Mr. Thissen met with Food Service Director, Jennifer Lollar to discuss future ideas and programs. Several ideas will be pursued.

D. Antenna for Bus Radios

The antenna for the bus radios was attached to a new tower north of Custom Metal Fabrications. The City of Herington was very generous in placing the antenna on the tower for the district.

E. Sound Systems in Gymnasiums

All speakers are now functioning in the elementary gymnasium. Quotes for new sounds systems at the middle school and high school have been requested.

F. Construction Project

The FEMA application has been approved but the District is still waiting on word from Washington D.C. that funds have been unfrozen.

17. VOUCHERS

A motion was made by David Powell (Berndt) to approve vouchers as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

18. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- A. BOE Policy
- B. Construction Project
- C. Attendance Policy
- D. Tour of Schools (North site only)

19. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- KBI has placed their equipment on the tower. The district will be installing wire on the top of the building and testing will begin.
- On behalf of the board, Anna Gustafson would like to thank the City of Herington for their help with the antenna.
- Recognition was given to the board clerk for her work on the budget.

20. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:36 p.m., Bret Beye declared the meeting adjourned.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
Bret Beye, President

Date: _____