

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, February 21, 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., February 21, 2011. Board members and other staff present were: Stacey Berndt, Anna Gustafson, David Powell, Ben Meyer, Rod Erickson, Superintendent John Thissen and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield. Alan Stuart was absent.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Rod Erickson moved (Gustafson) to approve the agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anna Gustafson moved (Berndt) to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2011 regular meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

4. LEAGUE CONFIGURATION

Mill Creek Valley has shared interest in joining the Flint Hills League. Mr. Thissen will be attending the league meeting on March 2 with Mark Cook to discuss and vote on the issue with the rest of the league.

5. 2011-12 CALENDAR

Mr. Thissen attended a meeting of the coalition of schools for Fort Riley to discuss the 2011-12 school calendar. The desire of Fort Riley is to have a common start and end date for the 17 school districts that are a part of this coalition. Fourteen of the districts agreed to this request. The TEEN districts have met and discussed having a similar calendar to assist in the IDL classes TEEN provides. A draft calendar was presented to members. The calendar committee will be meeting soon to discuss the draft.

6. SNOW DAYS

The state requires students to attend a minimum of 186 days or 1,116 hours. The district reports student contact in hours. This year's schedule allows students to attend 1,201 hours. There were 6 snow days this year so far. The students still meet the required 1,116 hours so makeup days or extending minutes to each day will not be necessary.

Teachers are contracted with the district for 183 days. Mr. Thissen asked members if there was a desire to require teachers to make up any/all of the snow days to fulfill their contractual obligation. Members agreed they would not require teachers to make up the snow days but possibly ask them for a day in the summer to help move items from the old elementary to the new elementary upon completion.

7. SALE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROPERTY

Mr. Thissen met with board members of the First Baptist Church (FBC) to tour the existing elementary building. Interest was expressed by FBC members to possibly salvage the gym, music room and preschool building if it was feasible. Concern was expressed as to the stability of the buildings if this was done and what the cost would be to demolish parts of the building. Hutton Construction and Hollis + Miller will be consulted. A suggestion was made to offer half of the budgeted money to FBC and let them do the work themselves.

8. 2009-10 AUDIT

District accounting firm Clubine and Rettele completed the audit of the 2009-10 budget year. Recommendations were given in the areas of purchasing enhanced accounting software for the building activity funds, bringing title funds to a zero balance at the end of each year and reviewing procedures and discouraging the practice of reimbursing expenses submitted by employees.

9. BOE POLICY (KASB RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS)

Two years ago, the district hired KASB to audit the district's policy book, negotiated agreement and student handbooks. Over the course of many board meetings, members reviewed and approved recommendations completing the audit of the policy book.

Once a year, KASB attorneys review policies and handbooks and recommend updates. These recent recommendations were presented to members for review and approval. Stacey Berndt moved (Powell) to accept all policy recommendations with the exception of the handbook recommendations which will be reviewed at a later date. Motion carried 6-0.

10. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 8:00 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 8:25 p.m. inviting Mr. Thissen into the meeting. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 6-0. Mr. Thissen left the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Upon returning to the open meeting, David Powell moved (Gustafson) 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 8:30 p.m. and invited Mr. Thissen into the meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Resignation and Hire

Stacey Berndt moved (Gustafson) to hire Ken Arnold as the 6-12 principal. Motion carried 6-0.

David Powell moved (Berndt) to accept the resignation of MS/HS Art teacher, Cathy Crouch. Motion carried 6-0.

C. Evaluation

Bret Beye announced the evaluation of Superintendent John Thissen has been completed for the 2010-11 school year.

D. Employee Overtime

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for January 2011.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

A summary was provided through January 2011.

B. Credit Cards

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

C. HES Graphics

After suggestions were made during the January board meeting, Kevin Nelson created additional graphics for the new elementary. There was a consensus among members on the graphics at the visitor's entry to the building, cafeteria windows and gym walls.

D. February 20 military count

February 20 is an important date for districts. The state allows a second count for additional state aid. Students of military parents enrolling after the September 20th count can be included in the final enrollment and FTE numbers reported to the state. The district will include 8 more students to enrollment numbers.

E. IBB

Because of the rescheduling of student activities due to snow days, only 3 teachers would be present for the first IBB meeting. Consensus by the board was to reschedule the meeting so as many teachers could attend.

12. VOUCHERS

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

13. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. Construction Project

B. Sale of Elementary School Property

C. IBB

E. Administration Contracts

F. Walk through of Construction project (5:15 p.m. start time)

14. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Rod Erickson would like to thank the District, board and staff members for the donation in memory of his mother.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., Bret Beye declared the meeting adjourned.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
Bret Beye, President

Date: _____