

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487  
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES  
19 NORTH BROADWAY  
Monday, October 17, 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., October 17, 2011. Board members and other staff present were: Stacey Berndt, Ben Meyer, Anna Gustafson, David Powell, Rod Erickson, Alan Stuart, 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**

Ben Meyer moved (Gustafson) to approve the regular minutes of the September 19, 2011 as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

Susan Mueller spoke to members on behalf of the Herington Library. She expressed her sincere gratitude for the donated bookcases from the former elementary school. Purchasing these book cases would have cost a small fortune. This donation will allow the library to expand their juvenile fiction and young adult non-fiction sections.

**4. MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM**

Craig Albrecht, technology instructor at the middle school gave a presentation on the newly purchased technology software that was approved last budget year. Easytech, a program supported by Learning.com, educates grades K-8 and is tied to curriculum requirements. Mr. Albrecht demonstrated the program by logging into the website as a student and took members through a tour. He showed the numerous lessons available in several grades. Several benefits to the web based program include:

- Students always start where they previously left off
- Students are able to work at their own pace
- If a teachers sets up forced assignments, students cannot move on to another lesson until previous assignments have been completed
- Teachers can take student data entered at enrollment in Skyward and import it into this program
- Elementary students have a better foundation to use by the time they get to middle school

Mr. Albrecht then logged in to the administration level to show what teachers are able to do. To date all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have completed 50 lessons.

## **5. UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION**

Hutton Superintendent, Wayne McGrane was present to give the board an update:

- Concrete is being poured around the storage shed behind the elementary
- Light sensor cages will be installed soon
- Aluminum panels on the wall by the kitchen's dishwasher have been put in place
- Employees will receive another training session on the lighting system
- Landscapers have completed what needs to be done this season and are watering what is in place
- The sports complex is waiting on owner training pending fiber pulling to the press box

Mr. McGrane will be leaving in the next couple weeks to oversee another Hutton job but a different representative of Hutton will be available to take care of small issues that may arise. Once Mr. McGrane leaves, every two weeks for the next three months Hutton will come to the campus and check over all aspects of the site.

## **6. REQUESTS FOR EARLY GRADUATION**

Three seniors have requested approval by board members to graduate at semester. All three students were present with high school counselor, Kristen Gant. Mrs. Gant informed members she met with each student individually as well as parents to discuss what the student will forgo second semester by graduating early as well as future plans. David Powell moved (Stuart) to allow Eddie Williams, Audra Reber and Mellissa Wiltrout to graduate at semester pending each student has met all requirements. Motion carried 7-0.

## **7. SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

A list of site council members for each building was presented to the board for approval for the 2011-12 school year. David Powell moved (Gustafson) to approve the lists of proposed site council members for each building. Motion carried 7-0.

## **8. SALE OF OLD ELEMNTARY SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Pastor Darrell Geist and Glen Catlin, board members of First Baptist Church (FBC), were present to address the board regarding the purchase of the old elementary school property. Pete Robertson, the district's attorney met with Mr. Geist and Mr. Thissen previously and a draft of a real estate contract was produced. A purchase price of \$34,200 was listed on the contract. Mr. Thissen informed members he has received no other contact from anyone else interested in the property.

At 7:27 p.m., David Powell made a motion (Gustafson) for the Board to go into executive session to discuss negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; with the Board returning to the open meeting at 7:37 p.m. inviting Mr. Thissen into the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Anna Gustafson moved (Stuart) for the Board to return to executive session to discuss negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; and that the Board returns to the open meeting at 7:47 p.m. and invited Mr. Thissen into the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Anna Gustafson moved (Powell) for the Board to return to executive session to discuss negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; and that the Board returns to the open meeting at 7:58 p.m. and invited Mr. Thissen into the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, David Powell moved (Stuart) that upon completion and removal of all personal property, demolition and grading of the former elementary school, the board will offer the property known as the former elementary property and former Headstart building to First Baptist Church of Herington for the purchase price of \$50,000. Motion carried 6-1 with Rod Erickson casting the no vote. Mr. Erickson wanted it noted his vote was because he was uncomfortable with the price only.

The board informed Mr. Geist and Mr. Catlin they are committed to working with FBC and know they would be good stewards of the community but would like for taxpayers to get as much as possible for this property. Members also voiced their opinions in allowing anyone on the property prior to the completion of demolition.

## **9. GOVDEAL.COM**

A representative will be coming down in the next day or two to begin the process of piecing together items in the classrooms, taking pictures and posting to their website. Consensus by members is to give GovDeals.com a 15% premium of all sales of the contents and a 7.5% premium of salvage products. Govdeals.com will do all the preparation work, take care of all billing and collecting and distribute the balance to the district.

## **10. CAPITAL OUTLAY MILL LEVY AUTHORIZATION**

A capital outlay mill levy authorization renewal was presented to the board for approval. This authorization will allow the board to levy up to 8 mills for capital outlay projects if they so choose for the next 5 years. The resolution has been in force for the last 5 years but no mill levy has been assessed. Stacey Berndt moved (Meyer) to approve the Resolution to Levy Tax for Capital Outlay Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

## **11. PERSONNEL**

### **A. Executive Session**

At 8:22 p.m., Anna Gustafson made a motion (Berndt) for the Board to go into executive session after a 5 minute break for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel; with the Board returning to the open meeting at 8:37 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.

### **B. Coaches, Aide, Bus Driver, MS Stucco**

In one motion, Anna Gustafson moved (Powell) to hire Troy Heitfield as the girls' high school assistant basketball coach, Connie Beavers as MS Stucco sponsor, Ron Freed as route driver and Pam Goracke as elementary aide. Motion carried 7-0.

### **C. Employee Overtime**

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for September 2011.

**12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Budget**

A summary was provided through September 2011

**B. Credit Cards**

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

**C. District Roofs**

During the last heavy rain, two leaks were detected on the roofs. A roof hatch at the elementary was leaking and was an easy fix. Williams came back to fix a flaw on the high school roof. Putting a new roof on the district office may start up this week. Williams will also do this roof. The cost will be split between the city and district.

**D. Standards of Excellence**

The state released information regarding standard of excellence. Herington schools did outstanding. All three buildings received a total of 17 certificates ranging from grade level to building wide. 173 individual certificates will be awarded to students. Herington elementary was awarded a Certificate of Merit as part of the Challenge Awards as a result of its performance on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math assessment. David Powell moved (Erickson) to adopt a resolution commending faculty and students for outstanding results, excellence awards and certificates of merit. Motion carried 7-0.

**13. VOUCHERS**

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

**14. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

- A. Sale of elementary school property
- B. Evaluation committee report
- C. Govdeal.com

**15. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- A request was made to receive reports at each regular monthly meeting from individual subjects and/or new teachers.
- November board meeting is listed on school calendar incorrectly. The meeting will be November 21, 2011

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:55 p.m., Bret Beye declared the meeting adjourned.

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Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bret Beye, President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_