

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
HERINGTON HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL**

5:30 P.M.

**CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY**

Monday, September 20, 2010

6:30 P.M.

Bret Beye called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education of USD 487 at 5:30 p.m. September 20, 2010. Board members and other staff present were: Alan Stuart, Stacey Berndt, Anna Gustafson, Phil Brockmeier, Rod Erickson, Superintendent John Thissen, and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield. David Powell joined the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Stacey Berndt moved (Gustafson) to adopt the agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

2. TOUR OF FACILITIES

Middle/High School parking lot:

- The effort put into repairing areas of the parking lot a year ago is holding up well.
- The exterior upper section of the high school gymnasium had been recently painted.
- Alan Stuart asked that the outside plum doors leading into the weight room be painted over with maroon.

Middle School:

- Computer room is very spacious since the desktop computers were removed as a result of the 1 to 1 initiative on laptops. A cart sits off to the side of the room that holds the laptops, charging them each evening. The big TV will be removed in the near future since the smart board is utilized.
- The speaker system in the gym will be removed and replaced with the two year old system at the current elementary once students move into the new building. New sound systems will be installed in both the new elementary and current high school gyms.

Weight Room:

- Members toured the room noticing the cosmetic improvements that had been made in the last 3 years

High School:

- Banners have been placed in the gym showing the various activity and athletic accomplishments of students throughout the years.
- Ceiling tile in the southwest corner of the gym needs to be replaced
- Two companies have been contacted in replacing the gym bleachers once funds are available and approved to do so
- A request was made to check prices on installing 2x2 air handlers in the gym so the ceiling doesn't sag

- Asbestos has been removed in the ceiling area between the kitchen and cafeteria
- The partitions that would close off the cafeteria from the kitchen has been removed
- Asbestos was removed at the end of the hallway of the Health/PE room. This hallway will be closed off and used for secure storage when the new construction and renovation is complete
- A wall was built within the teachers' workroom providing a small office for Jon Utech. Mr. Utech's old office is now Steve Mies' office.
- The round tables were brought over from elementary storage and are being utilized by students in the commons area

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anna Gustafson moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2010 regular meeting and special meeting of August 11, 2010. Motion carried 7-0.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

5. CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Kevin Nelson with Hollis + Miller presented members with a revised budget showing additional bond issue funds made available through the FEMA grant. Alternates were presented for approval:

Alternate #1 - FEMA Shelter \$504,200

Alternate #9-HVT (vinyl tile) in place of VCT (tile that required waxing) \$70,700

Alternate #11 - Porcelain tile \$16,450

Alternate #13 - Lightweight composite panels down the corridors \$36,300

Stacey Berndt made a motion (Gustafson) to approve Alternates 1, 9, 11 and 13 totaling \$627,650. Motion carried 7-0.

Conversation turned to two proposals created by Mr. Nelson regarding a field house at the track complex. Option A provided 2,773 sq ft of home side bleachers, press box, restrooms and concessions at a cost of \$825,000. Option B provided the same concept with 2,867 sq ft at a cost of \$969,000. David Powell suggested an alternative for the extra funds. With elementary enrollment increasing, he would be more comfortable adding two extra classrooms instead of the field house. A statement was made that the current project already includes two extra classrooms and adding more at this time might not be necessary. Much discussion was held to identify additional uses of two additional classrooms and the importance of what the public will be proud of in 12 months. A motion was made by David Powell (Brockmeier) to have Mr. Nelson return in two weeks providing a proposal that would add two classrooms and use the remaining funds to construct a field house. Motion failed by 3-4 with Bret Beye, Anna Gustafson, Stacey Berndt and Alan Stuart casting the no votes. Another motion was made by Anna Gustafson (Berndt) to approve Option A for the field house at a cost of \$825,000. Motion carried 6-1 with David Powell voting no.

6. COOPERATIVE LEARNING

Jayson Emig and Troy Biehler, middle school instructors were in attendance with nine students to present cooperative learning in the classroom. Both instructors attended a workshop last year and began utilizing this concept immediately. A brief presentation was given by the two instructors that compared traditional learning to cooperative learning. Several demonstrations were given in which the students worked together as teams to accomplish an academic goal. By working in teams, students gain confidence in social skills by interacting with their peers while learning at the same time.

7. SOFTBALL AGREEMENT

Renae Hickert, Superintendent at Rural Vista 481 has expressed interest in continuing the softball cooperative agreement with our district. A few concerns were expressed. If the season were to extend beyond the regular season, would Rural Vista be responsible for some of the expenses? A full plate of junior varsity games would be nice to see so all girls were getting adequate playing time. Additional money from USD 487's budget other than the normal cost associated with having a softball team was a concern. The actual contract will be presented at the October meeting for discussion and possible approval.

8. AMENDMENT TO TEEN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

An amendment to the TEEN contract is being presented to all Districts for approval. This change acknowledges what will happen if a district decides to disband from the TEEN network and the availability of that district's internet fiber for use by the remaining districts. David Powell moved (Berndt) to adopt the amendment to the interlocal cooperative agreement with TEEN. Motion carried 7-0.

9. U.S. CELLULAR GRANT

An application was submitted by 3rd grade teacher, Amy Gutsch, to U.S. Cellular. This application if accepted by U.S. Cellular will provide her classroom with supplies as requested in her written application. Phil Brockmeier moved (Gustafson) to accept the U.S. Cellular grant of up to \$403.90 if awarded to Mrs. Gutsch. Motion carried 7-0. Members commended her on her initiative in finding and pursuing this grant.

10. BUDGET CUTS FOR 2011-12

John Thissen and Robyn Heitfield met with KSDE deputy commissioner Dale Dennis to discuss the district's budget for 2011-12. Mr. Dennis expressed his concern of the possibility of additional budget cuts in November or December of this year. ARRA money will no longer be available for the 2011-12 school year. The two cuts combined could be as much as \$150,000 to \$200,000. With this information, the potential budget cut list created by District staff two years ago had been revisited. Since the meeting with Mr. Dennis, district enrollment information was updated and although enrollment has declined, an increase in free lunch applications has increased and will provide additional funding to our district this year and will guarantee this funding for the following year. Another funding increase to our district is the new facilities weighting we can claim for the 2011-12 school year. This funding is based on the number of students enrolled in the

new building and is guaranteed for two years. This could potentially add \$200,000 of extra general fund money to our budget for 2011-12. Mr. Thissen stressed this is not extra money but will fill in the hole from what the state may have to cut for the 2011-12 school year so additional district cuts at this time will not be necessary.

11. LONG-TERM MATERNITY LEAVE

A letter was submitted by 5th grade teacher Jennifer Bettles informing members of her upcoming maternity leave. She is expecting to be gone from January 27, 2011 until March 6, 2011. A long term substitute is already in place.

12. ATTENDANCE/GRADES POLICY

Because there has been so much negative discussion regarding the docking of grades due to attendance, Mr. Thissen recommended rescinding the attendance/grade policy as stated in the student handbook. Further ideas and discussion throughout this year can hopefully create a new policy for the 2011-12 school year. Alan Stuart made a motion (Gustafson) to strike the current policy dealing with attendance linked to grades. Motion carried 7-0. A committee consisting of staff and administration is working together to create a new policy.

13. BOE POLICY (Section JGCB-JS)

This item was tabled until the October regular meeting.

14 PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 8:37 p.m., Stacey Berndt made a motion (Brockmeier) 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 8:47 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.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Alan Stuart 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 8:48 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Resignations

David Powell moved (Berndt) to accept the resignation of Elementary custodian Julie Richmond and High School Cheerleading sponsor Theresa Kasten. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Hires

No action was taken.

D. Employee Overtime

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for August 2010.

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

A summary was provided through August 2010.

B. Credit Cards

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

C. Middle School 1 to 1

Middle school teachers are requesting the laptops be allowed to go home with the students. A technology fee was not assessed at the time of enrollment for middle school students. Discussion needs to be held to direct administration as to whether the laptops should now be allowed to go home with the students.

D. Old Elementary School

Money has been set aside in the construction budget to demolish the elementary school once students are at the new site. Mr. Thissen would entertain comments and ideas as to whether this is still the plan or would members consider selling the property to the right individual or business. If the decision to demolish the building is still the answer, items and equipment of worth need to be identified to sell to the public and demolition needs to happen immediately following. If there is a possibility of trying to sell the property, information will be provided in the future of tying performance bonds into the sale. Mr. Thissen was asked to see who the legal owner of Tripp Field is.

16. VOUCHERS

A motion was made by David Powell (Brockmeier) to approve vouchers as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

17. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- A. BOE Policy
- B. Construction Project
- C. Middle School 1 to 1
- D. Old Elementary School

18. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- A thank you was expressed from Phil and Stacey Berndt to Craig Albrecht, Steve Mies, Marcus Hawkes and Jayson Emig for their support during the loss of Phil's father.
- Rod Erickson asked the district to look into creating a policy that would not allow insulated cups to be brought in to extracurricular activities.

20. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:18 p.m., Bret Beye declared the meeting adjourned.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
Bret Beye, President

Date: _____