

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, December 21, 2009
6:30 P.M.**

David Powell called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education of USD 487 at 6:30 p.m. December 21, 2009. Board members and other staff present were: Alan Stuart, Phil Brockmeier, Stacey Berndt, Bret Beye, Beki Denning, Anna Gustafson, Superintendent John Thissen, and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Anna Gustafson moved (Denning) to adopt the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bret Beye moved (Berndt) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 2009 and the special meeting of December 7, 2009 with noted typo corrections. Motion carried 7-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Janet Wade, a retired civil engineer, encouraged Board members to review the Master Plan submitted by Hollis + Miller. One concern was the reserved space set aside for the baseball/softball fields and how it could cause unnecessary constraints at the new elementary site. She acknowledged the architects put together an efficient site plan but it was too crowded and didn't allow buffer areas between buildings. She also noted the location of the bus barn along D Street and commented industrial facilities were commonly located to the back of a site.

4. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT

Steve Mies reported on the following activities at the MS/HS buildings:

- A power point presentation was given by Stan Slaughter of KDHE on schools "going green" and how this is accomplished
- Middle school counselor, Connie Beavers and several students attended training for Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA)
- A winter music program was held on December 1st directed by vocal instructor Anne Otte and band instructor Kenny Roe. Middle and high school students performed to a full house in the middle school.
- Instruction is being administered to teachers regarding the acceptable protocol when administering Kansas Assessments
- Forty-five high school students meeting their AR goal were awarded a pizza party
- Middle School will be traveling to Manhattan to bowl as a first semester incentive trip

Jon Utech reported on the following:

- A rubric for the State technology plan is beginning to take form as CCC met regarding tech requirements and needs assessment
- Students were commended on their care and responsibility of the mini laptops. A few minor problems and warranties have been turned in
- As requested by members an analysis will be run on the laptops as to how much students are using them and what web sites are being accessed. A report will be given at the January board meeting

Mr. Thissen reviewed the report for the Elementary School:

- Mrs. Koehn's 1st grade class collected the most food for the Chamber's annual Food Drive and will be rewarded with a pizza party
- Kindergarten completed their 1st attempt of the MAPS tests in reading and math
- Dibels testing was completed by grades K-3
- Several students participating in the Fast Forward are completing the program and graduating with significant gains while other students will begin in the program

Brandi Hendrix, TEEN director, briefly updated members on the upcoming teacher in-service. TEEN Mashup 2010 will be presented with many hands-on sessions where teachers can gain additional insight to programs already introduced in our District. Teachers will be utilizing their laptops to do the work at the in-service and take it back with them for future classroom use. Terry Ryff, Jon Utech and Kim Coover will be presenting at three of the sessions.

5. PIPER JAFFRAY

Dustin Avey with Piper Jaffray was present to update members on the financing analysis for the recently passed bond issue. The previous sale of \$500,000 in bonds is scheduled for closing on December 29, 2009. This sale was necessary in order to fulfill the requirement of having outstanding bonds in order to offer for sale Build America Bonds. A conference call interview with himself, Mr. Thissen and Robyn Heitfield was scheduled with Standard and Poors. The company will analyze the interview and the district's financial information provided to them for the past three budget years and assign a rating to the district. This rating provides investors with an overview of the district's responsibility and financial situation.

With a favorable interest rate environment, he suggested the board move ahead in the offering for sale of general obligation bonds. The matter of providing for the offering for sale of approximately \$14,900,000 principal amount of general Obligation Bonds, Series 2010, came on for consideration and was discussed.

Member Stacey Berndt presented and moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFERING FOR SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2010, OF THE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 487, DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS (HERINGTON).

Member Phil Brockmeier seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution. thereupon, the Resolution was read and considered, and, the question being put to a roll call vote the vote thereon was as follows:

Aye: David Powell, Bret Beye, Stacey Berndt, Beki Denning, Anna Gustafson, Alan Stuart, Phil Brockmeier

The President declared the Resolution duly adopted; the Clerk designating the same Resolution No. 2009-5.

6. HOLLIS + MILLER

The team from Hollis + Miller presented members with information regarding Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), what it means, steps that must be taken to achieve it and the impact it could have if the District moved forward in incorporating this into the Elementary design. Alan Stuart moved (Gustafson) to have Hollis + Miller provide cost associated with becoming LEED certified. After more discussion, the motion was withdrawn by both members.

Character statements for the new elementary were presented and reviewed, several color schemes were introduced, and the schematic design process was discussed with members voicing opinions and suggestions.

7. CAPITAL OULAY PROJECTS

Previously discussed future capital outlay projects were re-introduced. With the passing of the bond issue, several projects can be eliminated as they were associated with the current elementary building. A current public and board concern that needs to be addressed soon is safety of the high school gym bleachers. Capital Outlay has been built up over several years with this project as one of several in mind. The concern brought to the board is whether to consider spending an estimated \$150,000 of Capital Outlay to replace the bleachers or continue to wait and see because of the current budget crisis and passage of the bond issue. Transfer to Capital Outlay for the 2009-10 school year was budgeted at \$85,000. This amount could be considerably less due to the budget cuts the district has already received.

8. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE 2009-10 AND 2010-11 BUDGETS

A list of potential budget cuts generated by a committee of school personnel was introduced to members. This list consisted of current ways to trim this year's budget that will collect \$180,000 less in state aid with even bigger cuts imminent for the 2010-11 school year. It was noted the district would receive additional funding based on the increasing number of free lunches as reported on the September 20, 2009 count to the State.

9. SCHOOLS FOR FAIR FUNDING

John Thissen, Jon Utech and Anna Gustafson attended the latest meeting regarding the Schools for Fair Funding (SFFF) in Salina. Of the 74 districts that voted to proceed with litigation, 49 of them currently have obtained their board's approval. SFFF is looking into reopening the Montoy case that was closed in 2006 when the State agreed to reasonably fund Districts. Several arguments SFFF is using to support the decision to proceed with litigation included the State's knowledge of the fact they would be \$400 million in deficit but did nothing to prepare for it and the issue of accountability. How can districts prepare a budget and run a business when their budgets are being cut during the year. Our district currently has not become a member of this coalition. A position may be taken at the January meeting.

10. CURRICULUM COORDINATING COUNCIL/TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

The curriculum coordinating council (CCC) and the technology council have met jointly for the past two months and have discussed merging for the last two years. The combined team will be called Curriculum and Technology Council (CTC) with the board's approval. A motion was made by Bret Beye (Gustafson) to merge CCC and the technology council to form CTC. Motion carried 7-0. The board requested a written description of CTC.

11. BOE POLICY (Sections C & D) (Sections E & F)

Due to time constraints, this agenda item will be tabled until the January meeting.

12. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 10:10 p.m., Bret Beye made a motion (Denning) for the Board to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel; with the Board returning to the open meeting at 10:25 p.m., and that Mr. Thissen attend. 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 (Brockmeier) 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 10:28 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Action on Personnel

C. Two Supplemental Positions

In one motion, Anna Gustafson moved (Berndt) to hire Nancy Ubias as sophomore sponsor and Ronda Strome as Middle School assistant volleyball coach. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Employee Overtime

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for November 2009.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

A summary was provided through November 2009.

B. Credit Cards

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

C. Kansas Broadband Internet

The agreement with KBI was signed last week. Contracts will be provided for review at the January meeting.

D. State Mileage Rate

Effective January 1, 2010, the State's mileage reimbursement rate will drop to \$.50/mile which will in turn drop the District's reimbursement rate as agreed on the July 2009 consent agenda.

14. VOUCHERS

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

15. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- A. Building Project
- B. Schools for Fair Funding
- C. Policy
- D. Piper Jaffray
- E. Technology Plan

There will possibly be a work session scheduled to address bond issue information prior to the January board meeting.

16. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Board would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:35 p.m., David Powell declared the meeting adjourned.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
David Powell, President

Date: _____