

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
CITY/SCHOOL OFFICES
19 NORTH BROADWAY
Monday, February 15, 2010
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. February 15, 2010. Board members and other staff present were: Alan Stuart, Phil Brockmeier, Bret Beye, Stacey Berndt, Beki Denning, Anna Gustafson, Superintendent John Thissen, and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Phil Brockmeier moved (Stuart) to adopt the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A change was made to Agenda Item 12 of the January 18, 2010, board minutes. Stacey Berndt moved (Brockmeier) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 18, 2010 as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Title I teachers, Barb Kurtenbach and Karen Reinert presented board members with much information regarding individual web pages they created on the district's web site. Parents are able to click on different links within the page and access many problem solving ideas and strategies to help the child in Math within their grade level. Websites are furnished to access reading strategies at each grade level as well.

4. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT

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

- Guest speaker Gruen von Behrens will talk to students March 3. He will share his story of being diagnosed with cancer at the age of 17 due to chewing tobacco
- Mrs. Griffiths and Mr. Cook accompanied high school girls to Emporia State to attend Sonia Kovalevsky Mathematics Day on February 11
- Several students will be representing Herington Middle School in the Dickinson County Spelling Bee in Abilene on February 17. They are; Maria Traskowsky, Kirsten Smart, Katie Martin, Mardi Traskowsky and Falon Kickhaefer.
- The middle school musical has been moved to March 25th.
- Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for March 9th and 11th
- The high school principal and counselor from Chase County USD 284 visited the district. They are gathering information given that they are looking to get rid of their current block schedule and return to the seven hour periods.

Jon Utech reported on the following:

- Technology personnel met with the architects to discuss the district's need for technology space and concern for meeting the tech demands in the new building.
- TEEN techs met with Two Trees Technology staff to discuss the challenges faced with KanEd limiting public IP addresses available.

Rich DeMont's report on elementary activities was read by John Thissen:

- Hoops for Heart was held in the gym on February 3 during each of his PE classes. The children are hoping to reach the goal of \$6500 Mr. Harmison set for them so they can throw a pie in his face.
- Immediately following the monthly PTO meeting February 9, families enjoyed game night in the gym. Title I teachers were available to show parents the numerous web sites they or their children can explore to assist them in advancing reading and writing skills.
- Teachers will break out into several groups and collaborate following early release for students on February 10.
- Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for February 16th and 18th.
- 2010 spelling bee winners were Jordan Weber 1st, Kobe Monnington 2nd and Nate Backhus 3rd. They will travel to Abilene February 17 to compete at the county level.

5. HUTTON CONSTRUCTION

A change was made to the wording of the original contract with Hutton Construction. Under compensation, it will now read ***Payment for general Conditions will not exceed 4.25% of the cost of the work.*** After more discussion and questions, Bret Beye moved (Denning) to approve the Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Construction Manager pending clarification of the workers' compensation paragraph under the **Insurance and Bonds** section. Motion carried 7-0.

6. HOLLIS + MILLER

Ed Carlson was introduced to board members by Hollis + Miller. He is the District's project manager for the elementary/track addition. High school teachers Megan Clark and Tony Hoops met with the architects last week to share ideas regarding their respective rooms. Jennifer Lollar received her first detailed layout of the new kitchen after previously meeting with the architects. Earlier in the day a walkthrough of the kitchen and a technology meeting to review possible technology drops was scheduled. The project manual checklist, design and development progress and schematic cost estimate was reviewed. Concerns regarding the need for a water line extension and the location of the track were discussed.

A comparison using the initial bond issue figures with that of Hutton's cost estimate and a private estimating service of the proposed new elementary school budget was provided and discussed. Comparisons at this point are estimates only and will become closer in cost by the forth estimate as the project details become more concrete.

There are two concerns identified from the estimate comparison;

1. The necessity of a retaining wall with the current location of the track.

A 24ft retaining wall will need to be built on the southwest corner of the track at an estimated cost of \$225,000. This amount was not included in the initial estimate. The possibility of locating the track further north could significantly reduce all or most of the retaining wall. The civil engineer would also be able to generate two different possibilities of track position. The negative aspect of moving the track north would eliminate the ball fields as part of the Master Plan. To place the track in the best place possible, consensus by the board was to take the ball fields out of the Master Plan Design.

2. Water pressure is too low for the campus once completed.

Because the campus is located at the end of town, the water pressure will be too low to accommodate for the entire campus. Therefore, civil engineers suggest one of two options. Booster pumps could be installed as a way of creating good quality domestic water and fire protection. The other suggestion involves creating a loop in the water line service that would run east toward Highway 77. Of the two options, engineers agree the latter one is the better solution but the cost of doing this is greater and additional money may need to be pulled from the project. A suggestion was made to table this decision and see what develops with Waste Not Technologies.

A power point presentation was given by Kevin Nelson, to show members the progress made to the design development stage which ends March 8th. More detailed information was shared on the outside design scheme. Inside graphic views were shown down corridors and into rooms. Outside views from rooms could also be seen using this technique.

Mr. Thissen informed members the federal government has put all new FEMA projects on hold until money is available but will continue to go through the approval process. Project approval on the district's submission still looks very promising. He gave board members three options to think about and decide on at the next regular board meeting;

Option 1. Stay on schedule and continue bidding the FEMA project.

Option 2. Put entire FEMA project on hold and bid a high wind gym instead.

Option 3. Stay on schedule and bid the project minus the gym until FEMA approval/non approval is received, and build the gym 3-4 months after project is completed.

7. TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Jon Utech provided members with an updated technology plan that is required by the State to be adopted and submitted. The board reviewed the proposal and asked several questions. A big concern of the plan was measurability. Mr. Utech will continue working with the CTC council and bring back to the March meeting for possible approval.

8. STRATEGIC PLANNING

April 10th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., location to be determined, has been scheduled for a special board meeting to review the district's goals.

9. CAPITAL OULAY PROJECTS

An updated vehicle list was made available to members for review. The possibility of replacing only one vehicle per year until 2025 exists due to the promising change in state statute on the replacement requirement of school buses from 20 to 25 years. Balances were provided on Capital Outlay and Contingency Reserve of \$343,000 and \$221,000 respectively. Further discussion may happen during the strategic planning session.

10. BOE POLICY (Sections E&F) (Admin Section of G)

Policy E & F suggested changes:

EBB Safety (See JBH)

Safety Unit

At the beginning of each year or semester, teachers who instruct in hazardous curriculum areas will teach a unit dedicated.....

Safety Inspections

Defects in excess of \$500.00 will be reported....

EBBA Hazardous Waste Inspection and Disposal

Inspection

Regular inspection.....shall be conducted. Delete by _____(rest of the sentence). Written records...

Disposal

Delete 2nd paragraph of this section. Redundant to paragraph under Rules

EBBD Evacuations and Emergencies (See EBBF and JBH)

If an emergency.....by the superintendent or designee.

School-Closing Announcements

When the superintendent believes.....announcements made over radio/TV stations(s). omit ()

EBBE Emergency Drills

No changes are to be made. It was noted to confirm parents are receiving a copy of the building's emergency plans each year.

EBBF Crisis Planning (See EBBD)

The superintendent, in cooperation.....principal and crisis team, shall.....

EBCA Vandalism

Offering a reward

The board of education, as authorized by K.S.A. 12-1672a, hereby offers up to a \$500.00 reward to any.....

Persons having any knowledge.....superintendent of schools at 19 N Broadway, Herington, telephone 785-258-2263.

ECH Printing and Duplicating Services

Note to make sure this notice is posted near all copy machines.

FD Capital Outlay Long Range Planning

The board directs the administration.....the district staff, site councils and

Anna Gustafson moved (Berndt) to approve policies E & F as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

The following changes were suggested to the Administration Section of Policy G:

GAAE Bullying by Staff

The Report to Local Law Enforcement needs to have 487 filled in the blanks.

GACCA Nepotism

Much discussion was held regarding this policy. Comments were made opposing and in support of the suggested KASB policy. The board asked the clerk to make available the current adopted policy at the March meeting so additional discussion can be held.

GAD Employee Development Opportunities

All plans.....shall be approved in advance by the Superintendent.

GOA Drug Free Workplace (See LDD)

Use Alternative I to start the 2nd paragraph

11. REQUEST TO WALK AT GRADUATION

Two requests were submitted by Community Learning Center attendees to walk with the May 2010 graduating class. These two students were enrolled at the learning center for the state required September 20 count. Stacey Berndt moved (Brockmeier) to allow Annemarie Foxx and Angela Loree to walk with the graduating class of 2010. Motion carried 7-0.

12. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE 2010-11 BUDGET

An updated version of budget cut clusters was submitted to board members by John Thissen. Several items were color coded as to distinguish between personnel(green) and negotiated (yellow) items. At this time only cluster 1 is being considered for cuts. Personnel items identified in green include one PE and elementary teaching position, one aide position, summer secretary and custodial help, one food service position and one driver's education instructor. Phil Brockmeier made a motion (Gustafson) to disheartenly approve the personnel cuts identified in green for the 2010-11 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

13. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 9:05 p.m., Alan Stuart made a motion (Gustafson) for the Board to go into executive session after a five minute break for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel; with the Board returning to the open meeting at 9:30 p.m. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 7-0. Mr. Thissen was asked to join at 9:17 p.m.

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 9:32 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 7-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Anna Gustafson moved (Powell) 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 9:35 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Teacher Evaluations

C. Superintendent Evaluation

The evaluation of Superintendent John Thissen has been completed by the Board in which he has been recognized as a huge asset to the district, board and students. David Powell will be meeting with Mr. Thissen in the future to review his written evaluation. Mr. Thissen then asked board members not to renew the administrators' contracts at this time.

D. Action on Personnel

Stacey Berndt moved (Denning) to accept the resignations of Nancy Ubias as high school science teacher and Tristan Utech as 3rd grade teacher. Motion carried 7-0. Both teachers were wished well.

Anna Gustafson moved (Brockmeier) to hire Robbin Bell as the assistant middle school wrestling coach. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Employee Overtime

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for January 2010.

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

A summary was provided through January 2010.

B. Credit Cards

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

C. Bowling

Although all members were supportive of the idea of creating a school bowling league, given the financial situation of the State, discussion regarding this program has been tabled with the hopes of reopening discussion at a later date.

D. IBB

The first IBB meeting was completed. Ground rules were examined and a list of 20 issues was created. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4th.

15. VOUCHERS

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

16. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. Building Project

B. Policy

C. Technology Plan

D. PAT Presentation

E. Attendance Effect on High School grades

F. CPA Audit Report Review

17. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Beki Denning announced she has recently become engaged and will be moving out of the district in the near future. Her last board meeting will be the June 2010 meeting. The board extended their congratulations to Ms. Denning and wished her well.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:49 p.m., David Powell declared the meeting adjourned.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
David Powell, President

Date: _____