

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

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Due to problems with the State's website, the technology plan could not be created for board approval. Therefore, **Item 7. Technology Plan** will be substituted with **Sonic Grant**.

**Item 9. BOE Policy (GA Section)** recommended changes will be approved but discussion of **(Section GB-GC with H)** will be postponed until the April meeting. Anna Gustafson moved (Stuart) to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A change needs to be made from stature to statute in Agenda Item 9 of the February 15, 2010 board minutes. Beki Denning moved (Brockmeier) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2010 as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

**4. PARENTS AS TEACHERS REPORT**

Renae Riedy, director of Parents as Teachers (PAT) shared a power point presentation. Brief video footage was shown of several home visits made by herself and Sara Hunnicutt, another PAT educator with children at different ages. Currently, PAT serves 47 children in the Herington and Rural Vista communities; 31 of which are in our district. She reported a Smart Start grant of \$5600 had been awarded to the program.

**5. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT**

Rich DeMont's report on elementary activities was reported by Mr. Thissen:

- Kansas assessment testing is in the beginning stages
- Happy Bear will be presented to K-2 students on March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Hoops for Heart assembly was March 10. Students meeting the goal for donations were awarded the opportunity to throw a pie in the face of Mr. Harmison
- The gardening project will begin shortly

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

- Gruen von Behrens was guest speaker for students at both buildings. Mr. Behrens was diagnosed with oral cancer after becoming addicted to chewing tobacco. He gave a very powerful and motivating speech.

- A town hall meeting regarding underage drinking in the county and sponsored by The Task Force to Reduce Underage Drinking will be held at the Hilltop Community Center on March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Many compliments have been received regarding Coach Tony Hoops and the boys basketball team, their accomplishments this year as well as the outstanding job of a well put together sub state at our facility.

Jon Utech reported on the following:

- Architects from Hollis + Miller met with the technology department to discuss needs and placement of equipment at the new elementary building.
- Terry Ryff attended a meeting in Topeka between TEEN techs and Kan-Ed staff to discuss the challenges presented with IP availability. An additional year was granted in the amount of IP addresses we are allowed.
- Licensure renewals and computer programs are just a few items being reviewed as one way of trying to reduce next year's budget costs.
- Mr. Utech and TEEN director, Brandi Hendrix met with Lee Miller of Kansas Broadband Internet. They are looking at ways to provide better internet service for the district once the license is approved by the FCC. Lee Miller has not received formal notice but was contacted that the approval would happen.

#### **6. HOLLIS + MILLER**

Kevin Nelson provided an updated design of the project. The baseball field was eliminated and the track moved further north eliminating the need for a retaining wall that would have cost the district an additional \$225,000. Board members were very pleased with the newest design and showed much appreciation to Mr. Nelson and all of his hard work. June 1<sup>st</sup> is still the dedicated date to release the project for bid with June 28<sup>th</sup> scheduled for the approval of all bids.

#### **7. SONIC GRANT**

Amy Gutsch, third grade teacher, became aware of an opportunity sponsored by Sonic to provide classroom materials to students. Mrs. Gutsch submitted her project online and was notified March 1<sup>st</sup>, her classroom project was voted on by participating patrons and would be fully funded for the amount of \$401.13. Stacey Berndt moved (Denning) to accept the grant of \$401.13 from Sonic and express appreciation and commend Mrs. Gutsch for applying and securing this grant. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **8. OUT OF DISTRICT REQUEST**

A request was made by Sara Jones of Delevan to allow her son and former student of Herington, Jeffry Jones to attend classes at Herington High School. Phil Brockmeier moved (Stuart) to allow the out of district request. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **9. BOE POLICY (GA Section)**

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.

**GAOA Drug Free Workplace (See LDD)**

Use Alternative I to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph

Stacey Berndt moved (Gustafson) to approve the recommended changes listed above to Policy Section GA. Motion carried 6-0.

**10. ATTENDANCE AND GRADES**

Valarie Greenemeyer was present to openly question and discuss with board members the attendance policy and the affect this policy has on grades as it is written in the high school handbook. Her daughter, who is a senior, was given a grade reduction in three classes due to her attendance. Mr. Thissen asked members to study the policy and decide if the policy is to remain the same of if changes are needed. Members asked Mr. Thissen to bring the following information back to them at the April meeting;

1. How many students did this policy affect this school year?
2. What are the policies of other districts?

**11. 2010-11 BUDGET AND 2011-12 BUDGET**

The administrative team met to study and make adjustments to the budget cut prioritization list. Two issues were moved up from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> cluster This year’s summer school program and next year’s after school program as well as other items in Cluster 1 need to be addressed and decisions made soon. Anna Gustafson moved to cut summer school for this year. After further discussion, Anna Gustafson rescinded the motion and the item was tabled.

**12. CPA AUDIT**

**13. PERSONNEL**

**A. Executive Session**

At 9:03 p.m., Stacey Berndt made a motion (Brockmeier) 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 9:23 p.m. and invited Mr. Thissen into the meeting. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 6-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Anna Gustafson moved (Denning) 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 9:28 p.m. with Mr. Thissen attending. Motion carried 6-0.

**B. Teacher Evaluations**

**C. Coaching and Sponsors**

Resignation was given by Deb Geissert as scholar's bowl sponsor.

**D. Action on Personnel**

Phil Brockmeier moved (Berndt) to accept the verbal resignation of Emmanuel Torres as assistant middle school wrestling coach. Motion carried 6-0.

Phil Brockmeier moved to hire Robbin Bell as middle school head wrestling coach and Ron Strickland as assistant wrestling coach. Motion carried 6-0. This change was made from last month's motion because of KSHSAA's rule of Rule 10 coaches.

Anna Gustafson moved (Denning) to regretfully non-renew the teaching contract of Nick Fuemmeler. Motion carried 6-0.

Phil Brockmeier moved (Gustafson) to hire Mark Cook as assistant golf coach. Motion carried 6-0.

**E. Employee Overtime**

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for February 2010.

**14. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Budget**

A summary was provided through February 2010.

**B. Credit Cards**

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

**C. Kansas Broadband Internet**

KBI has been recognized as the leasee of the wireless assets. Placement of equipment could begin as early as next week.

**D. IBB**

A few issues were completed during the second IBB meeting.

**15. VOUCHERS**

A motion was made by to approve vouchers as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

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

A. Building Project

B. Policy

C. After school program

D. Attendance policy

E. Summer school program

F. Technology Plan

**17. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:40 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: \_\_\_\_\_