

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487  
19 N BROADWAY  
November 16, 2009  
6:30 P.M.**

David Powell called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education of U.S.D. 487 at 6:30 p.m. November 16, 2009. Board members and other staff present were: Alan Stuart, Stacey Berndt, Bret Beye, Anna Gustafson, Superintendent John Thissen and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield. Beki Denning joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Phil Brockmeier was absent.

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A recommendation was made to exclude Agenda Item 8 for the evening as other items must be dealt with. Stacey Berndt moved (Beye) to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried 5-0.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

An addition was made to **Agenda Item 8 BOE POLICY**. A change may be made to the second paragraph of Board Policy **CEC Superintendent Recruitment**. The recommendation will be made at the December regular meeting. Stacey Berndt moved (Beye) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2009 as amended. Motion carried 5-0.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

**4. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS**

Rich DeMont reported on the following activities at the Elementary:

- Absentee levels have dropped in the last few weeks
- Third grade teacher, Sandra Garrard accompanied the group to Salina in receiving recognition of the Challenge Award
- Parent/teacher conferences went very well. A few grades had 100% turnout of the meetings
- Reports were handed out to parents during parent/teacher conferences to verify the school received the standard of excellence in reading, math and science

The Board recognized and thanked the Elementary staff and teachers for achieving this building award.

Steve Mies reported on the following activities at the Middle/High School:

- The Kansas Honors Program was held in Chapman on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The following seniors were recognized as being the top 10% of their class; Eric Bukowski, Sarah Demadura, Cecelia Murphy, Ryan Schlesener and Allen Simmons
- Attendance for the parent/teacher conferences at the Middle School and High School was 69% and 77% respectively

- An assembly was held at the High School on November 11 to honor Veterans
- Students selected in November for honor choirs were; Sarah Gonzolas and Colgan Powell at the High School and Maria Traskowsky at the Middle School
- Selected to the KMEA North Central district Honor Choir were High School students Savannah Bukowski, Josh Connors Derek Knopp and Rachel Madrid
- The Wizard of Oz was performed at the Hilltop by students to a “packed house” on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

Board members extended congratulations to instructor Anne Otte for everything she has done for the musical and to the students that achieved the choir awards. Praise was also given on the updated school website.

Jon Utech reported on the following:

- Student laptops continue to experience few errors each day but no major issues
- Mr. Utech and John Thissen attended the Technology and Learning conference in Denver, CO. Many topics discussed were items this district is already participating in
- E-rate applications are already in the planning stages for next year
- No-cost websites will be shared with teachers to be used as a teaching tool

## 5. POST ELECTION AND PROJECTED PROJECT TIMELINE

Election results and expenses were submitted by Barbara Jones, Dickinson County Clerk/Election Officer. Final totals were: 503 YES to 354 NO. Mr. Thissen expressed his appreciation to the board and community members who made the election a success and referred to it as “a significant accomplishment”. He stressed the importance of “doing things right” in the next 1-1/2 years so that community members not supporting the election will later say it was the right thing to do.

Hollis + Miller architects were on hand to review the following:

### ➤ ***Project Schedule***

#### **Schematic Design - November 16 to January 11, 2010**

- Different layouts and designs will be submitted for review until a single drawing is approved on January 1

#### **Design Development – January 19 to March 1, 2010**

- Take approved design and select materials that will be used for the structural and mechanical systems, walls, floors, etc
- A layout of the entire project will be available that identifies every detail from lockers to gym bleachers to windows to outlets etc to be approved by March 1

#### **Construction Documents – March 02 to May 31, 2010**

- Design Development estimate review
- Review cost estimate
- Final QC/Budget/Final District Review

- Board approval to release for bids

**Bidding & Negotiation – June 1 to June 28, 2010**

- Release for bidding
- Bid opening
- Board approval on June 28

**Construction – June 30, 2010 to June 30, 2011**

- Ground breaking celebration on June 30, 2010
- Substantial completion of project by June 30, 2011
- Dedication on August 22, 2011

➤ **Review Budgets**

Budgets were reviewed on both the Elementary and track projects.

Discussion began as to the impact of the project if FEMA approved the application to build a community tornado shelter.

➤ **Character Statements**

Character statements are concepts that are supported by the District's vision, mission, goals and core values. The statement's intent is to be a constant reminder to the community what the District's goals are for everyone involved. Ideas were expressed to the architects so they could create the statement for the District.

➤ **Gathering Design Input**

Another tour will be offered to staff and community members. Hollis + Miller will revisit the buildings to obtain additional ideas and information from staff and community members.

➤ **Construction Manager Discussion**

A construction manager will need to be decided on before further decisions are made.

**6. PIPER JAFFRAY**

Dustin Avey with Piper Jaffray was present to discuss the procedures and advantages of selling bonds publicly or privately. Private sale bonds presently are more favorable in the market today but to sell this type of bond a District must have either outstanding bonds or are issuing bonds of less than \$2,000,000. Since the district qualifies for neither, the matter of providing for the offering for sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009, came on for consideration and was discussed.

Board Member Anna Gustafson presented and moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFERING FOR SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2009, OF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 487, DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS (HERINGTON).**

Board Member Stacey Berndt 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, Stacey Berndt, Bret Beye, Beki Denning, Anna Gustafson, Alan Stuart.

Nay:

The President declared the Resolution duly adopted; the Clerk designating the same Resolution No. 2009-3.

## **7. CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK**

Five construction managers At-Risk were interviewed in October 2008. Since the passage of the bond issue, this item is being re-visited. Lee Leiker, Superintendent of Marion schools, briefed the board on his experience with using Hutton Construction, the construction manager At-Risk that oversaw the project shared by the Marion School District and the City of Marion. Mr. Leiker had very high praises for Hutton Construction noting substantial savings on the project of 10-12%. He pointed out several advantages of going with a CM;

- Active involvement in decision making
- On-site manager overseeing project at all times
- Guarantee of specific amounts with the cost not to exceed the guarantee
- Information on the cost of projects prior to the bids coming in
- Can take part in the actual bidding if bids come in over estimate
- District to retain the difference if the bids came in under the estimate

Mr. Thissen also noted he had spoken to the Junction City School district who also used Hutton for one of their projects and received a very favorable report as well. Upon the recommendation by John Thissen, Alan Stuart moved (Denning) to hire Hutton Construction as the district's Construction Manager At-Risk. Motion carried 6-0.

## **8. BOE POLICY (Sections C&D) (Sections E&F)**

## **9. SCHOOLS FOR FAIR FUNDING**

As of November 13, 2009, fifty-seven school districts equaling 150,000 plus students have entered into an agreement with Schools for Fair Funding. An additional 172 districts have requested information. A three year plan created by the state to fund school districts lasted just two years because there was not enough money at the state level. The lawsuit, if pursued argues that the state did not provide the adequate funding they agreed would be necessary. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

## **10. PERSONNEL**

### **A. Executive Session**

At 9:00 p.m., Alan Stuart made a motion (Berndt) 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 9:15 p.m., and that Mr. Thissen, Mr. Mies and Mr. DeMont attend. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 6-0. Mr. DeMont left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Alan Stuart moved (Berndt) for the Board to return to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel; and that the Board return to the open meeting at 9:25 p.m., with Mr. Thissen and Mr. Mies attending. Motion carried 6-0.

Upon returning to the open meeting, Anna Gustafson moved (Berndt) for the Board to return to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel; and that the Board return to the open meeting at 9:35 p.m., with Mr. Thissen and Mr. Mies attending. Motion carried 6-0. Mr. Mies left the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Bret Beye excused himself from the meeting upon the conclusion of Executive Session.

**B. Basketball Coaches Hire**

Alan Stuart moved (Denning) to hire Lisa Beye as the high school girls' assistant basketball coach and Kenny Roe as an additional Middle School boys basketball coach. Motion carried 5-0. Bret Beye returned to the meeting.

**C. Maternity Leave Request**

Notice was given to the Board by Mrs. Shasta Acheson that she would be taking six weeks maternity leave upon the birth of her child which is due January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**D. Teacher Evaluation**

During Executive Session, the board received evaluations completed on teachers in the first three years of service.

**E. Action on Personnel**

**F. Employee Overtime**

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for October 2009.

**11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Budget**

A summary was provided through October 2009.

**B. Credit Cards**

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

**C. Kansas Broadband Internet (KBI)**

Notification letters of the District's intent to sign over the wireless assets to KBI have been distributed to the other interested vendors. Pete Robertson is confident these letters will be signed by the end of the week.

**D. Tech + Learning Conference (T+L)**

**E. Bus Sale**

The bus that was out for bid was awarded to Melvin Epling of Hope for \$1150.00.

**12. VOUCHERS**

A motion was made by Bret Beye (Stuart) to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

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

- A. Building Project
- B. Schools for Fair Funding
- C. Policy
- D. Piper Jaffray
- E. Promotion of Herington Schools

**14. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Members expressed appreciation to the Herington Times for their endorsement of the School Bond Issue. Thanks and appreciation was also given to Susan Mueller and J.R. Rambling's on their endorsements.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:50 p.m. David Powell declared the meeting adjourned.

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Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Powell, President

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