

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HERINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 487
HERINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
201 E HAWLEY STREET
September 21, 2009
5:00 P.M.**

David Powell called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education of U.S.D. 487 at 5:00 p.m. September 21, 2009. Board members and other staff present were: Alan Stuart, Stacey Berndt, Bret Beye, Anna Gustafson, Superintendent John Thissen, Gene Geissert and Clerk of the Board Robyn Heitfield. Beki Denning joined the group at 5:15 p.m. Phil Brockmeier was absent.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Stacey Berndt made a motion (Gustafson) to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

2. TOUR OF FACILITIES

Elementary School

Improvements/Upgrades

- Replaced outside doors at the Northwest corner of the building(custodian room)
- Security lighting
- Lockbox in which emergency personnel can gain entry to the building if needed
- Repair/patched parts of roof
- Replaced both sets of outside doors on west side of gym
- Security cameras
- Portion of gym painted
- Sound system in gym upgraded
- Playground equipment installed

Problems that continue to exist

- Leaks in the gym roof
- Gym floor needs to be replaced to be able to be used for competition
- Original fire alarm system is still in place from fifty-five years ago. The system cannot be upgraded or replaced until the asbestos is removed from the ceiling. Another concern is the loss of the fire alarm system throughout the building when power is disrupted
- A fan runs continuously on the electrical box installed in 1996 to prevent overheating
- Single pane window replacement would cost in excess of \$700,000

Tripp Field Improvements

- Roof replaced on the press box
- Tiles replaced in the bathrooms
- Doors replaced to the locker rooms

Middle School

Improvements/Upgrades

- Energy efficient hot water heater switched out during the summer
- Concrete was replaced throughout the parking lot
- Extra duty hinges were replaced on twelve sets of doors. This has prevented doors from slamming shut too hard and causing damage to the frame.
- Security cameras were installed
- The high school carpentry class built a small shed that sets on the south side of the property and is used for storage of football equipment

Concerns

- Drainage issues

High School

Improvements/Upgrades

- The volleyball pole holders and poles were replaced
- Ceiling and walls were painted in the gym
- Record boards were changed out in the commons area
- Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED) was purchased and installed in the hallway by the office
- Several equipment additions were made in the kitchen; dishwasher, steam kettle, and ice machine were replaced. Major repair was done to the walk-in cooler and freezer. The two smaller steam kettles were deemed unsafe upon inspection and will have to be replaced.

Concerns

- Major roof issues
- Landscaping issues that cause flooding into the building
- Asbestos in the ceiling and some in the floors will cost an estimated \$250,000 to \$300,000 to remove. The other problem that exists with asbestos is updates and advancement on certain technology equipment cannot be considered

Janet Wade, a retired civil engineer and guest on the tour summed up the tour by saying “Just Do It.” Her concern was based on an energy standpoint. Windows can be replaced and the structures may be sound but there will still be energy issues.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE 19 N Broadway

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bret Beye moved (Berndt) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 17, 2009 as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Ellen Granzow gave a brief explanation regarding home schooling and why sometimes it may be necessary. She asked board members to be open to the idea of supporting these families whether their children are full time students in the district or are being home schooled.

5. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

Rich DeMont reported on activities at the Elementary:

- Current enrollment is 216
- The after school program is now fully staffed. The Fast Forward program is being incorporated into after school
- Gardening project is in progress

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

- Current enrollment at the Middle School is 98
- Current enrollment at the High School is 155
- TEEN purchased a GPS system that districts are able to borrow for student learning
- Annual trash bag sales are in full swing at the Middle School sponsored by the Student Council. This is the only fundraiser the middle school holds.

Mark Cook reported on the following activities:

- The District will drop to 2A this year for all competition with the exception of football.

Jon Utech reported on the following:

- Improvements continue on the school website with staff actively using the class and activity updates
- Map testing is winding down
- Techbytes, a weekly newsletter is emailed to all students at the high school offering information, suggestions and quick fixes to common issues discovered with laptops

6. KANSAS BROADBAND INC.

Lee Miller, a representative with Kansas Broadband Inc, was present to introduce a potential contract that was recently negotiated with Hillsboro and Herington districts. Mr. Thissen asked members to review this contract which gives KBI the rights to the District's wireless assets and in return would provide wireless internet service to all households of high school students that are in possession of the district owned laptops they are using. The District would also receive an upfront one-time payment of \$25,000 and collect 1.5% of KBI's gross revenue each month. Members asked Mr. Miller to draw up an actual lease agreement, send it to Mr. Thissen and have the lawyer look it over for any changes.

7. BOND ELECTION

The application submitted to KSDE to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in an amount exceeding the district's general bond debt limitation was approved on September 9, 2009. The application regarding a potential grant for an approved FEMA shelter is nearing completion and will be in Topeka on Friday. If approved, the district

could receive up to 75% of the cost of building the shelter which would also be the new elementary gym.

10. FLU PREVENTION

Newsletters are being distributed to children to take home to parents explaining what precautions have been made to prevent the risk of spreading the flu. Administrators have attended meetings that are focusing on the concerns of pandemic flu. Arrangements were made for staff to receive the flu shot at a discounted rate.

11. SITE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIPS

A list of proposed site council members for each building was presented to members for approval. Stacey Berndt moved (Beye) to approve the proposed lists as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

14. VOUCHERS

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

9. 4th GRADE/HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATIVE SCIENCE PROJECT

Miranda Christner, Carrie Kickhaefer and Kim Coover together with last year's 4th graders Mary Coscollueia and Ashley Hird gave a presentation regarding a mini grant that was applied for and awarded through the 2008-09 IBB process. Fourth grade students paired up with high school students and created "science lab" groups in which technology was incorporated. Slide shows were created by each group identifying the steps taken to create a hypothesis, test it and then take the finding and create charts and graphs through power point.

8. BOE POLICY (Sections A&B)

Bret Beye and Stacey Berndt were assigned Section A & B of the policy manual regarding KASB's recommendations. KASB policy changes were recommended for approval with the exception of the following;

ABE District Goals and Objectives

The board **may** annually establish and review.....

AD District Attendance Areas

The board shall review school attendance areas (**as needed**) and make changes as warranted. The superintendent shall

BBB New Member Orientation

The superintendent, (the board president and _____) **may** conduct an orientation program..... The orientation **may** also describe the duties..... Newly elected and newly appointed board members **may** be encouraged to attend.....

BBC Board Committees

Board members **may** serve on committees which advise the board.

BBE Attorney

The board **may** appoint an attorney to handle legal matters referred by the board.

BCBF Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall not be adopted by the board. The board shall be governed by laws and rules adopted by the board.

BK Board Self-Evaluation

The board may conduct an annual self-evaluation. Each board member may use a self-evaluation instrument..... Results of these evaluations may be discussed, and revised standards and priorities may be developed to guide.....

12. PERSONNEL

A. Executive Session

At 8:15 p.m., Anna Gustafson 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 8:18 p.m., and that Mr. Thissen attend. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Aide Hire

Anna Gustafson moved (Berndt) to hire Janet Wade as the after school aide and accept the resignation of Megan Clark as Assistant High School Girls Basketball Coach. Motion carried 6-0. For the record, Miranda Christner informed members she will be taking 6 weeks of maternity leave when her baby is born in October.

C. Action on Personnel

D. Employee Overtime

The Board reviewed the employee overtime report for August 2009.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Budget

A summary was provided through August 2009.

B. Credit Cards

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

C. Bowling

Curtis McBride, new owner of Herington's bowling alley contacted Mr. Thissen regarding the possibility of starting a youth bowling league at HHS. More information will be available by Mr. McBride at the October board meeting.

D. Home Schooling

Mr. Thissen spoke to a parent of a former home schooled child. He has had conversations with Salina's Superintendent as well. They are not currently allowing homeschoolers to attend public school but expects changes in the near future. More information and discussion is desired.

E. Enrollment

Current enrollment, including the preschool and community learning center, is 493 compared to last year's enrollment of 499.

15. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- A. Bond Election
- B. Bowling
- C. Kansas Broadband Inc
- D. Home Schooling Report
- E. BOE Computers
- F. Communities that Care Survey Presentation

16. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Public TV is sponsoring a show in Abilene on families and staying together. Stacey Berndt will acquire more information and share with the group at a later date.

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 p.m. Bret Beye made a motion (Gustafson) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Robyn Heitfield, Clerk of the Board of Education

Attest: _____
David Powell, President

Date: _____