

**REPUBLIC COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #109**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**

**MONDAY, November 9, 2020**

**Administration Office**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Republic County Unified School District No. 109 was held at the administration office November 9, 2020. Board members present: Brian McCartney and Clay Siemsen attended in person. Loisann Brown, Brent Martin, Kevin Milner, Chris Pachta and Clay Aurand joined the meeting virtually. Also present were Superintendent Larry Lyder, Principals Alan Sheets and Katie Struebing, and Board Clerk Darice Wilkinson. Assistant Principal Brad Couture joined virtually. Guests present as registered.

The meeting was called to order by Brian McCartney at 7:30 p.m. with seven board members followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The board observed the Empty Chair philosophy.

**Additions/Approval of Agenda.**

**Clay Siemsen moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Kevin Milner. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Student/Teacher Presentation.** Jon Baxa and seven students provided a demonstration of multiple teaching and learning strategies that occur in Mr. Baxa's math classes. The students participating were Isaac Morris, Ella Pachta, Sam Sly, Trevor Lewellyn, Paige Waite, Garret Siemsen, and Trey Melton.

**Approval of Payment of Claims.**

**A motion was made by Chris Pachta and seconded by Kevin Milner to approve the payment of claims for \$266,353.61 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Approval of Consent Agenda.**

**Motion was made by Brent Martin and seconded by Clay Siemsen to approve the consent agenda items as presented and follows:**

1. Approved BOE Minutes of October 12, 2020
2. Accepted Gifts and Donations totaling \$17,624.32
3. Acknowledged Thank You from Ashley Strait

**Motion carried 7-0.**

**Comments of USD 109 Patrons:** No comments.

**Administrative Reports:**

**Elementary Principal, Katie Struebing:** Written report provided. Katie Struebing noted she was happy that staff and students are figuring out ways to continue to have activities even if they have to be done "COVID" style.

**RCJSHS Principal, Alan Sheets:** Written report provided.

Other items discussed:

- Boys XC won regionals and placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the State Meet in Victoria
- PT Conferences – Numbers were down slightly
- Trying to continue to hold as many as activities as possible by making adjustments if necessary

- Cara Wolverton, Ag Instructor, organized putting together Harvest Meals and sold them to the community
- Vet Parade is cancelled, but the high school and junior high bands will march a small loop route and perform at each school
- Site Council met last week and was well attended

**RCJSHS Asst. Principal/Activities Director, Brad Couture:**

No written report. Brad Couture shared game attendance rules for this winter season. Capacity is limited to 25% and masks will be required at all times. Lower north side of gym bleachers will be reserved for the teams and coaches. Games can be viewed livestream through the NFHS network. He stated that the wrestling schedule is already changing due to COVID.

**Superintendent Larry Lyder:** Items noted as follows:

- Snow days will be snow days and there will not be remote learning on those days
- Shared items discussed during the Phase II walk through on bond projects
- Activity Bus ordered last spring will be delivered Tuesday
- Bus 12-01 is having a motor issue and cost may be in the tens of thousands, so looking at used bus quotes and checking to see if can use some grant funds available from the state for a used bus
- Received a request to donate the small buffalo in front of the Jr. Sr. High School to the “plaza” that is being developed on the downtown square. It was the consensus of the board to donate the small buffalo.
- Shared a preview of the new school website that will go live on January 4th

**LCNCK Director, Rebekah Helget.** Rebekah Helget provided a written report and LCNCK newsletter.

Topics discussed were the LCNCK budget, percentage of special education students, special education staff FTE’s, instructional and staffing supports. Remote learning challenges were discussed and Ms. Helget noted that staff completed at the beginning of the year, a regular IEP plan and a “COVID” plan to use if remote learning is put in place.

**Board Member Items:**

**Board Goals for 2020-2021.** Mr. Lyder suggested a change from calling the statements “goals” to calling them priorities or board focuses since not all the action plans can be measured. It was the consensus of the board to change the wording from goals to focus.

**Clay Siemsen made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 board focus statements as presented. Chris Pachta seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Other Board Member Items:** Brent Martin asked for a brief update on the senior project requirement that was approved not knowing that COVID was going to happen and how that is being handled. Mr. Sheets indicated that the senior project leaders were still very confident that the projects are going well and are being adjusted for the current environment as necessary.

**Business Items and Reports:**

**Executive Session for the Discussion of Student Matter**

**Motion was made by Clay Siemsen to go into executive session to discuss confidential student information pursuant to the exception relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student under KOMA until 9:30 p.m. Brent Martin seconded the motion.**

9:00 p.m. The board members, Alan Sheets, Rebekah Helget and Larry Lyder entered executive session.

9:30 p.m. The board members, Alan Sheets, Rebekah Helget and Larry Lyder returned to open session

**KASB Voting Delegate.**

**Loisann Brown made a motion to appoint Kevin Milner as the voting delegate and Brian McCartney as the alternate delegate. Motion was seconded Brent Martin. Motion carried 7-0.**

**ImageQuest/ESSDACK Copier Contract.**

Mr. Lyder asked the board to consider the ImageQuest copier contract that was presented. Current copier agreement runs through next summer. ImageQuest would buyout the current lease agreement and install the new machines by the first of the year. Each building will have 3 copiers and 1 copier at the district office. The new agreement will save the district around \$900 to \$1200 a month.

**Kevin Milner moved to approve the copier contract with ImageQuest through ESSDACK as presented. Chris Pachta seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Amendment of 2020-2021 School Calendar.** Mr. Lyder asked the board to consider allowing the staff to have the entire week of Thanksgiving off vs. the three days currently scheduled. Discussion followed regarding if it would be better to have days off the week following Thanksgiving in order to stop the spread of the virus if become infected during the break. The decision was tabled until after discussion of the current gating matrix.

**Current Gating Matrix of In-Person vs. Remote.**

Mr. Lyder shared a chart that he will begin to share weekly with the board as COVID cases increase. Dawn Kasl, infectious disease director at Republic County Hospital, was present and shared concerns with the rise in the number of COVID patients.

**After further discussion, Clay Siemsen made a motion to amend the 2020-2021 school calendar as requested by Mr. Lyder. Loisann Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1 (Martin abstained)**

**Family Choice Remote Learners.**

Larry Lyder asked the board to consider eliminating the Family Choice Remote Learning option after the first of the year. Currently there are four at East and three at the Jr. Sr. High School. A decision will be made at a later time.

**10:25 p.m. Brent Martin left the meeting**

**Executive Sessions for Discussion of Non-Elected Personnel.**

**Motion was made by Clay Siemsen and seconded by Kevin Milner to go into executive session to discuss new hires and other personnel matters as pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA until 10:30 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.**

10:27 p.m. The board members and Larry Lyder entered executive session.

10:30 p.m. The board members and Larry Lyder returned to open session.

**Motion was made by Clay Siemsen to approve an OJT position with the district for Marcel Dyke. Seconded by Clay Aurand. Motion carried 6-0.**

**Motion to accept the resignation from Sarah Kunc as a bus driver was made by Clay Siemsen and seconded by Kevin Milner. Motion carried 6-0.**

**Motion was made by Clay Siemsen to approve a work agreement for Dorothy Conger as a bus driver. Seconded Clay Aurand. Motion carried 6-0.**

**10:31 p.m. Brent Martin returned to meeting**

**Executive Sessions for Discussion of Non-Elected Personnel.**

**Motion was made by Loisann Brown and seconded by Kevin Milner to go into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance and other personnel matters as pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA until 11:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.**

10:32 p.m. The board members, Alan Sheets, and Larry Lyder entered executive session.

11:00 p.m. The board members, Alan Sheets, and Larry Lyder returned to open session.

**Adjournment**

**Clay Siemsen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Pachta. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:01 p.m.**

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USD 109 Board Clerk

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Date

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USD 109 Board President