

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

**Thursday, May 11, 2017**  
**Administration Office**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Republic County Unified School District No. 109 was held at the administration office on May 11, 2017. Board members present: Clay Siemsen, Brian McCartney, Chris Pachta, Loisann Brown, Daryl Rieke, and Kevin Milner. Clay Aurand was absent. Also present were Board Clerk Darice Wilkinson, Superintendent Mike Couch, Principals Alan Sheets and Katie Struebing. Guests present as registered.

**The meeting was called to order by Clay Siemsen at 7:30 p.m. with six (6) board members present.**

**Budget Hearing** - (Correction to agenda –Approving the amended 2016-2017 budget not 2017-2018)

**Motion was made by Loisann Brown to approve the amended 2016-2017 budget as presented and published. Motion seconded by Brian McCartney. Motion carried 6-0.**

**Additions/Adoption of Agenda.** Clay Siemsen stated that Business Item J6 will become J1 and J10 will be J2 and the rest of the items will follow in order to allow presenters to leave sooner.

**Motion was made by Kevin Milner and seconded by Chris Pachta to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 6-0.**

**Approval of Payment of Claims.** Mike Couch went over the list of checks for payment to be approved.

**A motion was made Daryl Rieke and seconded by Loisann Brown to approve the payment of claims for \$164,975.74 as presented. Motion carried 6-0.**

**Approval of Consent Agenda.**

**Motion was made by Kevin Milner and seconded by Brian McCartney to approve the consent agenda items as presented:**

1. Approved Regular BOE Minutes of April 10, 2017
2. Approved lists of donations/gifts/grants totaling \$2750
3. Approve Laurie Kasl and Cameron Wilber to work as Summer Tech assistants
4. Approval of School District Summer Hours – Beginning May 30 to July 28 as in previous summers the office staff has the option of working regular hours or working one hour longer Monday to Thursday and close the office at 11:30 on Friday.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

**Comments of Republic County U.S.D. #109 Patrons.** There were no comments from patrons.

**Student Council Report.** Jaycee Blazek gave the Student Council Report.

## **Administrative Reports:**

**Elementary Principal Katie Struebing.** Written report presented at meeting. Katie Struebing noted the following:

- Teacher Appreciation Week – Thanked USD 109 CARES and the paras for providing treats and gifts for teachers
- Kindergarten Program held on Wednesday
- Next year Kindergarten numbers at 42

**RCJSHS Principal, Alan Sheets.** Written report provided. Mr. Sheets also noted the following:

- Thanked the board for the fruit tray provided to staff for Teacher Appreciation Week
- Thanked CARES for their contributions to Teacher Appreciation Week
- Work has started on the greenhouse- leveling and dirt work
- Tim Stephenson will be returning as driver's ed teacher which currently has 17 enrolled
- Noted ended of year activities – Senior Graduation – May 21<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion – May 23<sup>rd</sup>

## **Activities Director, Brad Couture.**

Brad Couture asked the board to consider changing the current policy for the length of time trophies are displayed at the Jr. Sr. High School Building. Current policy states 30 years and Mr. Couture has asked that it be changed to 3 years with exceptions. Board will take action at the June Board meeting after consideration.

**Superintendent, Mike Couch.** No written report provided. Mr. Couch discussed the following:

- State Assessments results are in and students did very well. Information will be presented to the board in more detail at later date
- Working on personnel vacancies
- Sent a google form to staff asking for a quick assessment of things staff would change in the district
- State Audit went well

## **Board Member Items.**

**Commencement.** Board was reminded about Commencement of May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m.

**Legislative Update.** Kevin Milner and Mike Couch provided the legislative update.

**Board Member Elections.** Board members whose terms are expiring this year were reminded to file by June 1, 2017, for re-election. The three positions are currently held by Loisann Brown, Brian McCartney, and Chris Pachta.

## **Business Items and Reports:**

### **1. Summer Projects.**

a. **Ag Shop Building.** Geisler Roofing & Home Improvements was the only bid received for the shop improvements. Dallas and Tyler Hasenbank, Geisler Roofing, presented information on the roofing options. Craig Allen noted that there may be some additional cost to tuck pointing some of the concrete blocks on the building. Mr. Couch recommended that the board approve the bid with no awning and the screw down roof option for a total cost of \$125,888.

**After discussion, Chris Pachta moved to do the improvements on the Ag Shop building with screw down metal roof and insulation option for \$125,888, and to leave the awning options to the discretion of the superintendent. Motion was seconded by Brian McCartney. Motion carried 6-0.**

**b. Carpet/Tile Quotes.** Craig Allen explained that the East Elementary rooms on the west side of the hallway will have the divider wall taken down and carpet installed. The east side rooms will also have the divider walls removed but tile work will be done to repair floor and no carpet installed. Mr. Couch noted that East Elementary library carpet was needed and could be used elsewhere if the bond passes and rooms are rearranged.

**Brian McCartney made a motion to approve the Boman bids for carpet and tile as presented. Loisann Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. (Classroom Carpet, Craig's Office, Hallway carpet - \$16329.88 --- Library Carpet -\$7262.12)**

**c. East Rooms Drywall.** Craig Allen stated Fuller Construction will be building stud walls on the wall where the old chalkboards are being removed. This will allow for new wiring and in some rooms allow for plumbing when bathrooms are redone at East Elementary.

**Daryl Reike moved to accept the quote from Fuller Construction for \$9500 to build the stud walls in 10 classrooms as presented. Brian McCartney seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

Craig Allen also noted that there will be concrete work done at East Elementary on the north entrance and the west entrance by the offices this summer.

- 2. Bond Discussion.** Mr. Couch stated that the scope of the bond has not been determined. Kelly McMurphy, Landmark Architects, Tucker Reddicord and Todd Knight with McCown Gordon Construction, presented the current proposed drawings for East Elementary and the Jr. Sr. High School and explained why they felt the proposed additions and renovations were the most economical and efficient use of space at each location. The proposals allow for enhanced learning, safety and security, and flexible spaces. The board was asked to share their thoughts on the proposed drawings. Chris Pachta asked that the south end additions at the Jr. Sr. High School possibly be paid from capital outlay and the roof be added to the bond instead. The next steps will be putting actual dollar figures with the proposals and meeting with the community committee to ask for input and collect information to be able to determine the scope of the bond. June 19<sup>th</sup> was a tentative date for meeting with the community committee.

**a. CMAR contract.** Mike Couch asked the board to consider the CMAR contract and to allow Clay Siemsen to sign the contract as Board President. Couch noted that the CMAR firm does not receive any payment unless the bond passes.

**Brian McCartney moved to approve the CMAR contract as presented and to allow the board president to sign. Motion was seconded by Loisann Brown. Motion carried 6-0.**

- 3. Health Insurance Renewal for Plan Year beginning October 1, 2017.** Mr. Couch noted that premiums will increase by an average of 8.12%. In order to stay a grandfathered plan, the district has to pay the same percentage it paid in March 2010. To meet this requirement, the district contribution will increase from \$479.36 to \$517.93 which covers a single health and dental plan. If the plan loses grandfather status, premiums would increase by 16.45% to maintain same type of plan.

**Daryl Rieke made a motion to accept the health insurance renewal as presented. Chris Pachta seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

4. **Fees and Lunch Prices for 2017-2018.** Mike Couch stated that all fees were staying the same except for lunch and breakfast prices. Lunch will increase by 10 cents and breakfast by 5 cents. If elementary art is offered, he may ask the board to approve a \$5 elementary art fee in July.

**Chris Pachta made motion to approve the fees and lunch prices for 2017-2018 as presented. Loisann Brown seconded. Motion carried 6-0.**

5. **Approve Milk Bid from Hiland Dairy for 2017-2018.** Mike Couch recommended the board accept the milk bid from Hiland Dairy.

**Chris Pachta made a motion to accept the milk bid from Hiland Dairy as presented. Brian McCartney seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

6. **Spanish Online Courses for 2017-2018.** Information from Smoky Hill ESC for providing online Spanish courses was presented. Mike Couch proposed contracting for two Spanish 1 classes and two Spanish II classes. This would require hiring a para and it was recommended to hire this person as full time para and the para could help with other At Risk needs at the Jr. Sr. High School or possibly monitor Spanish III and Spanish IV courses if a source becomes available for those offerings. The cost for up to four online Spanish courses through Smoky Hill will be approximately \$19,882 per year.

**After discussion, Kevin Milner made the motion to approve up to four hours of classes through Smoky Hill ESC and to hire a para. Motion was seconded by Loisann Brown. Motion carried 6-0.**

7. **Social Studies Textbook Adoption.** Katie Struebing presented quotes for 4-12 Social Studies Textbooks totaling approximately \$44,860. Mr. Couch asked the board to also consider the purchase of Google Expedition Kits to be used in sixth grade at a cost of \$7500 to \$10,000.

**It was the consensus of the board to leave to the discretion of the superintendent the purchase of the Google Expedition Kits. Daryle Rieke made a motion to approve the 4-12 Social Studies textbooks allowing the superintendent discretion up to \$47,000 on number of items purchased and pending public review of the textbooks. Loisann Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

8. **Purchase of 2016 Dodge Caravan.**

**Chris Pachta a motion to approve the purchase of a 2016 Dodge Caravan as presented. Brian McCartney seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. (Purchase Price -\$17745 with trade of 2007 Chevy Uplander)**

9. **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Discussion.** Mike Couch asked the board to formally approve the district to resume control of the promotion program and allow a supplemental for the staff member who oversees the program. This will allow more continuity from year to year.

**Loisann Brown made a motion to allow the district to sponsor the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion and to offer appropriate recompense for the staff member who oversees the program. Daryl Rieke seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

10. **2017-2018 Kindergarten Numbers and Sections.** As noted under administration reports, the 2017-2018 Kindergarten numbers are expected to be 42. It was Mr. Couch's and Mrs. Struebing's recommendation that the board approve 3 sections of Kindergarten for 2017-2018.

**It was the consensus of the board to approve 3 sections of Kindergarten for 2017-2018.**

**11. Executive Session for the Discussion of Professional Negotiations.**

**Daryl Rieke made a motion to go into executive session for five (5) minutes for the discussion of negotiations to protect the district's right to confidentiality of its negotiating position. Motion was seconded by Kevin Milner. Motion carried 6-0.**

10:12 p.m. The board members and Superintendent Couch entered the executive session

10:17 p.m. The board members and Superintendent Couch returned to open session

**12. Executive Session for the Discussion of Non-Elected Personnel.**

**Loisann Brown made a motion to enter executive session for twenty (20) minutes for the discussion of Non-Elected Personnel to protect the privacy interests of individual(s) discussed. Motion was seconded by Kevin Milner. Motion carried 6-0.**

10:22 p.m. The board members, Superintendent Couch, Alan Sheets, Katie Struebing and Brad Couture entered executive session

10:42 p.m. The board members, Superintendent Couch, Alan Sheets, Katie Struebing and Brad Couture returned to open session

**Brian McCartney made a motion to re-enter executive session for twenty (20) minutes for the discussion of Non-Elected Personnel to protect the privacy interests of individual(s) discussed. Motion was seconded by Chris Pachta. Motion carried 6-0.**

10:43 p.m. The board members, Superintendent Couch, Alan Sheets, Katie Struebing and Brad Couture entered executive session

10:56 p.m. Brad Couture left the executive session

11:03 p.m. The board members, Superintendent Couch, Alan Sheets, and Katie Struebing returned to open session

**Chris Pachta made a motion to re-enter executive session for thirty (30) minutes for the discussion of Non-Elected Personnel to protect the privacy interests of individual(s) discussed. Motion was seconded by Daryl Rieke. Motion carried 6-0.**

11:04 p.m. The board members, Superintendent Couch, Alan Sheets, and Katie Struebing entered executive session

11:24 p.m. The board members, Superintendent Couch, Alan Sheets, and Katie Struebing returned to open session

**a. Approval of Licensed Personnel for 2017-2018.**

**A motion was made by Loisann Brown to approve the 2017-2018 Licensed Personnel list as presented. Motion was seconded by Chris Pachta. Motion carried 6-0. (List Attached)**

**b. Approval of Supplemental Athletic Duties for 2017-2018.**

**Chris Pachta made a motion to approve the proposed supplemental athletic duties for 2017-2018. Seconded by Daryl Rieke. Motion carried 5-1. (Brown-No Vote) (List Attached)**

**c. Approval of Non-Athletic Duties for 2017-2018.**

**Motion was made by Chris Pachta to approve the 2017-2018 Non-Athletic Duties as presented. Motion was seconded by Loisann Brown. Motion carried 6-0. (List Attached)**

**d. Approval of Classified Staff for 2017-2018.**

Motion was made by Daryl Rieke to approve the 2017-2018 Classified staff list as amended.  
Motion seconded by Chris Pachta. Motion carried 6-0. (List Attached)

**e. Approval of Additional Pay.**

Chris Pachta made a motion to approve the additional pay for Kalen Bebermeyer for High School vocal duties through the end of school. Motion seconded by Brian McCartney. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Chris Pachta to approve five additional days for Michelle Hubert for the counselor transition in June. Motion seconded by Loisann Brown. Motion carried 6-0.

**f. Accept Retirements/Resignations.**

A motion was made by Loisann Brown to accept, with regrets and in recognition of her many years of service to the district, the retirement of Kathy Anderson as Kindergarten teacher. Motion seconded by Chris Pachta. Motion carried 6-0.

Daryl Rieke made a motion to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Grace Keller as a para. Motion seconded by Brian McCartney. Motion carried 6-0.

Chris Pachta made a motion to accept, with regrets, the retirement of Melba Hansen as bus driver. Motion was seconded by Brian McCartney. Motion carried 6-0.

Loisann Brown made a motion to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Kendra Short as cheer coach. Motion was seconded by Daryl Rieke. Motion carried 6-0.

**Adjournment:**

Chris Pachta made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Milner. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

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USD 109 Board Clerk

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Date

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USD 109 Board President