

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

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020
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, 2020. Board members present: Loisann Brown and Clay Siemsen. Joining through Google Meet were Clay Aurand, Brent Martin, Brian McCartney, Kevin Milner, and Chris Pachta. Also present at the office were Board Clerk Darice Wilkinson and Superintendent Mike Couch. The building principals, activities director, and other staff and patrons joined through GoogleMeet.

The meeting was called to order by Brian McCartney at 7:30 p.m. with seven board members present.

Approval of Agenda. Brian McCartney added Consent Agenda Item D#3 Acknowledgement of thank you from Pam Gallion for Teacher Appreciation week gift.

Clay Aurand moved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Chris Pachta. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Payment of Claims. Mr. Couch highlighted various bills.

A motion was made Clay Siemsen and seconded by Clay Aurand to approve the current payment of claims for \$314,818.99 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Kevin Milner and seconded by Clay Siemsen to approve the consent agenda items as amended and follows:

1. Approved the Regular BOE Minutes of April 13, 2020
2. Accepted Gifts and Donations totaling \$8804
3. Acknowledged Thank You from Pam Gallion for Teacher Appreciation Week gift

Motion carried 7-0.

Student Council Report. None.

Administrative Reports:

East Elementary Principal, Katie Struebing: No written report. Katie Struebing presented her report to the board making note of the following items:

- Weekly meetings with staff as a group and by grade level, specials, and special ed meetings
- 3-4 times a week collaborating with counselors
- Special Events outside of the Continuous Learning plan have included:
 - Weekly messages from a specials teacher and principal
 - Teacher Appreciation Week – Flipgrid videos from students to teachers
 - Video to the students and Families - May 12
 - Principal Appreciation Day – Flipgrid videos from students to principal
 - Spirit Days each week
 - Last week of school will include several fun virtual activities for the students
- Provided a 4th quarter rubric, East Elementary staff will use to measure students' participation in the continuous learning plan – have had 95 to 98% participation by students at various levels

RCJSHS Principal, Alan Sheets: Brief report provided. Mr. Sheets presented his report to the board.

- Written report showed the many activities that have taken place beyond the continuous learning plan with students at the Jr. Sr. High School
- May 12th is the last day for Seniors
- 6th grade teachers delivered t-shirts to their students on May 11
- How to determine grades is still being discussed for the online learning portion of the year. Grades may be frozen at 3rd quarter and pass/fail given for the 4th quarter with the exception of college courses

Activities Director, Brad Couture: Mr. Couture's report will take place under Business Item #5.

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

- Proud of how the students and staff have worked on the Continuous Learning Plan to make it a success
- Cannot duplicate classroom instruction in an online environment and is concerned if schools have to begin the new year online. Administrators will be studying a different format to provide more structure and rigor to the online learning plan should it be necessary to continue online teaching. May consider purchasing additional services through Edgenuity and Summit Learning.
- Had asked KSDE to allow an "early out" for school this year but was not given the okay so classes will continue to next week with various activities to close out the year.

Board Member Items:

Board Member Items/Comments. None.

Business Items and Reports:

2020-2021 Fees Discussion/Approval. Proposed fees for 2020-2021 were presented. Most fees will remain the same except for lunch prices will increase by 10 cents, milk by 5 cents, and adult lunches by 25 cents. Loisann Brown asked about the return of a portion of current year class fees due to the change in format of classes. Mr. Couch said he had been asked this question, but indicated that the amount per student returned would be small and the fact that most of the classes that are charged fees operate at a loss, it would not be worth opening that "pandora's box".

Loisann Brown made the motion to approve the 2020-2021 Fees as discussed. Kevin Milner seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

OPAA Food Service Agreement Amendment for 2020-2021.

Mr. Couch complimented the food service workers for their efforts in providing meals during this time. OPAA has increased their prices by 3% as allowed by food services state guidelines. He recommended the amendment be approved.

Clay Siemsen moved to approve the OPAA Food Service Agreement Amendment for 2020-2021. Chris Pachta seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

DayCare Discussion.

Mr. Couch shared that he had advertised the opportunity for lease of the building as a daycare in the Telescope. He stated that during this time of COVID-19, that he was not sure it is the right time to proceed with a daycare. He recommended that the board wait until January to proceed with daycare if that is their vision for the building. He also stated that the building would make a good learning center for a STEM lab or possibly an entrepreneurship showcase space for students to sell their goods. No discussion by the board followed.

Graduation Ceremony Discussion/Approval. Mr. Couch stated that he had joined meetings with senior student class representatives, class sponsors, and Mr. Sheets. He commended the student leaders for representing their peers well. Mr. Sheets said the plan agreed upon was for graduation to take place June 28th, at 2 p.m. in the Jr. Sr. High School gymnasium, with the senior class, immediate family members, and board members and administrators. The ceremony will not be open to the public. The ceremony will be taped and possibly televised on the public access channel, district website, and Facebook. If for some reason, the governor changes the phase in plan, and June 28th will not work, July 19th is the alternative date. Republic County Health Department has given approval to the plan if the re-opening phases go as planned.

Chris Pachta moved to approve the plan as presented for June 28th, in the gym, with class and immediate family, and to approve July 19th as the alternative date if needed. Clay Aurand seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

KSHSAA Guidelines and Summer Activities Discussion/Approval.

Brad Couture presented the KSHSAA guidelines and 2020 Summer outline for activities. He asked the board if they would approve opening the school building on June 1st to begin summer activities per the guidelines outlined. Republic County Health Department had approved as long as no changes happen with the governor's reopening phases.

Loisann Brown made a motion to approve use of the school beginning June 1st as long as activities continue to follow the county health department and KSHSAA guidelines. Clay Siemsen seconded the motion.

Clay Aurand asked for more discussion as had concerns on the traveling and close proximity of students participating. Mr. Couture would recommend keeping everything "in-house" and not allow travel to camps or competitions. Participants will be separated into groups of 10 and would be the same group every day, equipment will be wiped down in between groups, social distancing in the weight room. Brent Martin recommended hand hygiene before entrance into the weight room. **After discussion, the motion as made passed 7-0.**

Mr. Couture asked if the cheerleaders could meet at the school prior to June 1st to get measurements if under 10 people present. **Clay Siemsen made the motion to allow cheerleaders to meet prior to June 1st, motion seconded by Kevin Milner. Motion carried 7-0.**

Brad Couture asked if coaches could bring in outside organizations to help with team camps since not allowed to travel to camps. It was the consensus of the board that after June 15th, if meets the guidelines at that time, coaches could bring in outside organizations to help with team camps.

Brad indicated that if someone were to test positive, that group would have to self-quarantine and weight room will have to be sanitized.

Discussion of Maintenance Projects. Mr. Couch discussed the landscaping and lawns at each building. He had hired an "outside" company to come give their advice for lawn and landscaping and sprinkler systems and to provide specs for request for proposals for landscaping services. A quote he had received for sprinkler systems at both sites was around \$15,000. He asked the board for input on pursuing a sprinkler system at each site. Chris Pachta stated he felt bids for sprinkler systems should be done as soon as possible. It was the consensus of the board to have the superintendent obtain bids.

The "buffalo project" presented to the board in May 2015 by Ron Huffman, an alumnus of Belleville High School, will hopefully be placed at the Jr. Sr. High School in late May or early June. Mr. Couch reminded the

board that it was agreed that district would provide a base of stone or concrete for the buffalo. Mr. Couch recommended that Mr. Sheets, the facilities committee, Dr. Huffman, and himself be allowed to decide where the statue will be placed. The board members emphasized that they were very appreciative of the gift and stated how honorable it was for a past alumnus to take on the project. The board gave their consensus at the July 13, 2015, meeting to allow the administrators and Dr. Huffman to work together to see this generous gift to completion.

Executive Session for Discussion of Non-Elected Personnel

Motion was made by Clay Siemsen and seconded by Chris Pachta to go into executive session to discuss new hires, licensed personnel, possible year end stipends, summer hires, and division of administrator responsibilities as pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA until 10:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

9:30 p.m. The board members, Mike Couch, Katie Struebing, Alan Sheets, and Brad Couture entered executive session.

10:00 p.m. The board members, Couch, Struebing, Sheets, and Couture, returned to open session.

Motion was made by Kevin Milner and seconded by Clay Siemsen to go into executive session to continue the discussion of non-elected personnel items as pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA until 10:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

10:02 p.m. The board members, Mike Couch, Katie Struebing, Alan Sheets, and Brad Couture entered executive session

10:15 p.m. Katie Struebing left the executive session and returned to open session

10:32 p.m. The board members, Couch, Sheets and Couture returned to open session

Motion was made by Clay Aurand and seconded by Brent Martin to go into executive session to continue discussion of non-elected personnel items as pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA until 11:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

10:34 p.m. The board members, Couch, Sheets, and Couture entered executive session

11:01 p.m. The board members, Couch, Sheets, and Couture returned returned to open session

Action Items:

Brent Martin moved to approve a work agreement for Toni Barney as custodian at the Jr. Sr. High School. Clay Siemsen seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Couch asked the board to approve a \$500 stipend for the teaching staff for the added duties, evening hours, and use of personal technology and internet to be paid from CARES funds and to allow the superintendent discretion in providing a stipend to classified employees on prorated basis. Loisann Brown moved to make the motion as presented, Kevin Milner seconded. Motion carried 6-1 (Aurand abstained)

Clay Siemsen moved to approve the list of 2020-2021 licensed personnel and assignments as presented. Chris Pachta seconded. Motion carried 7-0. (List will be attached to the official minutes)

Chris Pachta moved to approve Zach Nabity and Dylan McCartney as summer maintenance employees and Laurie Kasl as summer tech support. Brent Martin seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Couch asked the board to approve the duties for Brad Couture as follows:

- will continue as Athletic and Activities director**
- will not coach in the fall due to the many administrative duties necessary at the start of a school year but may be a coach for winter and spring sports as necessary**
- teach Math for one or two periods**
- At Risk Coordinator for Jr. Sr. High School**
- Assistant Principal at the Jr. Sr. High School- duties to include 6-8th Grade Teacher evaluations and 6-8th grade student discipline**

Loisann Brown moved to approve the duties as presented for Brad Couture. Chris Pachta seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session for Negotiations

A motion was made by Clay Siemsen to enter into executive session to discuss proposals and 2020-2021 supplementals for negotiations for the 2020-2021 school year pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA until 11:25 p.m. Motion seconded by Loisann Brown. Motion carried 7-0.

11:14 p.m. The board and Mr. Couch entered into executive session

11:25 p.m. The board and Mr. Couch returned to open session

Adjournment:

Clay Siemsen made a motion to adjourn, seconded Chris Pachta. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 p.m.

USD 109 Board Clerk

Date

USD 109 Board President

Teacher Renewals for 2020-2021 – ASSIGNMENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

East Elementary:

Preschool – Laura Hobson

Kindergarten, Sarah Richecky

Kindergarten, Sharon Strnad

Kindergarten, Jenny Wheeler

First Grade, Misty Reynolds

First Grade, Pat Stindt

Second Grade, Mary Parry

Second Grade, Tina Holton-Rice

Third Grade, Ashley Pierson

Third Grade, Colton Grove

Fourth Grade, Amanda Strnad

Fourth Grade, Ashley Strait

Fifth Grade, Connie Reedy

Fifth Grade, Brenda Ritterling

Fifth Grade, Joni Sheets

Academic Subjects to be taught by each teacher TBD

Title 1, At Risk, MTSS, Kerry Johnson

Physical Education, John Burke

Vocal Music – Pamela Gallion

5th Grade Band – Alex Meek

STEM - Jennifer Mahin

Counselor, Susie Jelinek

Counselor, Gina Aurand

*Michael W. Couch
5-11-2020*

Jr. Sr. High School

Sixth Grade, Emily Pierson Academic Subjects to be taught by each teacher TBD

Sixth Grade, Laurie Kasl

Reading	7 th and 8 th grade - Joy/Scott
Gina Aurand	Guidance Counselor –East/Jr. Sr. HS
Jon Baxa	HS Math
John Burke	6 th Grade P.E.
Allison Coppie	Spanish/At Risk
Brad Couture	HS Math/Alternative Ed/Assist. Principal
Heather Dahl	FACS
Ben Enns	HS Science
Darsha Enns	JH/HS English
Blake Erkenbrack	HS Social Science/JH Social Science
Joelle Feight	HS Science/JH Science
Pam Gallion	HS Vocal
OPEN	HS Math
David Graham	HS Vocational Agriculture
Michelle Hubert	RCJSHS Guidance Counselor
Darla Joy	JH/HS Math/JH Reading
Nick Junker	HS Social Studies/JH P.E.
Faron Kraft	HS Physical Education/JH P.E.
Deb Krotz	HS English
Alex Meek	HS Band, JH Band, JH Vocal, 6 th Grade Band
Nicol Parde	HS Business/JH Computers/Yearbook
Rachelle Scott	HS English/JH English/JH Reading/General Science
Jed Strand	HS/JH Vocational Agriculture/6 th Grade Vo Ag
Tranda Strnad	HS Art/JH Art/6 th Grade Art

Michael W. Connel
5-11-2020