

BOARD OF EDUCATION
LINCOLN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 298
LINCOLN, KANSAS

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

LINCOLN JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017
5:30 P.M.

Board Members:

M. Breneman
TJ Jonsson
C. Walter
P. Winters
D. Zachgo

Others:

Kathy Robertson, Supt.
Greta Obermueller, Clerk
Steve Koch, LES Principal

Special Meeting

1. Jacob Hurla, 360 Engineers, Duane Hickerson, PBA Architects, Allan Milbradt, board members and the general public began arriving at 5:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School for the special board meeting.
2. The special meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President, Monty Breneman.
3. Motion by Debora Zachgo, seconded by Patti Winters, to adopt the agenda for the special meeting. Aye-5 No-0

6:04 p.m. David Bell arrived.
4. Monty Breneman, opened the meeting with an explanation of how the district arrived at the decision to move forward with a mail-in ballot bond election. Professional advice was sought by USD #298 Board of Education three years ago with a study on facilities and what areas needed to be addressed in a timely manner. With the age of Lincoln Elementary School, the issues that have arisen at the Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School, and student safety for lack of tornado shelters, the Board of Education has arrived at this point. The goal of this meeting is to communicate the needs of the district and implement the changes or needs.
5. Jacob Hurla of 360 Engineers, gave an informative Power Point presentation that outlined needs, proposed solutions, cost, and a mail-in ballot bond election.

Duane Hickerson, of PBA Architects, spoke to the FEMA storm shelters, the cost per square foot for construction, the maximum number of people that each of the two proposed shelters would hold, materials that would be used and the storm rating. Questions from some of the members of the audience of about 50 people in attendance were received and answered.

After the conclusion of information being provided to those in attendance and questions answered, Jim Metz, patron, was the first to offer his support of the improvements to the facilities. He stated that he has a family in the community. He has children attending school and he wants them in a good facility and one that is safe. He said that for patrons that don't have kids in school, our community still needs a school. Bob Schwerdtfager, retired maintenance for USD #298 Lincoln, followed with information on the poor condition of the roof while he was still employed by the district, the number of HVAC units that were failing on the Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School the last several years as they have exceeded their life expectancy, and the lack of windows that seal at the Lincoln Elementary. He stated that they don't seal and the roof is also leaking there. He pointed out that when your roof fails at home, you address it and replace it. Greg Babcock spoke on behalf of himself, and as the husband of a teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, their children in the buildings, and his involvement in replacing of the boiler several years ago. The piping couldn't be replaced and fresh air vents installed at that time. Lori Spear, Site Council member, a community patron, and mother of a child attending Lincoln Elementary, stated that we as patrons have a duty to maintain what we have, provide safe and adequate facilities for our children and a responsibility to our youth and children. Melodee Larsen, who has taught 38 years at Lincoln Elementary School and 30 in the same classroom, told of the few improvements to the building such as carpeting and ceilings lowered, and stated it is time to invest in our kids. She spoke from the heart about the tornado that swept by Lincoln two years ago and the frightening experience with students in the shelter that is not FEMA rated. She finished by saying that at the end of the day, it is about our kids and it is about community. Kellie Obermueller, who is in her 11th year teaching at Lincoln Elementary, stated that she is an employee and her husband and family are vested in the community. She spoke of the tornado that narrowly missed the community but also expanded on the window air conditioners that are musty smelling, the windows that do not seal and the rain that pours in, stating that we have future generations to protect. Christi Walter, 20 year LHS math teacher, addressed the audience regarding the inconsistency of room temperatures and spoke of the afternoon at the Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School as they were huddled in the locker rooms during the nearby tornado. She stated that she looked at the ceiling and the children, two of her own, and was frightened. She said that "you entrust us

to take care of your children and I don't feel like we are doing a good job". She encouraged support of the bond issue so they can do better. Hillary Holeman, Spanish teacher, has moved back to her home community with her husband and children. She talked of trying to teach students who are uncomfortable with faulty heating and air conditioning. She stated that we all know students are engaged and easier to teach if conditions are pleasant.

6. More community and patron questions were asked and answered.
7. At the conclusion of this portion of the meeting, the tour of the Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School facilities began. Dennis Pittenger, Maintenance, led this part of the meeting. The Lincoln Elementary School tour followed with Dennis Pittenger escorting the remainder of patrons through the elementary building.
8. Motion by Debora Zachgo, seconded by David Bell, that the meeting be adjourned.
Aye-6 No-0

Time: 8:25 p.m.

Greta Obermueller, Clerk

Approved:

Monty Breneman, President