

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Buhler Unified School District #313, Reno County, Buhler, Kansas  
**Monday, June 8 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

Board President Laura Meyer Dick called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Buhler High School library. The meeting was public via Zoom, an online meeting platform, necessary during the social distancing of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**2. Invocation**

Board Member Miranda Engelken gave the invocation.

**3. Roll Call**

Board Members present: Greg Lackey, Miranda Engelken, Monte Cross, Dr. Tim Lackey, Todd Carr, Matt McCabe and Laura Meyer Dick.

Board Members absent:

Administration present: Superintendent Mike Berblinger, Director of Finance Shane Hecox, and Assistant Superintendent Cindy Couchman

Administration absent:

Others present: Wendy Neill, Clerk of the Board; Mike Knopp, patron/Buhler Police Department; Abby Thompson, PHMS assistant principal; no record of those "attending" via the ZOOM platform

**4. Statements from the Audience**

There were no statements from the audience.

**5. Approval of the Agenda**

It was recommended that the Board add agenda item 8Hiii – Transfer of Staff.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Greg Lackey to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

**6. Special Recognition**

The Board recognized Superintendent Mike Berblinger for his 37 years of dedication to education. He has spent the last seven years serving Buhler as Superintendent. The Board thanked him for his service and wished him well in his retirement.

**7. Administrative Reports**

**A. Director of Finance**

\* Mr. Hecox shared the RCEC ESSER Fund application. The funds will flow through us.

\* Mr. Hecox will meet with Building Control Solutions (BCS) and the construction manager from Coonrod & Associates on Wednesday. They will continue discussions about the ongoing heating and air conditioning compressor problems at Union Valley Elementary.

B. Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Instruction

\* Summer school for Kindergarten through fifth grade will be held July 13-31, 2020. The district will use CARES Act funds to cover the costs. Students have been selected by need and they have been contacted for attendance through email.

\* The district will host the Multi-Sensory Reading training this summer, June 29 through July 10. Currently we have 15 enrolled for the training. This training is made possible through the Stallman Grant that the district has received the past couple of years.

\* Mrs. Couchman has attended several meetings this month including CEO's of Reno County, the Reno County Reopening task force and the budget sub-committee.

\* Mrs. Couchman will be in Topeka on Thursday for a New Superintendent's workshop.

\* The math adoption team met via Zoom today and will hear from a rep next Monday via Zoom.

\* KSDE has created teams that will start putting together plans for moving forward with reopening schools in the Fall. Mrs. Couchman will serve on the Oversight Team and Heather Sazama and Peggy Neufeld will serve on the Implementation Team.

\* A group met today to continue talks about a mental health partnership with Horizons. The TASN grant has been pushed back for one year because of the Covid pandemic but this team would like to see options of mental health support in the schools this year. They will have a proposal for the Board in July.

C. Superintendent

\* The windscreens at the Wheatland Park ball diamonds have been in bad shape. The grounds crew is working to get those taken down.

\* Graduation is still being planned for July 18, 2020 at 9:00 am at the BHS football field.

\* Mr. Berblinger's last day in the office will be June 24, 2020.

D. Board

\* Board member Miranda Engelken thanked the administration for the great organization during the pandemic. The FaceBook Live events have been very informative. Thank you also to the group that provided the yard signs for the seniors.

\* Board member Todd Carr attended the RCEC board meeting. The budget for next year shows a zero increase for us.

\* The board members thanked Mr. Berblinger once again for his time at Buhler.

**8. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of minutes**

It was recommended the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 11, 2020 and the special meetings on May 28, 2020.

**b. Building Financial Reports**

It was recommended that the Board approve the financial reports from each building.

**c. Resignation of Classified Staff**

It was recommended that the Board accept the following resignations:

- i) Karen Phillips, para professional at Plum Creek Elementary, effective May 28, 2020.
- ii) Raymond Augustine, bus driver.

**d. Release of Classified Staff**

It was recommended that the Board approve the release of Kelby Jones from her part-time duties as Shining Stars assistant at Buhler Grade School to offer additional hours to a long-term employee.

**e. Employment of Licensed Staff**

It was recommended that the Board approve the employment of Jamie Tilton, fifth grade teacher at Plum Creek Elementary, conditional upon release from her contract at USD 308. She will be placed in the MA+15 column and Step 1 with a salary of \$43,546. We will also pay \$1150 towards her penalty for not completing three years in USD 308 following the completion of her ESOL endorsement classes.

**f. Employment of Classified Staff**

It was recommended that the Board approve the employment of Brandi Miller, preschool paraprofessional at Union Valley Elementary. She will work 7.5 hours per day at a wage of \$10 per hour.

**g. Employment of Supplemental Staff**

It was recommended that the Board approve the employment of the following supplemental staff:

- i) Jeff Comer, summer weightlifting supplemental. He will be placed in Column E and Level 1 with a salary of \$1400.
- ii) Jamar Crable, 7<sup>th</sup> grade assistant boys basketball coach at Prairie Hills Middle School. He will be placed in Column D and Level 1 with a salary of \$1,960.
- iii) Jandee Oard, 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball coach at Prairie Hills Middle School. She will be placed in Column C and Level 4 with a salary of \$3,220.
- iv) Jack Conkling, head 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball coach at Prairie Hills Middle School. He will be placed in Column C and Level 10 with a salary of \$4,060.
- v) MaryBeth Bryant, assistant girls basketball coach at Buhler High School. She will be placed in Column B and Level 3 with a salary of \$3,920.

**h. Transfer of Staff**

It was recommended that the Board approve the transfer of the following staff:

- i) John Neill from PE teacher at Prairie Hills Middle School and Buhler High School to full-time PE teacher at Buhler High School. This is a transfer only and will not affect his salary.
- ii) Katie Belshe from 4.5 hours per day preschool para to a 7.5 hours per day regular ed para at Plum Creek Elementary. This is a position change only and does not affect her wage.
- iii) Sam Pahls from PE teacher at Buhler Grade School to PE teacher at Prairie Hills Middle School and Buhler High School. This is a position transfer only and will not affect his salary.



**i. Appointment of Treasurer**

It was recommended that the Board approve the appointment of Donna Kleinschmidt as the Treasurer of the Board. This is necessary as Christy Redd has resigned her position as of June 1, 2020.

**j. Other**

There were no other items.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the consent agenda as amended.

Motion carried. (7-0)

**9. 2020-2021 Meal Prices**

It was recommended that the Board approve the proposed breakfast and lunch prices for the 2020-2021 school year. The prices are:

Adult lunch - \$3.80

Extra milk charge - \$0.50

Student breakfast - \$1.60

Elementary lunch - \$2.80

Middle and High School lunch - \$2.95

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Matt McCabe to approve the proposed breakfast and lunch prices for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion carried. (7-0)

**10. KESA Report**

Mr. Mike Berblinger shared the report from the Outside Visitation Team. This report was submitted to the Accreditation Review Committee which is meeting this week. We should have a final decision on our accreditation by next week.

**11. Professional Development Council (PDC) Report**

It was recommended that the Board approve the Professional Development points as presented. Board member Laura Meyer Dick reviewed the points. Points were approved for Kathy Clark, Jeff Comer, Heather Sazama, Joyce Raya, Janea Gray, Brett Smith, Morgan Starkweather, Carline Rigenbach, Samantha Neill, Rachel Harder, Carla Goertzen, Sara Goerl, Patty Gould, Libby Fisher, Katie Van Zant, Shannon Vieyra, Stacia Weilert and Victor Wilkinson.

Motion (1) Laura Meyer Dick, (2) Monte Cross to approve the Professional Development points as presented.

Motion carried. (7-0)

**12. Insurance Renewal**

It was recommended that the Board approve the renewal of the Property/Casualty insurance with KERMP and the Workman's Comp insurance with Accident Fund.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Miranda Engelken to approve the renewal of the Property/Casualty insurance with KERMP and the Workman's Comp insurance with Accident Fund.

Motion carried. (7-0)

**13. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Hecox shared the financial reports.

#### **14. Reading and Approval of Bills**

Shane Hecox presented the following checks for approval: checks #56859 - 56928 in the total amount of \$ 120,789.08.

Motion (1) Tim Lackey, (2) Todd Carr to approve the issuance of checks #56859 - 56928 in the total amount of \$ 120,789.08.

Motion carried. (7-0)

#### **15. Executive Session – Personnel**

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Tim Lackey at 6:50 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss personnel issues pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 7:05 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Mike Berblinger, Cindy Couchman and Abby Thompson be invited to attend.

Motion carried. (7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 7:05 pm.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Laura Meyer Dick at 7:06 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss personnel issues pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 7:11 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Mike Berblinger, Cindy Couchman and Abby Thompson be invited to attend.

Motion carried. (7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 7:11 pm.

#### **16. Executive Session – Legal Matters**

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Tim Lackey at 7:12 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss legal issues pursuant to the exception for matters which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 7:22 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Mike Berblinger, Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox be invited to attend.

Motion carried. (7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 7:22 pm.

#### **17. Executive Session – Negotiations**

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Matt McCabe at 7:22 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss issues concerning negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 7:32 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Mike Berblinger, Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox be invited to attend.

Motion carried. (7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 7:32 pm.

Motion (1) Laura Meyer Dick, (2) Monte Cross at 7:32 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss issues concerning negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 7:42 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Mike Berblinger, Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox be invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 7:42 pm.

**18. Possible Action from Executive Session**

Motion (1) Matt McCabe, (2) Monte Cross to review adjustments to the supplemental contracts as per KASB suggestions.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

**19. Other**

There were no other items.

**20. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

  
Board Clerk

  
Board President