

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Buhler Unified School District #313, Reno County, Buhler, Kansas

Monday, September 14, 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.

2. Roll Call

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

Board Members absent: Greg Lackey

Administration present: Superintendent Cindy Couchman and Director of Finance Shane Hecox

Administration absent:

Others present: Wendy Neill, Clerk of the Board; Joyce Raya, BNEA; Garth Strand, patron; Lucky Kidd, Ad Astra Radio; Steve Armbrust, transportation director; Sheila Berridge, PCE principal.

3. Invocation

Board Member Miranda Engelken gave the invocation.

4. Statements from the Audience

Garth Strand, candidate for the Kansas House District 104, introduced himself to the board.

5. Approval of the Agenda

It was recommended that the Board approve the following changes to the agenda:

Remove Agenda Item 6 – Special Recognition
Add Agenda Item 8H – Employment of Supplemental Staff
Add Agenda Item – Transportation Concerns
Add Agenda Item – Approval of Bids
Add Agenda Item – Board Policy EBBB – Updates
Add Agenda Item – Executive Session - Personnel

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the amended agenda.
Motion carried. (6-0)

6. Special Recognition

Tabled to a future board meeting.

7. Administrative Reports

A. Director of Finance

* Mr. Hecox shared quotes from BCS, CM3 and Druse for the heating and air units at Union Valley Elementary.

* The Reno County Sparks committee met last Thursday. Almost all of our requests for Sparks expenses were approved. We will now start working on

purchases. All items approved need to be ordered, received and paid by December 31, 2020.

B. Superintendent

* Mrs. Couchman and Mr. Hecox met with Mayor Daniel Friesen and Councilman Jake Schmidt to discuss areas of concern between the City of Buhler and USD 313.

* Food Service Director, Kay Cox, applied for the waiver from the USDA to provide free breakfast and lunch for all students through December 31, 2020. Our application was accepted.

* Thank you to First National Bank, John Webb of Pathway Financial, CrossPoint Church of Hutchinson and Heartland Credit Union for their contributions to make our Back to School Orientation day a success. We appreciate their support of Buhler Schools.

* The school year started with many changes but the staff and students are doing a great job.

* Mrs. Couchman shared preliminary enrollment numbers. The official "count day" is Monday, September 21.

* We currently have 145 students enrolled in remote learning. Kyle McClure is working hard along with the facilitators to make this learning platform successful.

D. Board

* Board member Tim Lackey enjoyed the tours of the schools and appreciated the principals taking the time to show their buildings. We have great facilities!

* Board member Todd Carr reported that the Buhler High School soccer team is showing great improvement after a rough start to the season.

* The Board thought that the Back to School Orientation was well planned and had great energy. They were thankful to be a part of the day.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes

It was recommended the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 10, 2020 and the special meetings on August 20 and September 4, 2020.

b. Building Financial Reports

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

c. Retirement of Classified Staff

It was recommended that the Board accept the retirement of Ted Cunningham, district accounts payable and accounts receivable clerk. This will be effective upon the hire of his replacement.

d. Transfer of Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the transfer of Terra McCoy from main dish cook at Buhler Grade School to the baker position at

Buhler High School effective September 14, 2020. Her hours will change to 7 hours per day and her wage will remain the same.

e. Early Graduation Request

It was recommended that the Board approve the early graduation request for Keedan Christopherson.

f. Adult Meal Prices

It was recommended that the Board approve the new adult meal prices, \$2.40 for breakfast and \$4.20 for lunch. These adjustments are necessary due to changes in the state reimbursement rates.

g. New Supplemental Position

It was recommended that the Board approve the addition of a diving coach at Buhler High School. This position will be placed in Column D of the Supplemental Salary Schedule and funded by private donors. It is a ¼ time position.

h. Other – Employment of Supplemental Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the employment of Courtney Klassen, Prairie Hills Middle School webmaster. She will be paid a yearly stipend of \$1000.

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

Motion carried.

(6-0)

9. Professional Development Council (PDC) Report

It was recommended that the Board approve the Professional Development points as presented. Board members Laura Meyer Dick and Matt McCabe reviewed the points. Points were approved for Amber Neighbor, Sarah Voth, Brenda Smart, Kyle Osenbaugh, Kimberly Cottam, Letitia Petitjean, Tara Goans, Courtney Klassen, Ashley Urban, Kevin Ruda, Anneliese Reinert, Leah Morgan, Amanda Stambaugh, Rochelle Napier, Sierra Michelstetter, Amy Kraus, Michelle Goossen, Deanna Herrin, Rachel Babcock, Shelly Brooks, Katie VanZant, Kristy Adams, Brenda Dunning, Shane Hecox, Jason Kohls, Nathan Biggs, Jennifer Goering and John Clark.

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

Motion carried.

(6-0)

10. Transportation Report/Concerns

Steve Ambrust, District Transportation Director, spoke to the board about the lack of drivers and the concerns about busing for this school year. If we are not able to fill some of the open driver positions the board may need to look at options to reduce transportation routes. We currently have 30 drivers and need 34 to be full staff.

The board requested additional information to be brought back to them the next meeting.

11. Approval of Bids

It was recommended that the Board approve the bids for picnic tables to be used for outdoor classroom and lunchroom seating and additional classroom furniture.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the bids for picnic tables to be used for outdoor classroom and lunchroom seating.
Motion carried. (6-0)

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Todd Carr to approve the bids for additional classroom furniture.
Motion carried. (6-0)

12. Board Policy Update

It was recommended that the Board approve the update to Board Policy EBBD - Evacuations and Emergencies. This includes a provision for the superintendent to have the authority to close schools for up to two weeks for health and/or safety reasons as warranted for testing and quarantining.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Miranda Engelken to approve the update to Board Policy EBBD – Evacuations and Emergencies.
Motion carried. (6-0)

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 #57109 - 57245 in the total amount of \$ 480,260.52.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the issuance of checks #57109 - 57245 in the total amount of \$ 480,260.52.
Motion carried. (6-0)

15. Superintendent Job Description

The board discussed updates to the superintendent job description and evaluation tool. The board clerk will take the suggested changes and create a new document to be approved at the next board meeting.

16. Social Emotional Learning Curriculum

Sheila Berridge, Principal at Plum Creek Elementary presented the proposal for the adoption of K-12 Social Emotional Learning curriculum, Core Essential Values. It was recommended that the board approve the adoption of the Social Emotional Learning curriculum as presented.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Matt McCabe to approve the adoption of the Social Emotional Learning curriculum as presented.
Motion carried. (6-0)

The board took a 5-minute recess at 7:36 pm.

17. Executive Session – Real Estate

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Tim Lackey at 7:41 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss the sale and/or purchase of real estate pursuant to the exception for preliminary discussion of acquisition or sale of real property under KOMA and the open meeting will

resume at 7:46 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox be invited to attend.
Motion carried. (6-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 7:46 pm.

18. Possible Action from Executive Session

It was recommended that the board approve to list Obee Elementary School for sale with a real estate agent.

Motion (1) Tim Lackey, (2) Miranda Engelken to list Obee Elementary School for sale with a real estate agent.
Motion carried. (6-0)

19. Executive Session – Personnel

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Monte Cross at 7:49 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 7:54 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox be invited to attend.
Motion carried. (6-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 7:54 pm.

Motion (1) Tim Lackey, (2) Todd Carr at 7:54 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 7:59 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox be invited to attend.
Motion carried. (6-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 7:59 pm.

20. Other

There were no other items.

21. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.


Board Clerk


Board President