

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Buhler Unified School District #313, Reno County, Buhler, Kansas
Monday, October 12, 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 auditorium.

2. Roll Call

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

Board Members absent:

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

Administration absent:

Others present: Wendy Neill, Clerk of the Board; Lucky Kidd, Ad Astra Radio; Amy Conkling, Brittany Heinen, Chelsey Myrick, Jenny Mitchell, Casey Schultz, Joel Kesinger, Ginger Scripsick, Dana Regehr, Kristy Scott, Jen and Justin Scripsick, Jessica White, Kristi McDaniel, Kacey Bradshaw, Lori and Nathan Warner, Jake Schmidt, Daniel Friesen, Luis Marisol, Leonard Miller, Parent Group/Keep Our Kids in School; Randall Rank, PHMS admin and parent; Joyce Raya and Vicky Richardson, BNEA; Kyle McClure, BAC staff; Steve Armbrust, Director of Transportation.

3. Invocation

Board Member Time Lackey gave the invocation.

4. Special Recognition

The Buhler FFA Chapter earned a 3-Star rating from the National FFA Organization. This is the highest rating that a chapter can receive at the National level and represents the top 5% of FFA chapters from across the country. Mr. Cody McReynolds, FFA Advisor and the Buhler FFA Chapter officers and members were not able to attend the meeting but the board congratulates them for their success.

5. Statements from the Audience

A parent group, Keep Our Kids in School, came to the meeting to advocate for keeping kids in school through the Covid-19 pandemic. Parents Amy Conkling, Chelsey Myrick, Megan Waldren and Jenny Mitchel spoke on behalf of the group. They spoke to points about having board and parent involvement, the gating criteria, mental health and wellness and student perspective.

6. Approval of the Agenda

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

Add 8Gv – gifts and grants

Add Executive Session – Legal Matters

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

Motion carried.

(7-0)

7. Administrative Reports

A. Director of Finance

* Mr. Hecox thanked Buhler Mayor Daniel Friesen and Commissioner Jake Schmidt for the collaboration efforts between the district and the City of Buhler.

B. Superintendent

* Mrs. Couchman congratulated the girls tennis team who won the Regional tournament this weekend. Also, the girls golf team won the Regional tournament today.

* Thank you to Mr. Brennan Torgerson and the Crusader Sports Network for the great work they are doing live streaming for activities. It has been a lot of extra work and it is much appreciated.

* Mrs. Couchman thanked the staff of PHMS and BHS for the work they have done as they transitioned to hybrid learning. They have worked hard and they are learning as they go.

* Dr. Scott Pauly, Hutchinson Clinic and Karen Hammersmith, Reno County Health Department have worked tirelessly on the gating criteria for the county. Their leadership is appreciated.

* Principal Paul Erickson will present this week at the Kansas State Board of Education on micro-credentialing.

* Mrs. Couchman will be awarded the KSDE Confidence in Public Education Award at the State Board of Education meeting on Tuesday.

D. Board

* The Board thanked the parents for their emails and their presentation to the board this evening. The Board received a lot of good information.

* Board member Todd Carr is honored to be writing a letter of recommendation for Sam Pahls for the Horizon Award.

* The Board thanked Mrs. Couchman and the district staff for all their hard work during a very unusual time in education.

8. Consent Agenda

a. **Approval of minutes**

It was recommended the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 14, 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 resignation of the following classified staff:

i) Doug Collins, bus driver, effective September 11, 2020.

ii) Kelly Lackey, secretary at Union Valley, effective November 4, 2020.

d. Employment of Classified Staff

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

- i) Javon Brunner, Title I paraprofessional at Buhler Grade School. She will work 7.5 hours per day at a wage of \$11.25 per hour. She will begin working on November 23, 2020.
- ii) Ashley Penner, regular education paraprofessional at Buhler Grade School. She will work 7.5 hours per day at a wage of \$11.60 per hour. She will begin work on October 14, 2020.
- iii) Jessica Beer, main dish cook at Buhler Grade School. She will work 6.5 hours per day at a wage of \$10.50 per hour.

e. Employment of Supplemental Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the employment of Amy Fluck, assistant swimming and diving coach at Buhler High School. She will be placed in Column D and Level 1 with a salary of \$490. This is a donor paid, quarter time position.

f. Transfer of Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve transfer of Tanya Emery from Buhler Grade School paraprofessional to accounts payable clerk at the district office. She will work 8 hours per day with a wage of \$15.40 per hour.

g. Gifts and Grants

It was recommended that the Board accept the following gifts and grants:

- i) \$347.00 from Buhler Community Foundation to Buhler Grade School. The money from this grant should be used for books that broaden representation of children of all races, which will promote inclusion of all readers.
- ii) \$87.35 from Kiwanis Club of Buhler to Buhler Grade School for the distribution of dictionaries to the third grade students.
- iii) \$1000 from Kiwanis Club of Buhler to Buhler Grade School for library needs.
- iv) \$345 from Mid-Kansas Credit Union to USD 313 for school supplies.
- v) \$1885.00 from Carl D Perkins Reserve grant to Michelle Goossen, Buhler High School AG Department.

h. Handbook Approval

It was recommended that the Board approve the updates to the Licensed Staff Handbook for 2020-2021.

i. SPARKS Technology Purchases

It was recommended that the Board approve the purchases for student and staff technology as presented. There are two bids for Chromebooks and it is recommended that the Board approve the bid from Dell, as it is the lowest.

j. SPARKS Concrete Bid

It was recommended that the Board approve the bid for concrete work at PHMS, BGS, UV and PCE. This will create a space for outdoor seating to be used for lunches and outdoor learning.

k. Superintendent Job Description and Evaluation Tool

It was recommended that the Board approve the updates to the superintendent job description and evaluation tool.

l. Other

There were no other items for the consent agenda.

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

Motion carried. (7-0)

9. Executive Session – Legal Matters

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Greg Lackey at 6:20 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 6:30 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman, Shane Hecox and a KASB lawyer (via phone) are invited to attend.

Motion carried. (7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 6:30 pm.

Motion (1) Laura Meyer Dick, (2) Miranda Engelken at 6:30 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 6:35 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman, Shane Hecox and a KASB lawyer (via phone) are invited to attend.

Motion carried. (7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 6:35 pm.

10. Gating Criteria

Mrs. Couchman shared the recent changes to the Reno County and USD 313 gating criteria. She also shared data for our district and information about how these decisions are being made.

11. Transportation Update

Steve Armbrust, Director of Transportation brought information to the Board that they had requested at the previous meeting. He reported that we have had more applicants but they are still in the process of training and testing for the proper license. He shared the number of students who are transported that live within a 2.5 mile and 1.0 mile radius of their attendance center. There are many concerns about how to continue to

transport students if we move into the red zone of the gating criteria. This will be an ongoing discussion.

12. Professional Development Council (PDC) Report

It was recommended that the Board approve the Professional Development points as presented. Board members Todd Carr and Monte Cross reviewed the points. Points were approved for Deanna Herrin, Sierra Michelstetter, and John Clark. Points were also approved for reflections from the professional development and team time at the beginning of the school year.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Todd Carr to approve the Professional Development points as presented.

Motion carried. (7-0)

13. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hecox shared the financial reports. Fund 94 shows a negative balance as we wait on reimbursement from Reno County.

14. Reading and Approval of Bills

Shane Hecox presented the following checks for approval: checks #57246 - 57389 in the total amount of \$ 835,518.92.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Greg Lackey to approve the issuance of checks #57246 - 57389 in the total amount of \$ 835,518.92.

Motion carried. (7-0)

15. KESA Report

Mrs. Couchman shared the final accreditation report for the district.

16. Capital Outlay Projects

Mr. Hecox shared the list of capital outlay projects and the list of priorities. The top items on the list are the gym roof at Union Valley and drainage issues at Plum Creek Elementary. We will wait until spring and re-evaluate our budget before proceeding with more projects. It was recommended that the Board approve the district move forward with these projects.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Miranda Engelken to approve the district move forward with the Union Valley gym roof and Plum Creek drainage issues.

Motion carried. (7-0)

17. Executive Session – Real Estate

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Greg Lackey at 7:54 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 8:04 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 8:04 pm.

18. Executive Session – Legal Matters

Motion (1) Miranda Engelken, (2) Greg Lackey at 8:11 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 8:26 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman, Shane Hecox and Stan Hill, attorney (via phone) are invited to attend.
Motion carried. (7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 8:26 pm.

19. Approval of Bids

It was recommended that the Board accept the bid of Busby, Ford and Reimer LLC to perform the fiscal year '20, '21 and '22 financial audits.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Miranda Engelken to accept the bid of Busby, Ford and Reimer LLC to perform the fiscal year '20, '21 and '22 financial audits.
Motion carried. (7-0)

20. Executive Session – Personnel

The Board of Education did not meet in executive session for Personnel.

21. Other

There were no other items.

22. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.


Board Clerk


Board President