

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Monday, December 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. The meeting was held via Zoom and YouTube for the public.

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; Curtis Morgan, Colton and Kaden Lohrentz, Lindsay Warner, Aidyn White, Tanner Lindahl and Wyatt Bunce, BHS Cross Country; Kay Cox, Food Service Director; Aimee Leslie and Paul Erickson, Union Valley – all present via Zoom.

3. Invocation

Board Member Todd Carr gave the invocation.

4. Special Recognition

The Board recognized the following:

- Coach Curtis Morgan and the boys and girls Cross Country teams. The boys had a very successful season, winning the league championship, regionals and earning the state championship for the third year in a row. The girls also had a successful season with a first-place finish at league and regionals and a fourth place at State. Individuals earning medals at the State meet include Tanner Lindahl, third, Kaden Lohrentz, 17th for the boys and Leah Bentley fourth place for the girls. Coach Morgan was also recognized as 4A Coach of the Year for Cross Country. Coach Morgan and the team thanked the Board and administration for their support throughout the season. Coach Morgan also thanked his assistant coaches for their hard work.
- Kay Cox, Food Service Director, earned her certification in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). She was recognized at the State Board meeting for this achievement. This certification allows us to qualify for reimbursement of CARES Club snacks. Kay also completed an application for the No Kid Hungry grant. She was awarded a \$25,000 grant to be used to help cover program costs including food, disposables and equipment. The board thanked her for her extra hard work during an already busy time.

5. Statements from the Audience

There were no statements from the office due to being a remote meeting via Zoom.

6. Approval of the Agenda

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

Add 8J iii - \$550 from the John R. and Bethene S. Rimmer Fund for Early Childhood Education and Enrichment of the Hutchinson Community Foundation to Buhler Grade School.

Add 8J iv - \$850 from the John R. and Bethene S. Rimmer Fund for Early Childhood Education and Enrichment of the Hutchinson Community Foundation to Plum Creek Elementary School.

Add 8J v - \$1250 from the John R. and Bethene S. Rimmer Fund for Early Childhood Education and Enrichment of the Hutchinson Community Foundation to Union Valley Elementary School.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Todd Carr to approve the amended agenda.
Motion carried. (7-0)

7. Administrative Reports

A. Director of Finance

* Mr. Hecox reported that the new gym roof is completed at Union Valley Elementary School.

* SPARKS funding will be discontinued on December 31, 2020. We have spent close to \$1.2 million on technology, sanitation supplies, PPE, outdoor learning spaces and classroom supplies.

* Thank you again to USD 418 McPherson food service for helping us when the Buhler High School food service staff was in quarantine! We truly are better together!

* The KPERS audit is final. Mrs. Couchman, Mr. Hecox and Mrs. Kleinschmidt will meet with the auditors on Thursday for the follow-up meeting. We anticipate we will have adjustments that will need to be made.

B. Superintendent

* Mrs. Couchman reported that the math curriculum adoption is winding down. The team will have a recommendation to the board in February.

* Grades 6 through 8 science curriculum adoption will be led by Kyle McClure. They hope to have a recommendation for next year by the March board meeting.

* Mrs. Couchman thanked all of those who helped deliver meals to families in quarantine while Union Valley was in full flex learning. Board member Monte Cross helped with those deliveries as well.

* The Union Valley Staff worked well transitioning to remote learning while they were on their Thanksgiving Break. There was a team effort that helped make the transition smooth. Thank you to Steve Armbrust, Kay Cox, staff, parents and the community for working together.

* Sam Elliott, junior at Buhler High School, has been recognized as a Rising Star by KWCH. He was interviewed today.

* Teachers are working extra to complete all of the grading requirements for Edgenuity. This is time intensive for the elementary teachers. Compensation will be offered to them.

D. Board

* Board Member Monte Cross thanked the teachers, staff and administrators for the work they have done this year. Every day is different and each person is doing a great job keeping up with the constant changes.

* Board Member Monte Cross reported that the BHS bowling team and the boys swim team have begun their seasons. The first swim meet was today and athletes did well.

* Board Member Matt McCabe thanked the administrative team for their hard work in this unprecedented year. He encouraged them to enjoy their break, take time off and enjoy their family time.

* Board Member Tim Lackey shared that the 7th and 7th grade girls basketball teams are both playing for the league championship tonight.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes

It was recommended the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 9, 2020 and the special meeting on November 16, 2020.

b. Building Financial Reports

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

c. Termination of Classified Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the termination of Jessica Beer, food service employee at Buhler Grade School, effective December 8, 2020.

d. Resignation/Retirement of Classified Staff

It was recommended that the Board accept the resignation/retirement of the following classified staff:

- i) Ryan Monaghan, Computer Systems Analyst, his resignation effective January 11, 2021.
- ii) Sheryl Cunningham, printshop/copy center supervisor, her retirement effective June 20, 2021.
- iii) Austin Phillips, CARES Club Aide at Plum Creek Elementary, resignation effective January 15, 2021.

e. Employment of Licensed Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the employment of Rachel Holmes, math teacher at Prairie Hills Middle School. She will begin January 4, 2021. She will be placed in the BA column and step 1 with a

pro-rated amount of \$20,752.48. for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

f. Employment of Classified Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the employment of Brenda Eckhoff, kitchen manager at Plum Creek Elementary. She will work 8 hours per day at a wage of \$15.35 per hour.

g. Employment of Supplemental Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the employment Willie Adkins, ½ time assistant wrestling coach at Buhler High School. He will be placed on Level 10 in Column B with a salary of \$2,450.

h. Status Change for Classified Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the following temporary changes for classified staff:

- i) Steve Spencer, 10 additional custodial hours per week, paid at his overtime rate, due to a lack of staff.
- ii) Laura Bielser, a maximum of 6 hours per week to clean the Buhler High School office due to a lack of custodial staff. Her rate of pay will be \$9.00 per hour for up to 6 hours of custodial time.

i. Updated Job Description

It was recommended that the Board approve the updated job description for Systems Analyst.

j. Gifts and Grants

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

- i) \$25,000 No Kids Hungry Grant to support work to end childhood hunger.
- ii) \$5000 from the Herman, Esther & Henry Stallman Foundation to the District to be used for dyslexia training purposes.
- iii) \$550 from the John R. and Bethene S. Rimmer Fund for Early Childhood Education and Enrichment of the Hutchinson Community Foundation to Buhler Grade School.
- iv) \$850 from the John R. and Bethene S. Rimmer Fund for Early Childhood Education and Enrichment of the Hutchinson Community Foundation to Plum Creek Elementary School.
- v) \$1250 from the John R. and Bethene S. Rimmer Fund for Early Childhood Education and Enrichment of the Hutchinson Community Foundation to Union Valley Elementary School.

k. Other

There were no other items for the consent agenda.

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

Motion carried.

(7-0)

9. MTSS Presentation

Paul Erickson, Principal and Amie Leslie, Title I teacher at Union Valley, shared information with the board about the Multi-Tiered System of Support that is utilized in our elementary schools to provide assessment of students and then support to those students with needs. AimsWeb is the assessment tool that is used for both math and reading. The results determine the level of support that a student receives. The assessment is

given three times a year and the goal is to move kids from Tier III (intensive support) to a Tier I. Mr. Erickson shared the schedule that is used at Union Valley to meet the needs of the students needing the most support. The teachers as well as the instructional aides are used to provide this support.

10. Transportation Update

Steve Armbrust gave an update on the busing situation. We are still down three drivers. New routes are being used to provide transportation to all students who are greater than 2.5 miles from their attendance center. Some buses then do a second route to get students who are under 2.5 miles from their attendance center. This means that at the end of the day some students have to be released early in order to get both routes done. This is not a perfect solution but it is working. Thank you to Steve and the bus drivers who are continuing to work on finding solutions.

11. UV HVAC System Update

Mr. Hecox shared the latest update on the HVAC system at Union Valley. The board had discussion about the next steps to take in order to solve the ongoing problems. The board requests that Scot Wolfington, general contractor of the bond project, come to the next meeting to answer questions that the board has regarding the HVAC system and responsibilities of each entity.

Motion (1) Matt McCabe, (2) Greg Lackey to table this topic until we have more information.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 7:58 pm.

12. Return to Learn Changes

KSDE has updated their information on their Navigating Change document that guides our Return to Learn document. With new data that children 0-9 years old are less likely to get and transmit the virus the document recommends that elementary schools remain in person or hybrid even when the county gating criteria recommends going to a remote only learning environment. The middle school and high school recommendation stay the same.

Schools are also being asked to find a way to test students and staff who become symptomatic. We do now have tests that are available.

13. KSDE Waiver

KSDE has approved a 20-hour flexibility waiver. This allows for up to 20 hours of professional development to be counted as student contact time. It was recommended that the board approve to give Mrs. Couchman the permission to move forward with completing and submitting the application for this waiver as soon as the state makes it available.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Miranda Engelken to give Mrs. Couchman the permission to move forward with completing and submitting the application for this waiver as soon as the state makes it available.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

14. Calendar Change

It was recommended that the Board approve the changes to the 2020-2021 school calendar as presented. The change would move the professional development day from May 7, 2021 to April 30, 2021.

Motion (1) Matt McCabe, (2) Todd Carr to approve the changes to the 2020-2021 school calendar as presented.

Motion carried. (7-0)

15. KSHSAA – Fan Attendance Policy

Thank you to Justin Seuser and Board member Matt McCabe who both serve on the Board of Directors for KSHSAA. Mrs. Couchman shared the updated fan attendance policy that was adopted by KSHSAA. Local boards need to follow this policy but they do have the authority to make tighter restrictions.

Mrs. Couchman recommended the board to adopt this policy with the addition that if USD 313 is in full flex learning no spectators will be allowed.

Motion (1) Miranda Engelken, (2) Todd Carr that the board adopt this policy with the addition that no fans would be allowed on January 8, 2021 while we are in full flex learning.

Motion failed. (3-4)

16. Quarantine and Testing Update

Mrs. Couchman shared the updated quarantine guidelines from the Reno County Health Department. The quarantine period is now 10 days instead of 14 and can be reduced to only seven days if a negative test can be obtained on or after day 5 of exposure.

The District has purchased Covid test kits from the Wichita State University Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory. These are PCR tests and we have test results within 24 hours of delivering them to the lab. We can do either saliva tests or nasopharyngeal tests. The use of these tests has helped get teachers back into the classrooms sooner from quarantine and have helped us identify some positive cases.

We will soon have antigen tests through a pilot program with KDHE. These tests are not PCR and do not qualify to shorten a quarantine.

17. Bond Refinance Options

Mr. Hecox gave the board information about bond refinancing options that could save the district money. It was recommended that the board give Shane the authority to proceed with Raymond James to work on this refinancing project.

Motion (1) Miranda Engelken, (2) Todd Carr to give Shane the authority to proceed with Raymond Janes to work on the bond refinancing project.

Motion carried. (7-0)

18. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hecox shared the financial reports. The Health Care Reserve fund has a negative balance due to a check that didn't get deposited before the end of the month.

19. Reading and Approval of Bills

Shane Hecox presented the following checks for approval: checks #57576 - 57691 in the total amount of \$ 596,393.94.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Monte Cross to approve the issuance of checks #57576 - 57691 in the total amount of \$ 596,393.94.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

20. Executive Session – Negotiations

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Tim Lackey at 9:28 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss teacher compensation pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 9:38 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox are invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 9:38 pm.

21. Executive Session – Legal Matters

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Miranda Engelken at 9:39 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 9:44 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman, Shane Hecox and Stan Hill are invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

Stan Hill entered the meeting via zoom at 9:39 pm.

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 9:44 pm.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Matt McCabe at 9:44 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 9:49 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman, Shane Hecox and Stan Hill are invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 9:49 pm.

Stan Hill left the meeting 9:49 pm.

22. Possible Action from Executive Session

There was no action from the legal executive session.

23. Executive Session – Negotiations

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Tim Lackey at 9:50 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss teacher compensation pursuant to the exception employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 9:55 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox be invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 9:55 pm.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Laura Meyer Dick at 9:55 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss teacher compensation pursuant to the exception employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 10:00 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive and Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox be invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 10:00 pm.

Shane Hecox left the meeting at 10:01 pm.

24. Executive Session – Personnel

Motion (1) Miranda Engelken, (2) Tim Lackey at 10:04 pm that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and the open meeting will resume at 10:07 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman be invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 10:07 pm.

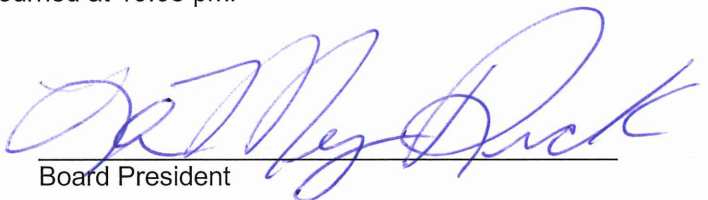
25. Other

There were no other items.

26. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 pm.


Board Clerk


Board President