

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Buhler Unified School District #313, Reno County, Buhler, Kansas
Monday, February 8, 2021

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. Invocation

Board President Laura Meyer Dick gave the invocation.

3. Roll Call

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

Board Members absent: Monte Cross

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

Administration absent:

Others present: Wendy Neill, Clerk of the Board; Stan Busby, Busby Ford Reimer CPA; Brian and Kristi Winters and Jandee Oard, parents; Michelle Goossen and John Kennedy, BHS AG Department; and Lucky Kidd, Ad Astra Radio.

4. Statements from the Audience

Two parents, Jandee Oard and Kristi Winters addressed the board with their concerns about remaining in hybrid learning. Both have students at Prairie Hills Middle School who are struggling with this learning platform. They are concerned about the academics but also for the mental health of the students. Concern was also expressed that athletics are being held and band is not.

Board Member Monte Cross entered the meeting at 6:04 pm.

5. Approval of the Agenda

It was recommended that the Board approve the agenda as presented.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Miranda Engelken to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

6.

Administrative Reports

A. Director of Finance

- Mr. Hecox reported that the bond refinance will be complete on February 23, 2021.
- Our KSDE audit is scheduled for April 12, 2021.
- The district will be moving forward with finding a solution to the issue of overflow parking needs at Plum Creek Elementary.
- Kruse Corporation and Building Control Systems (BCS) met with district personnel to discuss the humidity issues at Union Valley and Buhler High School.

B. Superintendent

- Mrs. Couchman shared that Union Valley and Buhler Grade School had hearing issues today. We are working with BCS to get this resolved.
- The virtual school proposal should be ready for the board next month. A team has been busy gathering data from other districts to develop a plan.
- KSDE is coming out with new guidance called Navigating Next. This will be a follow up to the Navigating Change document.
- Mrs. Couchman is keeping an eye on the weather for next week, especially the extreme wind chills.
- Mrs. Couchman is encouraged by the Covid numbers trending downward. She hopes that we will move to the orange zone soon. If we could get two weeks in the orange she might consider going back to full in-person learning. She will continue to follow the gating criteria for now.

D. Board

- The USD 313 Education Foundation met last week and approved the mini-grant recipients. They also discussed a cinnamon roll fundraiser. Watch for information about that soon. Board members who serve on the foundation include Tim Lackey and Laura Meyer Dick.
- The Education Foundation is looking for new members to become involved. If you know anyone with interest in serving on the foundation they should contact Laura Meyer Dick.

7. Consent Agenda

a. **Approval of minutes**

It was recommended the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 8, 2021 and the special meeting on January 25, 2021.

b. **Building Financial Reports**

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

c. **Employment of Classified Staff**

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

- i) Addison Smiley, preschool paraprofessional at Plum Creek Elementary. She will work 7.5 hours per day at a wage of \$10.65 per hour. She will begin work on February 8, 2021.
- ii) Julie Kottwitz, evening custodian at Plum Creek Elementary. She will work 8 hours per day at a wage of \$9.60 per hour. She will begin work on February 5, 2021.

d. **Employment of Supplemental Staff**

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

- i) Mike Zeyen, assistant track and field coach at Buhler High School. He will be placed in Column C and Level 10 of the Supplemental Salary Schedule with a salary of \$4,060.
- ii) Bailee Steward, ½ time assistant soccer coach at Prairie Hills Middle School. She will be placed in Column D and Level 1 with a pro-rated salary of \$980.

e. Transfer of Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the transfer of Kristine McCall, evening custodian at Plum Creek Elementary to evening custodian at Buhler Grade School. This is a transfer only and does not affect her hourly wage. The transfer is effective February 5, 2021.

f. Status Change for Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the status change for the following classified staff:

- i) Katie Belshe, paraprofessional at Plum Creek Elementary. She has completed 71 hours of college credit which qualifies her to move from a Para I to a Para II with a \$0.50 per hour increase in pay. This increase is effective January 21, 2021.
- ii) Chelsi Anguiano, preschool para at Plum Creek Elementary. She will move from a Para I to Para II status after successful completion of the WorkKeys test. She will get a \$0.50 increase in wage effective February 8, 2021.

g. Gifts and Grants

It was recommended that the Board accept the \$355.48 grant from Heartland Credit Union to Sue Papenfuss for her Decoding Reading Project.

h. Classified Wage Schedule

It was recommended that the Board approve the updated Classified Wage Schedule as presented.

i. Updated Job Description

It was recommended that the Board approve the updated job description, changing the Print/Copy Supervisor title to Design and Copy Coordinator and updating the qualifications and essential functions.

j. Credit Card Limit Adjustment

It was recommended that the Board approve the credit limit increase on Michael Ellegood's credit card to \$2000. This is to accommodate the additional costs associated with FACS orders at Dillons.

k. Other

There were no other items for the consent agenda.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried. (7-0)

8. RCEC (Reno County Education Cooperative) Report

Lena Kisner, Director of Reno County Education Cooperative shared information from their second quarter "District Report Card". This report highlighted the staffing assignments and allocations by district.

9. PHMS Choir Proposal

Greg Bontrager, choir director, shared a proposal to change 7th grade choir from an elective to a required semester course at Prairie Hills Middle School. It was recommended that the Board approve the proposal.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Monte Cross to approve the proposal to change 7th grade choir from an elective to a required semester course at Prairie Hills Middle School.

Motion carried. (5-2)

10. BHS Class Proposal - Food Science

Michelle Goossen, BHS Ag teacher, shared the proposal to add Food Science as an Ag class at Buhler High School. It was recommended that the Board approve this proposal.

Motion (1) Matt McCabe, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the proposal to add Food Science as an Ag class at Buhler High School.
Motion carried. (7-0)

11. 2019-2020 Audit Review

Stan Busby, CPA from Busby Ford Reimer, LLC shared the finding of the 2019-2020 district financial audit. It was recommended that the Board accept the audit.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Miranda Engelken to accept the 2019-2020 district financial audit as presented by Busby Ford Reimer, LLC.
Motion carried. (7-0)

12. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hecox shared the treasurer's report and the district finance reports. All funds look good.

13. Reading and Approval of Bills

Shane Hecox presented the following checks for approval: checks #57832 - 57943 in the total amount of \$1,048,853.88.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Greg Lackey to approve the issuance of checks #57832 - 57943 in the total amount of \$1,048,853.88.
Motion carried. (7-0)

14. UV HVAC System Update

Mr. Hecox shared the results of the meeting with BCS, CM3 and Coonrod and Associates. They had a good collaborative discussion and agreed that all parties would work together to address any issues going forward. The costs will be shared three ways.

15. Fan Attendance Policy

It was recommended that the Board approve the proposed Fan Attendance Policy. The policy was created with guidance from KSHSAA and the league athletic directors.

Motion (1) Matt McCabe, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the proposed Fan Attendance Policy created with guidance from KSHSAA and the league athletic directors.
Motion carried. (7-0)

16. Professional Development Council (PDC) Report

It was recommended that the Board approve the Professional Development points as presented. Board member Greg Lackey reviewed the points. Points were approved for Nicky Schafer, Anneliese Reinert, Dawn Willcox, Brian Moler, Vicky Richardson, Jordan Seuser, Alexis Branscom, MaryBeth Bryant, Trisha Burgey, Kimberly Cottam, Sara Goerl, Courtney Klassen, Cody McReynolds, Michelle Goossen, Rochelle Napier and Joyce Raya.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Miranda Engelken to approve the Professional Development points as presented.
Motion carried. (7-0)

17. Update on Legal Action

After seeking legal counsel, the district has decided not to move forward with any legal action against auditors, Swindol, Jansen, Hawk & Loyd in regards to not properly disclosing issues related to our health care reserve funds over the last three years. The district does not want to use taxpayer dollars to pursue this issue any further.

18. Executive Session – Negotiations

Motion (1) Laura Meyer Dick, (2) Todd Carr at 8:27 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 8:42 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 8:42 pm.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Miranda Engelken at 8:42 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 8:52 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 8:52 pm.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Tim Lackey at 8:52 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 8:57 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 8:57 pm.

19.

Other

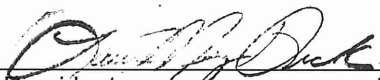
There were no other items.

20.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.


Board Clerk


Board President