

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Buhler Unified School District #313, Reno County, Buhler, Kansas
Monday, March 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 Vice President Greg Lackey gave the invocation.

3. Roll Call

Board Members present: Miranda Engelken, Monte Cross, Tim Lackey, Todd Carr, Greg Lackey, 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; Michael Ellegood, BHS principal; Emilie Schweizer, Coach Mike Juby, Sam Elliott, BHS wrestling; Dawson Banning, Ben Helus, Mitchel Cross, Colton Webster, BHS Swim and Dive; Adria Huiett, Mallory Cross, Trent Sheridan, Paula Sheridan, Coach Skip Wilson, BHS Bowling; Kristin Borrowman, Kurt Geilenfeldt, virtual school presentation; Joyce Raya and Vicky Richardson, BNEA; and Lucky Kidd, Ad Astra Radio.

4. Statements from the Audience

There were no statements from the audience.

5. Approval of the Agenda

It was recommended that the Board make the following adjustments to the agenda:

- * Add 8C iii – Julie Kottwitz, custodian at Plum Creek Elementary
- * Add 8F iv – Amber Parsons
- * Move agenda item 12 – Out of State Travel up in the meeting to just after the consent agenda.

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

Motion carried.

(7-0)

6. Special Recognition

The Board recognized and celebrated the success of the following programs:

- Coach Shane DeWeese and the Boys Swimming and Diving team - Colton Webster, Dawson Banning, Ben Helus and Mitchel Cross represented the team at the meeting. Following are the results of the state meet:
The team finished 20th out of 33 teams.
Medley Relay (Kaleb Webster, Michel Cross, Spencer Hines and Clayton Webster) finished 23rd

200 Free Relay (Spencer Hines, Colton Webster, Clayton Webster and Kaleb Webster) finished 16th - our first points in a State event and a new school record

Spencer Hines - 100 Fly - finished 21st

Kaleb Webster - 100 Back - finished 24th

400 Free Relay (Spencer Hines, Colton Webster, Clayton Webster and Kaleb Webster) - finished 20th and set a new school record.

State Diving - Colton Webster - 8th place and Clayton Webster - 6th place; both earned medals in the first year of the diving program!

- Coach Skip Wilson and the Boys and Girls bowling teams - Trent Sheridan, Adria Huitt and Mallory Cross represented the team. The girls team numbers were low this year. They took second place in the league tournament and Mallory and Adria qualified for State. Adria placed 15th at the state meet. The boys team won the league championship and lost at Regionals by just one pin. Trent Sheridan qualified for State for the second time.
- Coach Mike Juby and the wrestling team - Sam Elliott and Emilie Schweizer represented the team. Emilie is the first female wrestler to place at the State Championships and she took first place! Sam was the state champion in his weight class and he recorded an undefeated season.

The students and coaches thanked the board and administration for their continued support. This year certainly had its challenges with the pandemic but they were all happy to be able to compete. They appreciated administrators being present at their competitions when they were allowed.

7. Administrative Reports

A. Director of Finance

- Mr. Hecox reported that he has submitted our intent to adopt 33% LOB for the 2021-2022 school year. This has to be reported to the state each year.
- The roof in the PHMS 6th grade commons area has had leaking issues. Wray Bend is working on repairs to the south side at this time and will move to the north end when that is completed.
- A pipe on the north side of PHMS burst during the cold streak in February. Sturgeon Plumbing was able to repair this quickly.
- Plum Creek Elementary has had known issues with roof leaks and incorrectly installed metal work. Inspections showed that the quality of the roof was good. The repair to the metal work has been completed at no cost to the district.
- Our bond refinance was completed on February 23, 2021.
- There are continued concerns about the rising costs of natural gas. Mr. Hecox will keep an eye on the situation.

B. Superintendent

- Winter activities have wrapped up. Our staff and students represented Buhler well! Board members were happy to be able to attend some events in person at the end of the seasons.
- Reno County Commissioners plan to revisit the mask mandate at their next meeting. Our district will continue to require masks because we cannot social distance in our buildings.

D. Board

- The board discussed a change in the format of the monthly agendas. They will now be organized by our district priorities and help the board to stay focused on those areas.
- Several staff and board members were able to participate in the vaccination clinic held by The Medicine Shoppe. It was a

rewarding day for those able to receive the vaccine and for those who were able to volunteer.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes

It was recommended the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 8, 2021.

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) Jana McIver, food service at Prairie Hills Middle School. Her last day will be February 24, 2021.
- ii) Javon Brunner, paraprofessional at Buhler Grade School. Her last day will be March 12, 2021.
- iii) Julie Kottwitz, custodian at Plum Creek Elementary, effective March 8, 2021.

d. Employment of Licensed Staff

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

- i) Rebekah Cain, Vocational Agriculture teacher at Buhler High School and Prairie Hills Middle School. She will be placed in the BA column and Step 1 with a salary of \$37,800. This position also includes 20 additional days (\$4,165) and an FFA Supplemental stipend in Column C and level 1 (\$2,800).
- ii) Alex Meek, assistant band director. He will be placed in the BA Column and Step 1 with a salary of \$37,800. This position also includes supplemental stipends including 20 additional days (\$4,165), Instrumental music at Prairie Hills Middle School (\$1,540), Pep band at Buhler High (\$2,240) and Elementary music programs (\$650). The total compensation will be \$46,395.
- iii) Ashley Sides, sixth grade science and project based learning teacher at Prairie Hills Middle School. She will be placed in the BA Column and Step 1 with a salary of \$37,800.

e. Employment of Classified Staff

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

- i) John Scott, regular route bus driver. He will be paid \$25 per hour with a 2-hour minimum per day with no benefits.

f. Transfer of Staff

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

- i) Doris Smolik, evening custodian at Union Valley Elementary to evening custodian at Buhler High School. This is a transfer only and does not affect her hourly wage. This transfer is effective February 23, 2021.
- ii) Whitney Deitchler from first grade to fourth grade teacher at Buhler Grade School. This transfer does not affect her salary and will be effective for the 2021-2022 school year.
- iii) Krystin Schmidt, from bus driver/pony driver to Design and Copy Coordinator. Her wage will be \$13.50 per hour and she will work 8

hours per day, 12 months per year. Her official start will be July 1, 2021 but will do some training in the spring and June.

- iv) Amber Parsons from regular ed para to Title I para at Buhler Grade School. This is a position transfer only and does not affect her hourly wage.

g. Status Change for Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the following status changes:

These paraprofessionals successfully complete the WorkKeys test. This status change from Para I to a Para II includes a \$0.50 per hour wage increase.

- i) Jodi Widdison, preschool paraprofessional at Union Valley Elementary, effective February 18, 2021.
- ii) Jessica Hampton, paraprofessional at Union Valley Elementary, effective February 18, 2021.
- iii) Cora Stokely, paraprofessional at Union Valley Elementary, effective February 18 2021.
- iv) Brandi Miller, paraprofessional at Union Valley Elementary, effective February 19, 2021.

Also, a status change is requested for Robert Main, food service at Plum Creek Elementary. He will decrease his hours from 3.5 per day to 3.0 per day effective Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

h. Parents As Teachers Memorandum of Understanding

It was recommended that the Board approve the Program Assurances and Memorandum of Understanding between USD 313 and the USD 308 Parents As Teachers Program.

i. Memorandum of Understanding – Hutch Rec Stay to Play Program

It was recommended that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Hutch Rec Stay to Play Program.

j. 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. Out of State Travel

Mr. Greg Bontrager asked the board for permission to travel with the Buhler Singers to Branson, Missouri April 1 through April 3, 2021 for performances. The students have raised money for this and there is no cost to the district.

Motion (1) Matt McCabe, (2) Monte Cross to approve the request for out of state travel for Greg Bontrager and the Buhler Singers to Branson, Missouri April 1 through April 3, 2021.

Motion carried.

(7-0)

10. Proposal for Virtual School

Kyle McClure shared the vision for the virtual school. He and a team of teachers and administration have researched area virtual schools and feel like they have a good plan. Kyle will complete the application with KSDE for the intent to open Buhler Ad Astra Virtual Academy for the 2021-2022

school year. It is recommended that the Board approve the proposal as presented.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Todd Carr to approve the proposal for the addition of a K-12 virtual school named Ad Astra Virtual Academy.
Motion carried. (7-0)

11. Summer School and Steam Camp Proposal

Kyle McClure shared the proposals for the 2021 Steam Camp and summer school. It was recommended that the Board approve the proposals.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Miranda Engelken to approve the proposal for the 2021 Steam Camp and summer school as presented.
Motion carried. (7-0)

12. Technology Purchases

Shane Hecox and Kyle McClure shared a proposal to purchase the current MacBook Airs, iMacs and MacBook Pros at fair market value and continue to use them for the next two years. They also requested purchasing iPad covers for the new iPads at PHMS. It was recommended that the board approve the technology purchases. The board requested more information about the lease.

Motion (1) Laura Meyer Dick (2) Greg Lackey to table this item until a later meeting pending more information regarding the lease.
Motion carried. (7-0)

13. Approval of Special Meeting

It was recommended that the board approve a special meeting to be held Monday, March 29, 2021. The meeting will be at 6:00 pm and will include executive session to review administrative evaluations and contracts.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Miranda Engelken to approve a special meeting to be held Monday, March 29, 2021.
Motion carried. (7-0)

14. Draft Calendar

It was recommended that the Board approve the draft calendars for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.

Motion (1) Miranda Engelken, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the draft calendars for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.
Motion carried. (7-0)

15. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hecox shared the treasurer's report and the district finance reports.

16. Reading and Approval of Bills

Shane Hecox presented the following checks for approval: checks #57944 - 58059 in the total amount of \$340,835.86.

Motion (1) Miranda Engelken, (2) Greg Lackey to approve the issuance of checks #57944 - 58059 in the total amount of \$340,835.86.
Motion carried. (7-0)

17. UV HVAC System

Mr. Hecox shared the latest update on the Union Valley HVAC system. It was recommended that the board approve the proposed work to be completed on the Courtyard West system which includes new outdoor equipment, piping changes and updates to the indoor equipment.

Motion (1) Tim Lackey, (2) Todd Carr to approve the proposed work to be completed on the Courtyard West system which includes new outdoor equipment, piping changes and updates to the indoor equipment.
Motion carried. (7-0)

18. District Ventilation

Mr. Shane Hecox shared information about iWave Technology for the district hvac systems to improve ventilations. This was a discussion item only.

19. Bids for Concrete Approach

It was recommended that the board approve the bid from Miller Homebuilders, Inc. for the concrete approach at Plum Creek Elementary. This is necessary to address the overflow parking concerns.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the bid from Miller Homebuilders, Inc. for the concrete approach at Plum Creek Elementary.
Motion carried. (7-0)

20. Personnel Additions

It was recommended that the Board approve the addition of the following positions:

- i) CARES Club Aide at Union Valley Elementary. This will be self-funded by the program.
- ii) First grade Title I paraprofessional at Union Valley Elementary School. This will be funded by Title I funds.
- iii) Full time counselor at Prairie Hills Middle School. This position will be funded for the first two years out of the ESSER 2 and ESSER 3 funds.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey (2) Todd Carr to approve the addition of the listed positions.
Motion carried. (7-0)

21. 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 Jessica Boese, Angela Huck, Nicky Schafer and Jordan Seuser.

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

22. Executive Session – Negotiations

Motion (1) Miranda Engelken, (2) Todd Carr at 8:28 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 8:43 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) Laura Meyer Dick at 8:43 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 8:48 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 8:48 pm.

23.

Other

There were no other items.

24.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.


Board Clerk


Board President