

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Monday, May 10 2021

1) **CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Laura Meyer Dick called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Burkholder Administrative Center.

2) **ROLL CALL**

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

Board Members absent: Matt McCabe and Miranda Engelken

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

Administration absent:

Others present: Lucky Kidd, Ad Astra Radio; Seth Gould, Patty Gould, Brooklyn Golden, John Clark, Angela Fabian, Pete Fabian, Malachi Fabian, Rachel Bryant, Kira Bryant, Dade Coldren, Mamie Coldren, Kaysen Seidel, Cassandra Seidel, Alisandra Seidel, Chad Seidel, Karen Golden, Curtis Golden, CTE Scholar Recognition; Grace Whisler, ACT Scholar Recognition; Joyce Raya and Vicky Richardson, BNEA; and Michael Ellegood, BHS.

3) **INVOCATION**

Board Member Tim Lackey gave the invocation.

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 changes to the agenda:

- Add 6N – Disposal of Surplus Vehicle
- Add 8G – Preschool Fees – action item
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Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried.

(5-0)

6) **CONSENT AGENDA**

A) **Approval of Minutes**

It was recommended that the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 12, 2021.

B) **Approval of Building Financials**

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

C) **Resignation/Retirement of Licensed Staff**

It was recommended that the board accept the retirement/resignation from the following licensed staff:

- i) Andrea Pope, math teacher at Prairie Hills Middle School. Her resignation is effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- ii) Heather Sazama, fourth grade teacher at Plum Creek Elementary School. Her resignation is effective at the end of the 20-21 school year.

- iii) Brenda Smart, math teacher at Prairie Hills Middle School. Her resignation is effective at the end of the 20-21 school year.
- iv) Sharon Richardson, kindergarten teacher at Plum Creek Elementary School. Her retirement is effective on June 1, 2021.

D) Resignation/Retirement of Classified Staff

It was recommended that the Board accept the resignation of the following licensed staff:

- i) John Pankratz, custodian at Plum Creek Elementary School. His resignation was effective April 2, 2021.
- ii) Jodi Widdison, preschool paraprofessional at Union Valley Elementary School. Her resignation is effective May 26, 2021.
- iii) Jennifer Sandell, Title I paraprofessional at Union Valley Elementary School. Her resignation is effective May 26, 2021.
- iv) Libby Penrose, CARES Club aide at Buhler Grade School. Her resignation is effective May 21, 2021.
- v) Janice Marcum, food service at Buhler High School. Her retirement is effective June 1, 2021.
- vi) Lona Skinner, custodian at Prairie Hills Middle School. Her resignation is effective May 12, 2021.

E) Resignation of Supplemental Staff

It was recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Andrea Pope, assistant cross country coach at Prairie Hills Middle School and Buhler High School.

F) Employment of Licensed Staff

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

- i) Clint Simmons, third grade teacher at Union Valley Elementary School. He will be placed on Step 1 in the MA column with a salary of \$42,587.
- ii) Margaret Brock, first grade teacher at Plum Creek Elementary School. She will be placed on Step 2 in the BA column of the current salary schedule with a salary of \$38,316.
- iii) Susan Miller, math teacher at Prairie Hills Middle School. She will be placed on Step 2 and the BA+15 Column with a salary of \$39,609.
- iv) Sara Luckner, 2nd grade teacher at Plum Creek Elementary. She will be placed on Step 1 in the BA+15 column with a salary of \$38,746.
- v) Kaitlyn Foster, kindergarten teacher at Plum Creek Elementary. She will be placed on Step 1 of the BA column with a salary of \$37,800.

G) Employment of Classified Staff

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

- i) Ronald Foster, part-time, temporary custodian at elementary schools. He will work 3 hours per day at a wage of \$9.60 per hour. This is a temporary position through the end of May 2021.
- ii) Matthew Bale, evening custodian at Prairie Hills Middle School. He will work 8 hours per day at a wage of \$10.50 per hour. He will start work on May 3, 2021.
- iii) Natalie Schroeder, part-time preschool paraprofessional. She will work 4 hours per day at a wage of \$10.50 per hour. This is a position for the 2021-2022 school year, beginning in August.
- iv) Travis Schmidt, on-call Class C delivery driver. He will be paid \$10 per hour with no regularly scheduled hours associated.

H) Employment of Supplemental Staff

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

- i) Jaime Tilton, STEA Camp Director. She will be paid \$2000 for this position for the summer of 2021.
- ii) Mike Zeyen, assistant football coach at Buhler High School. He will be placed on Level 10 and Column B with a salary of \$4,900.

- iii) Shannon Vieyra, Assistant STEAM Camp Director and teacher. She will be paid \$250 for the assistant director and \$1500 for the teacher position.
- iv) Letha Warner, Summer School Director. She will be paid \$2000 for this position for the summer of 2021.
- v) Bernetta Burkhart, ESOL Coordinator at Union Valley Elementary School. The stipend for this position is \$1500.
- vi) Jamar Crable, assistant boys basketball coach. He will be placed on Level 2 and Column B with a salary of \$3,780.
- vii) Caroline Riegenbach, third grade team leader. The stipend for this position is \$1600.
- viii) Joanne Burckhart, second grade team leader. The stipend for this position is \$1600.
- ix) STEAM Camp teacher and group leaders as listed. Teacher will receive a salary of \$1600 and group leaders \$750.

TEACHERS

Kara Bunce
 Kayla Engel
 Ashleigh Vieyra
 Shannon Vieyra
 Courtney Adkins
 Allison Weber
 Vicky Richardson
 Trisha Burgey
 Emily Graham
 Mary Beth Bryant
 Peggy Neufeld
 Katelyn Stoss

GROUP LEADERS

Erin Thode
 Ashley Penner
 Tammy Hoskinson
 Priscilla Krehbiel
 Kaitlyn Foster
 Mary Witthuhn
 Lisa Stringer
 Alycen Berridge
 Rebekah Cain
 Carter Couchman

- x) Katelyn Stoss, Music Department Choreography for the spring musical. This is a supplemental in Column E, Level 5 with a salary of \$1960.

I) Transfer of Staff

It was recommended that the Board approve the following transfers:

- i) Susan Papenfuss, transfer from 2nd grade teacher at Plum Creek Elementary to Intensive Assistance math teacher at Plum Creek Elementary. This is a transfer only and does not affect her salary.
- ii) Ashleigh Vieyra, transfer from first grade teacher at Plum Creek Elementary to fourth grade teacher at Plum Creek Elementary. This is a transfer only and does not affect her salary.
- iii) Kara Warren, transfer from fourth grade teacher at Union Valley Elementary to math teacher at Prairie Hills Middle School. This is a transfer only and does not affect her salary.

J) Approval of Job Descriptions

It was recommended that the Board approve the following job descriptions:

- i) STEAM Camp Group Leader
- ii) Class C Delivery Driver

K) Gifts and Grants

It was recommended that the Board accept the \$300 from Jim and Joyce Phillips to the Buhler Band program.

L) Out of State Travel

It was recommended that the Board approve the following requests for out of state travel:

- i) Coach Mike Juby and the Buhler High School wrestling team to Gunnison, Colorado for a team camp, June 10-13, 2021. They request the use of school vehicles and district paid fuel.
- ii) Coach Emel and the Buhler High School volleyball team to Branson, Missouri for a team camp July 8-10, 2021. They request the use of school vehicles to transport 24 people. They will leave on July 7 and return July 10.
- iii) Coach Morgan and the Buhler High School cross country team to Norwalk, Iowa from June 11-14, 2021. They request the use of school vehicles.

M) Classified Wage Schedule

It was recommended that the Board approve the updated classified wage schedule with the addition of the on-call Class C delivery driver.

N) Other – Disposal of Surplus Vehicle

It was recommended that the Board approve the disposal of the 1968 Ford F700 Wrecker by sealed bid.

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

Motion carried.

(5-0)

7) MEASURES OF SUCCESS

A) Recognition of ACT Scholar

The board recognized Grace Whisler as an ACT Scholar. This award recognizes students who score a composite of 32 or higher on the ACT.

B) Recognition of CTE Scholars

The board recognized nine students who were designated as Kansas CTE Scholars by the Kansas State Department of Education:

Kira Bryant – Animal Science

Dade Coldren – Animal Science, Plant Science

Malachi Fabian – Power, Structural and Tech Systems

Corey Gilbert – Power, Structural and Tech Systems

Brooklyn Golden – Plant Science

Seth Gould – Power, Structural and Tech Systems

Kaysen Seidel – Animal Science, Plant Science, Comp. Ag Science

Kinley Siemens – Animal Science

Karlee Wiggins – Animal Science

C) STAR Awards

Buhler received the following Kansans Can Star Recognition Awards from the Kansas State Department of Education:

Bronze – Graduation Rate

Silver – Post Secondary Effectiveness

Copper – Academically Prepared for Post Secondary

8) FISCAL STEWARDSHIP – FACILITY AND FINANCE

A) Solar Panel Update

Board President Laura Meyer Dick shared information about the solar discussion. She has talked with four solar providers about pricing, warranties, wiring and many other details. All of the companies would want to do a feasibility study before proceeding. The board had many questions about financing this kind of project and the possibilities of partnering with local businesses on the project. The next step will be doing the feasibility study.

B) Revenue Neutral Update

Mr. Hecox shared about the new Revenue Neutral rate and the budgeting timeline. He also informed the board of the potential small increase in the mill levy especially in the

LOB due to 3 factors: Beginning balance, state aid percentage, and valuation.

C) Facility Assessment

Mrs. Couchman shared information about a facility assessment service from DCS. It was recommended that the Board approve the purchase of these services.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Tim Lackey to approve the purchase of the facility assessment services from DCS.

Motion carried.

(5-0)

D) KJUMP (Gas Utilities) Update

Mr. Hecox shared about attending the KJUMP advisory committee meetings and also attending the weekly updates by KASB. USD 313 paid the recommended rate of 4.57 per unit of gas to symmetry and will also be paying the pass through and school fees. The new issue every district is watching out for is "cover gas" which is the supplier (Kansas Gas) charging us for gas during that period of time as well as symmetry charging us for the same gas. Some districts have reported this situation. USD 313 has not been affected at this point.

E) Treasurer's Report

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

F) Reading and Approval of Bills

Shane Hecox presented the following checks for approval: checks #58190 – 58340 in the total amount of \$753,952.67.

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Greg Lackey to approve the issuance of checks #58190 – 58340 in the total amount of \$753,952.67.

Motion carried.

(5-0)

G) Preschool Fees

It was recommended that the Board approve the proposed fee structure for 5-year-old preschool students.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Todd Carr to approve the proposed fee structure for 5-year-old preschool students.

Motion carried.

(5-0)

9) CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A) Professional Development Council (PDC) Report

It was recommended that the Board approve the Professional Development points as presented. Board member Monte Cross reviewed the points. Points were approved for Angela Huck.

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

Motion carried.

(5-0)

10) CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

A) Communities That Care Survey

Mrs. Couchman shared the data from the most recent Communities That Care survey.

B) Administrative Reports

i) Director of Finance

- Mr. Hecox shared that the KSDE audit is being completed. Next month we should have the updated legal max.

- There is work that needs to be done at Buhler Grade School on their heating and air systems as per BCS. This includes replacing condenser fans, installing external filters, installing phase monitor kit for electrical imbalance readings and replacing ball valve.
- ii) Superintendent
- Mrs. Couchman gave an update on insurance rates for next year.
 - Buhler High School graduation is May 22 and Prairie Hills Middle School promotion is May 24.
 - The district will have its first KESA visit on May 28.
 - Mrs. Couchman is requesting input on long range district priorities to be discussed at the June board meeting.
- iii) Board of Education
- Board member Todd Carr attended the new teacher celebration and it was a great event.
 - Board Member Tim Lackey reminded the board that the middle school league track meet is tomorrow and will be hosted at Buhler High School.

11) PERSONNEL

A) Executive Session - Negotiations

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Todd Carr at 7:53 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 7:58 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox are invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(5-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 7:58 pm.

B) Executive Session - Personnel

Motion (1) Todd Carr, (2) Greg Lackey at 7:58 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 8:03 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox are invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(5-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 8:03 pm.

C) Executive Session - Personnel

Motion (1) Tim Lackey, (2) Todd Carr at 8:04 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 8:09 pm. No binding action will be taken while in executive session and Cindy Couchman and Shane Hecox are invited to attend.

Motion carried.

(5-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 8:09 pm.

12) OTHER

There were no other items.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.


Board Clerk


Board President