

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Buhler Unified School District #313, Reno County, Buhler, Kansas  
**Monday, May 8, 2017**

**1. Call to Order**

Board President Greg Lackey called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Burkholder Administrative Center.

**2. Roll Call**

Board Members present: Greg Lackey, Monte Cross, Matt McCabe, Marilyn Bolton, Cliff Wray and Vernon Goerl.

Board Members absent: Laura Meyer Dick

Administration present: Superintendent Mike Berblinger, Assistant Superintendent Cindy Couchman and Business Manager Dr. Perry McCabe

Administration absent:

Others present: Wendy Neill, Clerk of the Board; Samantha Neill, PDC; Sheena Harris, Justin Harris, Tyler Miller, John Clark, Bradley Ensz, Joshua Turner, BHS AG/FFA; Marian Cordill, former teacher; Michael Ellegood, BHS; Nathan Biggs and Ethan Wagoner, Buhler Bands; David Buckley, Ryan Klamm, Jacob Milburn, CAS/Aquaponics; Randy Doerksen, Morgan Starkweather, Joyce Raya, Jesse Todd, PCE; Jera French, BNEA; and Lucky Kidd, AdAstra Radio.

**3. Invocation**

Superintendent Mike Berblinger gave the invocation.

**4. Statements from the Audience**

There were no statements from the audience.

**5. Special Recognition**

- A) Mr. Berblinger introduced John Clark, Ag Instructor at Buhler High School. Mr. Clark spoke to the Board about the many qualifications students must have to be eligible to become a CTE Scholar. These qualifications include academic success, leadership, community involvement, and many more. He introduced the four students who have been named CTE Scholars, Bradley Ensz, Tyler Miller, Gus Quillin (absent) and Joshua Turner. In addition, Mr. Clark announced that Joshua Turner has been named as a semi-finalist for the Presidential Scholars Program. The finalists will be named in June. The Board congratulated these students for their hard work and dedication to the Ag Department, FFA and their community.
- B) Mr. Berblinger introduced Marian Cordill, former Buhler High School Family and Consumer Science (FACS) teacher. Marian taught for 42 years before retiring last year. She has earned the KATFACS Life Time Achievement Award and is now a finalist for the K-ACTE Life Time Achievement Award. Mr. Berblinger and the Board congratulated Mrs. Cordill for her work in education. She expressed her thanks for the time she spent in the Buhler District.

## 6. Approval of the Agenda

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

Addition of 9G iv – Employment of Supplemental Staff  
Addition - Aquaponics Grant Update after Agenda Item 7.

Motion (1) Marilyn Bolton, (2) Cliff Wray to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried. (6-0)

## 7. Band Instrument Proposal

It was recommended that the Board approve the purchase of new instruments for the District band program. Nathan Biggs and Ethan Wagoner shared a list of replacement equipment and explained that replacement of these instruments will cut down on the repair costs that we are currently incurring. This would also allow the program to expand the percussion section.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Vernon Goerl to approve the purchase of new instruments for the District band program.

Motion carried. (6-0)

## 8. Aquaponics Grant Update

David Buckley with the Community Agricultural Site (CAS) gave an update to the Board regarding the Aquaponics Grant that he had applied for on behalf of Buhler and Sterling public schools. Unfortunately, the grant from Lowe's was denied.

Mr. Buckley will continue to seek other funding options to make the Aquaponics project a reality. JACAM, from Sterling, has made a \$10,000 donation towards the project. Also, he has submitted a grant application to Monsanto Seed Company.

He will continue to keep the Board updated on funding availability.

## 9. Administrative Reports

### A. Business Manager

\* The Legislature is back in session. They have not accomplished anything in their first week but they have some good proposals that need fine-tuned.

\* IBB has been postponed until we have more info from the State regarding funding.

\* The Business Office Staff is reviewing prospective Time Management systems. It is time to move forward from using paper time sheets. The intent is to review the options and bring information to the Board at a later date.

### B. Superintendent

\* Mr. Berblinger reported on many events that are happening at our new athletic facilities. Regional tennis was hosted and three athletes earned a spot at State; Jared Smart in Singles and Hunter Wiehl and Camrin Engelken in Doubles. May 16 the District will host Regional Baseball and on May 19 Regional Track and Field.

\* Our BHS Forensics team competed at the State Forensics event this past weekend. Ethan Hummel is the state champion in Extemporaneous Speaking. The team finished 7<sup>th</sup> place.

\* Beth O'Brien hosted a Special Prom for the special needs students in our district. It was a great event for all who participated.

\* The City of Hutch has requested that the west ditch at Union Valley be cleaned out for drainage issues. Steve Armbrust will address this.

\* Graduation is this Saturday morning.

\* Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Buhler Grade School student, Cayden Avery, who was killed in an accident over the weekend. The counselors and Mr. Mike Bryan met over the weekend and put the

crisis plan into action. Mr. Berblinger expressed his appreciation to the staff and counselors for their work today with students and each other.  
\* Mr. Berblinger shared an overview of the two KSHSAA proposals for changes to the current classifications. Detailed information can be found on the KSHSAA website. Deadline for schools to place their vote is June 12.

#### C. Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Instruction

\* Mrs. Couchman thanked the Board members who were able to help serve breakfast to the teachers on May 1. The breakfast was to honor our teachers for Teacher Appreciation. On this day we also recognized and honored the district retirees. It was a great day of celebration and professional development.

\* This afternoon was the New Teacher Celebration. It is always inspiring to see how our teachers have grown during the year. We had a phenomenal group of new teachers!

\* Mrs. Couchman shared that the mentor laws have changed and have increased to Two years of mentoring for any teacher licensed after July 1, 2017. There will be an addendum to the mentoring handbook.

\* The Professional Development team will start meeting soon to plan the beginning of the year activities.

#### D. Board

\* Board Member Monte Cross helped chaperone the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade fun night at Prairie Hills Middle School. He expressed his respect for Mr. Mike Browne for his leadership and his appreciation to the teachers who work with these students daily.

\* Board Member Monte Cross shared that his daughter was able to help with the Special Prom. It was a special event to be a part of.

\* Board Member Marilyn Bolton had a chance to visit with teachers and students at Buhler Grade School. She observed student teacher and former student Kayla Meitler as well as observing the flexible seating in Mrs. Gould's classroom. It was a great time and she encouraged other members to take the opportunity to visit schools.

\* Board Member Cliff Wray attended the New Teacher Celebration and the Teacher Appreciation breakfast. He is proud of the staff that we have and glad to be a part of celebrating them. He also reported seeing Mr. Randy Doerksen on the roof of Plum Creek Elementary. Mr. Doerksen had challenged his students and they met their goal, sending Mr. Doerksen to spend the evening on the roof of the building last week!

\* Board Member Vernon Goerl was happy to be in attendance after his absence due to knee surgery. He is recovering well.

\* Board President Greg Lackey expressed his appreciation for the new facilities that we have. Having these facilities have offered great opportunities to host events and it has been rewarding.

## **10. Consent Agenda**

### **a. Approval of minutes**

It was recommended the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 10, 2017.

### **b. Building Financial Reports**

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 resignation/retirement of the following licensed staff:

- i) Jon McLean, BHS social studies teacher
- ii) Katie Stucky, Plum Creek Elementary fifth grade teacher
- iii) Dustin Hildebrand, BHS math teacher

- iv) Pam Zolman, PHMS science teacher, retirement

**d. Resignation/Retirement of Classified Staff**

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

- i) Ron Means, retirement from BHS food service, effective June 1, 2017
- ii) Janet Akins, resignation from bus driver, effective May 16, 2017
- iii) Hans von Finckenstein, retirement from PHMS custodian, effective June 1, 2017

**e. Resignation of Supplemental Staff**

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

- i) Jon McLean, PHMS 7<sup>th</sup> grade football head coach and Drivers Education Instructor
- ii) Dustin Hildebrand, BHS boys head soccer coach and PHMS head soccer coach
- iii) Katie Stucky, BHS assistant volleyball coach and PHMS girls assistant track coach
- iv) Randall Rank, BHS assistant boys basketball coach
- v) Jack Conkling, BHS assistant girls basketball coach
- vi) Connor Thierolf, PHMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade assistant football coach

**f. Employment of Licensed Staff**

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

- i) Jeff Comer, BHS Social Studies teacher. He will be placed on the salary schedule at Step 5 with a BA. His salary will be \$35,929.
- ii) Nicolette Schafer, Union Valley Kindergarten teacher. She will be placed on the salary schedule on Step 2 with a BA. Her salary will be \$34,534.

**g. Employment of Supplemental Staff**

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

- i) Randall Rank, BHS assistant girls basketball coach. He will be on the supplemental salary schedule at level B4 with a salary of \$3,480.
- ii) Connor Thierolf, BHS assistant football coach. He will be placed on the supplemental salary schedule at Level 2, Column B with a salary of \$3,240.
- iii) Matt Babcock, BHS assistant boys basketball coach. He will be placed on the supplemental salary schedule at Level 10 and Column B with a salary of \$4,200.
- iv) Curtis Morgan, BHS assistant girls basketball coach. He will be placed on the supplemental salary schedule at Level 10 and Column B with a salary of \$4,200.

**h. Out of State Travel**

It was recommended that the Board approve the out of state travel request from the BHS Debate Team. Five students have qualified for the NSDA National Tournament to be held June 17 through June 24<sup>th</sup> in Birmingham, Alabama. The team request approval to travel, the use of one school van and fuel compensation for the trip.

**i. Insurance Waiver for Lease**

It was recommended that the Board waive the insurance provision for the lease with First American Education Finance.

**j. Acceptance of Gifts and Grants**

It was recommended that the Board accept the \$125 gift from Erica Beckler and the Kroger Accounting Services – Hutchinson C-Store Area to the ESOL program in memory of Sue Balerio.

**k. Other**

There were no other consent agenda items.

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

Motion carried. (6-0)

**11. Building Report**

Randy Doerksen, principal at Plum Creek Elementary School, introduced members of his Building Leadership Team, Morgan Starkweather, Jesse Todd and Joyce Raya. This group has helped to facilitate and plan all of the professional development and staff meetings this school year. They shared the “spot lights” of the year with the Board.

Morgan Starkweather shared that the school was focusing on the WHOLE child, meeting their social, emotional and academic needs. The students were able to show success in the classroom as well as in the community and even reached worldwide as they had students complete a passion project to save elephants!

Joyce informed the Board of the partnership that Plum Creek has developed with Wesley Towers. Students work with residents of Wesley Towers, reading, playing games and enjoying lunch together. Recently, a group of residents were able to visit Plum Creek. They toured the school, had lunch with the students and read with them. It has been a memorable experience for both the students and the residents.

Finally, Mr. Todd talked about the initiative to implement MTSS in their building. The staff has worked hard to develop a schedule for next year that will include MTSS time for everyone.

**12. Professional Development Council (PDC) Report**

It was recommended that the Board approve the points as submitted by the Professional Development Council. Board member Monte Cross received the points for review. It was recommended to approve the points for Carla Goertzen, Jennifer Keller, Katie VanZant, Kacie Fredrickson, Greg Froese, Tara Goans, Lynette Estill, Janea Gray, Kathy Clark, Jason Kohls, Shaelee Mendenhall, Heather Sazama, Kathleen Keller, Samantha Neill, John Neill, Chad Wahlgren, Kelley Whisler, Kristin Spicer, Joyce Raya, Jesse Todd, Wendy Schultz, Morgan Starkweather, Kara Bunche, Courtney Klassen, Debra Laughlin, Victor Wilkinson, Shelly Brooks, Letha Warner, Jeff Voss, LaNette Estill, Jessica Shank, Amie Leslie, Stephanie Voth, Justin Acton and Sandy Rempel. Points were also awarded to those who participated in the book study.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Marilyn Bolton to approve the points as submitted by the Professional Development Council.

Motion carried. (6-0)

**13. Reading and Approval of Bills**

Dr. Perry McCabe presented the following checks for approval: checks #51324 - 51439 in the total amount of \$1,054,430.67.

Motion (1) Vernon Goerl, (2) Marilyn Bolton to approve the issuance of checks #51324 - 51439 in the total amount of \$1,054,430.67.

Motion carried. (6-0)

## **14. Treasurers Report**

Dr. McCabe shared the Treasurers Report and the district finance reports. Mrs. Couchman shared data from the Early Childhood programs. The funds for these programs have all been combined into Fund 65. Overall the Early Childhood program is funding itself with grants and paying participants.

## **15. Construction Updates**

Dr. Perry McCabe shared the status of the current construction projects.

- Atlas Electric continues to work on the lighting at the Wheatland Park Complex.
- Hydro seeding will begin on Tuesday. We hope to get some gentle rains to get this started.
- The Wellness Center is 98% complete.
- We will have a dedication ceremony at Wheatland Park Complex but the details have not been announced.

Dr. McCabe shared the final quote from Ebeling Construction for the football field south entrance ticket booth. It was recommended that the Board approve the quote.

Motion (1) Monte Cross, (2) Vernon Goerl to approve the final quote from Ebeling Construction for the football field south entrance ticket booth.  
Motion carried. (6-0)

## **16. Facilities Use Agreement for Parents As Teachers**

It was recommended that the Board approve the Facilities Use Agreement for the Parents As Teachers group to use a classroom at Buhler Grade School.

Motion (1) Vernon Goerl, (2) Marilyn Bolton to approve the Facilities Use Agreement for the Parents As Teachers group to use a classroom at Buhler Grade School  
Motion carried. (6-0)

## **17. National Clearinghouse Data**

Mr. Berblinger and Mrs. Couchman shared data from the National Clearinghouse. This is a report that tracks students for six years post graduation from high school. The data shared is from our Class of 2010. This is valuable information for our district, as we look how to better serve our graduates.

## **18. Property and Casualty Insurance Updates**

Dr. McCabe reported to the Board that we have several companies who are interested in doing bids for our Property and Casualty Insurance for the next year. After discussion with the Board, the consensus was made that Dr. McCabe would listen to each presentation and bring back a recommendation to the Board. This recommendation should be ready for the next Board meeting.

The Board took a five-minute recess at 8:03 pm.

## **19. Health Insurance Update**

Mr. Berblinger outlined the three options of health insurance plans that the district has been offered through ESSDACK. These are the options that will go to the IBB Negotiations team for review.

## **20. Executive Session – Negotiations**

It was decided that executive session was not necessary to discuss negotiations during this meeting.

## 21. Executive Session – Personnel

Motion (1) Cliff Wray, (2) Monte Cross at 8:21 pm that the Board of Education recess from the regular meeting in order to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of nonelected personnel, the executive session being necessary to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed, that no binding action be taken while in executive session and that Mike Berblinger and Cindy Couchman be invited to attend. The Board of Education will reconvene in regular session at 8:36 pm.

Motion carried. (6-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 8:36 pm.

Motion (1) Greg Lackey, (2) Matt McCabe at 8:36 pm that the Board of Education recess from the regular meeting in order to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of nonelected personnel, the executive session being necessary to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed, that no binding action be taken while in executive session and that Mike Berblinger and Cindy Couchman be invited to attend. The Board of Education will reconvene in regular session at 8:46 pm.

Motion carried. (6-0)

The Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 8:46 pm.

## 22. Other

There were no other items for the Board.

## 23. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

  
Clerk

  
Board President