

Board of Education Meeting  
September 13, 2021  
Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing 6:10 p.m.  
Budget Hearing at 6:20 p.m.  
Meeting Time at 6:30 p.m.

- I. Roll Call
- II. Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing
- III. Budget Hearing
- IV. Additions to and Adoption of the Agenda
- V. Adoption of the 2021-2022 Budget
- VI. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
  - b. Report and action on bills submitted
  - c. Approval of treasurer's statement
- VII. Reports and comments of principals, committees
- VIII. Report of superintendent
- IX. Old Business
  - a. Policy Updates-2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- X. New Business
  - a. Dyslexia Updates
  - b. Bond Refinancing
  - c. Concurrent College Courses
  - d. Transportation Report
  - e. KASB Energy Management Program
  - f. Executive Session-Negotiations,
  - g. Executive Session-Non-elected personnel
  - h. Employee Resignation(s)
  - i. Employee Confirmation(s)
  - j. October 2021, Board Meeting agenda items
- XI. Adjournment

## MINUTES



## USD 239 North Ottawa County

Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Monday, September 13, 2021, 6:10 pm

President Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

**1. ROLL CALL**

Board members present: Justin Abell, Shari Abell, Brigitte Nelson, Dr. Bruce Labes, Tammy Shanks, Richard Shupe (Zoom) and Becki Travis

Members absent: None

Others Present: Chris Vignery, Superintendent, Kim Shafer, Board Clerk; Steve Shogren of Stifel Investment Services, Tarin Hauck, teacher, and Stoney Runnion, Transportation Director.

Principals: Pat Anderson, Terry Moeckel, and Ryan Mortimer

Patrons: Neal and Kathy Kindall, Keri Pratt, Tyler Konrade, Deb Isbell, Brooke Pickrell, Tarin Hauck, Tyrel Owens, Ruth Sanders, and two others.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance

**2. REVENUE NEUTRAL HEARING (6:10 pm – 6:20 pm)**

Superintendent Vignery stated this is the first year this hearing has been required by the State. The school district tries to keep the mill levy the same, with this year's set at 53.35, a level near the same for the past ten years. President Nelson asked why the state wanted to start doing this. Mr. Vignery indicated for transparency. Member Shupe interjected with a twofold question. First, if the mill levy gets raised and the appraised valuation is raised then taxes go up but the school district has nothing to do with the appraised value and that's really how the county... [at this time the Zoom connection was lost with Member Shupe, 6:14 pm]. Superintendent Vignery believes that what Mr. Shupe was going to ask was we, as a school district, do not control assessed valuation which is set by the county. The assessed valuation goes up, divided by the mill levy, which equals your taxes. Our goal is, when the assessed valuation goes down to keep the mill levy steady so taxpayers see a bit of a break. Superintendent Vignery asked if there were any questions from the audience and there were none.

President Nelson read the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

*(A resolution expressing the property taxation policy of USD 239 North Ottawa County with respect to exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for financing the annual budget for 2021-2022.)*

Whereas, 2021 SB 13 and Senate Sub for HB 2104, provides that a levy of property taxes to finance the 2021-2022 budget of USD 239 exceeds the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate to finance the 2021-2022 budget of USD 239, be authorized by a resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by USD 239 that the 2021-2022 budget with a levy of property taxes exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rates calculated for 2021-2022, as adjusted pursuant to 2021 SB 13 and Senate Sub for HB 2104 is hereby adopted for the following funds: General, Supplemental, and Bond and Interest.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021 by USD 239 North Ottawa County in Ottawa County, Kansas.

**Motion to adopt the Resolution as presented.**

Moved by Justin Abell, second by Becki Travis.

Final Resolution: Motion carries 5-0

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Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, B. Travis  
Nay, same sign: None

The Revenue Neutral Rate hearing concluded at 6:20 pm.

### 3. BUDGET HEARING (6:20 pm – 6:30 pm)

Superintendent Vignery presented the published budget onscreen. He then gave a short explanation of how budget amounts are set. After discussing past mill rates he asked if there were any questions on the budget hearing. There were none.

At 6:26 pm, Richard Shupe rejoined the meeting by Zoom. Superintendent Vignery welcomed him back and told him where we were currently at on the Agenda. He then asked if Mr. Shupe wanted to continue with his previous question. Member Shupe indicated yes proceeding with, knowing we normally do not raise our mill levy so the mill levy stays the same but the county valuation goes up, the taxes increase, correct? Mr. Vignery affirmed. Mr. Shupe then went on asking if we know in advance if the county valuations are going up. Mr. Vignery responded not generally, that they are normally received at the end of July.

The budget hearing concluded at 6:30 pm.

### 4. ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

#### **Motion to approve the Agenda as presented.**

Moved by Justin Abell, second by Shari Abell

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe, B. Travis

Nay, same sign: None

### 5. ADOPTION OF THE 2021 -2022 BUDGET

#### **Motion to adopt the 2021 – 2022 Budget as presented.**

Moved by Shari Abell, second by Tammy Shanks

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe, B. Travis

Nay, same signs: None

### 6. CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion to amend the minutes** made by Member Shupe with regard to comments in that portion under New Business, Summit Learning. Mr. Shupe indicated his concern is with the fact that Summit Learning considers their views on racial discrimination, LGBTQ rights, etc., are correct. That their views need to be taught in order to offset traditional teaching of American history and civics which they consider racist. That was what my concerns were at the last meeting.

President Nelson asked if there were any comments. There were none.

#### **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with those changes to the minutes.**

Moved by Justin Abell, second by Shari Abell.

President Nelson added that even though this may be Summit Learning views, they do not reflect our views and our administration and teachers vet what is being taught and we can change anything in the platform that we disagree with and we have done that and we will continue to do that . . . You will be hard pressed to find any curriculum company today that does not share the views as Summit Learning; however, we control what is taught.

#### **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with Mr. Shupe's and Mrs. Nelson's changes to the minutes.**

Moved by Justin Abell, second by Becki Travis.

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe, B. Travis

Nay, same sign: None

### 7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF PRINCIPALS, COMMITTEES

Principal reports were provided online.

Pat Anderson reviewed her written report highlighting:

- Enrollment is currently at 322, which is higher than last year's estimate

- Morning Meetings are held in the gym with students before school begins: Mondays, after the flag salute, students practice one of the *Boys Town Social Skills*. On Wednesdays, students are given *Words of Wisdom* and practice the social skills they learned on Monday. On Fridays, character awards are given, which has been revised into a contest format with students having an opportunity to earn prizes for correct responses.
- Trash bag sales, with Cub Backers, are underway
- Ag Awareness Day was celebrated by 5<sup>th</sup> grade students
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Orientation was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> with 17 or 18 families in attendance. Some of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were on hand to assist with babysitting and did an awesome job!
- The first Family Night will be held tomorrow night with Jill Daniels presenting the program *Play Together, Stay Together*.

Terry Moeckel reviewed his written report highlighting:

- FFA Ag Awareness Day was held on September 2, 2021. It was fun to watch the students interact.
- Last week was a full slate of home events every night of the week, including the FCA kickoff on Wednesday. All went off without a hitch thanks to the coaches and Mr. Mortimer.
- Boil Water Advisory. Due to the water issue with the City, bottled water was available to students and staff during breaks, lunch, etc., and made available to teams and visiting teams. Several people were distributing water in the building. Bottled water was always available and the supply never ran out. Staff passed out 300 bottles and threw away about 200 half empty bottles. If a student went thirsty, they should have asked a faculty or staff member as it was available at all times to all students.
- The band will be attending the State Fair on Wednesday.
- Homecoming day will be on September 22. The day will be spent working on windows, floats, and cleaning up. A speaker has been secured to speak to all groups about legal issues and social media. The junior high will be taking MAP tests that day.
- Professional Development with McREL was great! Mr. Moeckel has been in all the rooms at least two or three times and has seen targets being met by staff. He has not seen reports from Cheryl Abila (McREL) at this time, but is looking forward to reviewing them.

Mrs. Anderson interjected that she was able to observe some of the junior high students on Wednesday and they were going great. It was nice to see some of her students in the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade level...did note that it was strange not to see students walking in straight lines, etc., like at the grade school.

President Nelson noted that Ryan Mortimer was absent due to JV football.

#### 8. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

*Current COVID Numbers.* This information is on the district website and is being updated weekly. Numbers are up with students quarantined due to in-house contact. We are doing well compared to last year's numbers: less quarantined now than last year, a few more positives, but a few less quarantined

*President Biden's Vaccine Mandate.* At this time we do not know what this will look like yet for us. The district has less than 100 FTE (full-time equivalency) employees. Not all employees are counted as 1.0 = full-time, for example Rule 10 coaches. However, since we receive federal dollars we do not know how this will impact the district. Mr. Vignery stated that he had spoken with both Senator Bowers and Representative Concannon and they have or will be sending letters to the Biden administration to indicate they want vaccinations to be a personal choice not a mandate. Dr. Watson will discuss this matter with superintendents on Wednesday.

*Turf Sponsorships.* Mr. Vignery has reached out to the four sponsors of our artificial turf with regard to the status of their turf logos. Mammoth, the company that he has found to supply the sponsors' turf logo in lieu of Environmental Turf, is running behind due to lack of workers with the manufacturers. The turnaround for turf logos is typically a 4 to 6 week process, but they are currently about 6 months behind schedule.

*Republish Budget.* At this time we should not need to republish our budget, but it will depend upon free lunches. The At-Risk budget is determined by free lunches (all students are free this year). One hundred sixty is the number of free lunches in the published budget however, we are at 143 right now. We have been told that we can bring numbers over from last year and carryover for 30 days, which will bring us to 175 total. When the final numbers are generated, it could generate about \$20,000 in revenue. We will know in April if we need to republish the budget.

*KESA.* Mr. Vignery has been working on our state accreditation with KESA.

*McREL/Professional Development.* Superintendent Vignery has walked through classrooms with administrators. All that was discussed with McREL during professional development, he was able to see in action.

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## Minutes

At this time Tyrel Owens spoke up from the gallery asking about the loophole of trying to label all employees as federal employees whereby requiring vaccinations. Mr. Vignery stated that he would be waiting to hear from Dr. Watson (commissioner of education) on Thursday when this matter was going to be addressed.

### 8. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Bruce Labes entered the meeting at 6:38 pm.

#### Policy Updates – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

**Motion to approve the policy updates: DC, EE, GAAC, GAACA, GAF, IDAA, JGEC, JGECA, DFAC, JDDC, DFAB, AND DFAC.**

Moved by Tammy Shanks, second by Justin Abell

Final Resolution: Motion carries 7-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe, B. Travis

Nay, same sign: None

### 9. NEW BUSINESS

Dyslexia Update. Presentation to the board by Tarin Hauck. Mrs. Hauck provided folders with her written information to the board, including:

- Kansas Dyslexia Recommendations
- K-12 Reading Initiatives Rollout
- KSDE's Dyslexia Screening and EYOA
- Dyslexia Screen Rubric (Screening Tool)

Mrs. Hauck had spent the day at the grade school working/training staff on dyslexia. She also went through the screening, use of evidence-based practice, pathways and curriculum. Tarin also stated that the school's purpose is not to diagnose dyslexia, but to help identify students and provide SpEd services as needed. Member Shupe asked that copies be made available for him (attending by Zoom).

#### Bond Refinancing

Steve Shogren provided handouts to all board members and introduced himself. Mr. Shogren is the managing director of Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc., and was formerly with George K. Baum and Associates. Mr. Shogren is familiar and has worked with the district before. Mr. Shogren went over the opportunities available now to refund our 2015 bonds with the current low interest rates. A Resolution for the 2021 Taxable Refunding Bonds has been prepared by bond counsel and is ready for execution, if the board approves. A discussion was held.

**Motion to approve A Resolution Authorizing the Offering for Sale of One or More Series of General Obligation Refunding Bonds of Unified School District No. 239, Ottawa County, Kansas (North Ottawa County).**

Moved by Justin Abell

Member Shupe asked of the three proposals put forward, they could not back out if we say yes. Mr. Shogren indicated yes, all of the proposals would save the district more than \$100,000 in future debt service. Member Shupe agreed that it would be reasonable to say yes.

Second by Tammy Shanks.

Final Resolution: Motion carries 7-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe, B. Travis

Nay, same sign: None

#### Concurrent College Courses

Faculty that teach concurrent college classes through Cloud County Community College courses at the Minneapolis Jr-Sr High School receive a stipend which is currently held and used for supplies or other items that the teacher wishes to purchase. Some of those teachers, through a NOCTA rep, have indicated they would like to receive a portion of the funds as a stipend, with the balance to be continued to be held and used as needed. Mr. Vignery supports the board approving fifty percent (50%) of the stipends be given to the teacher, with the balance remaining as it is now. NOCTA has agreed by email that this will become part of the Negotiated Agreement, if the board approves.

**Motion to approve payment of 50% stipend to the concurrent college class instructor, with the remaining 50% being held in account as now for supplies.**

Moved by Becki Travis, second by Justin Abell



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Final Resolution: Motion carries 7-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe, B. Travis

Nay, same sign: None

Member Becki Travis exited the meeting at 7:41 pm.

### Transportation Report

Stoney Runnion, Transportation Director, reviewed his report previously given to the board and Superintendent Vignery showed the report onscreen. We've had a good start to the year with nineteen kindergarten riders and almost 40 students on the Delphos bus. The handicap van is being utilized for special needs students, one of which is in and out of a wheelchair. Our parts inventory is in good standing; however, vendors are being notified of 60 – 100 days out for shipment of special parts. Mr. Runnion would like to hold out for another year or two for bus replacement, but would like to look at purchasing a 9-passenger van that a teacher would feel comfortable driving. Mr. Runnion also feels that one or two of the suburbans need to be disposed of due to age and condition. He recommends using Purple Wave in this regard. A discussion on passenger limits, fleet pools, etc., was held. No action taken.

### KASB Energy Management Company

KASB has left the gas supplier, Symmetry, and the lawsuit with them. We had encumbered \$17,152.84 which is the contested higher fuel charge for February 2021, but through KASB negotiations, the final bill was down to \$5,482.00. KASB has since negotiated a new gas company. Superintendent Vignery recommends approving us to continue to be part of KASB's Energy Management Program.

### **Motion to approve the KASB Energy Management Program as presented.**

Moved by Shari Abell, second by Dr. Bruce Labes

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe

Nay, same sign: None

Neal Kindall, patron from the gallery, stood and stated that he owns and rents a lot of houses here in town and people are coming here because of our schools. He encourages testing of reading, etc., not allowing what colleges are pushing, but holding on to our values. He thanked the board and left the meeting.

### Executive Session: Negotiations NONE

### Executive Session: Non-Elected Personnel NONE

### Employee Resignations

### **Motion to accept the resignation of Bryan Weatherman as high school assistant softball coach.**

Moved by Dr. Bruce Labes, second by Justin Abell

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe

Nay, same sign: None

### Employee Confirmations

### **Motion to approve Melissa Baccus for forensics.**

Moved by Dr. Bruce Labes, second by Justin Abell

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe

Nay, same sign: None

### **Motion to approve Amy Vignery and Shayla Bailey as Co-Junior High Stuco sponsors.**

Moved by Dr. Bruce Labes, second by Justin Abell

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe

Nay, same sign: None

### **Motion to approve Megan Grimes as concessions sponsor.**

Moved by Justin Abell, second by Dr. Bruce Labes

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe

Nay, same sign: None

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Minutes

**Motion to approve Kandy Constable for Junior High Yearbook.**

Moved by Shari Abell, second by Dr. Bruce Labes

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe

Nay, same sign: None

October 2021 Agenda Items:

Superintendent Vignery reminds the board that if they want something on the agenda, it takes the president and three (3) others to make it an Agenda item. If wanting to add it the night of the meeting, it would take four (4) members, plus the president, to add it to the Agenda.

10. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.**

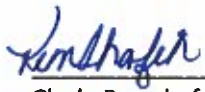
Moved by Dr. Bruce Labes, second by Tammy Shanks

Final Resolution: Motion carries 6-0

Yea, by show of hands: J. Abell, S. Abell, Dr. Bruce Labes, B. Nelson, T. Shanks, R. Shupe

Nay, same sign: None

ATTEST:



Clerk, Board of Education  
Unified School District No. 239  
Ottawa County, State of Kansas

APPROVED:



President, Board of Education  
Unified School District No. 239  
Ottawa County, State of Kansas

## RESOLUTION

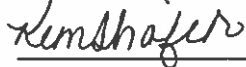
*A resolution expressing the property taxation policy of USD 239 North Ottawa County with respect to exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for financing the annual budget for 2021-2022.*

Whereas, 2021 SB 13 and Senate Sub for HB 2104, provides that a levy of property taxes to finance the 2021-2022 budget of USD 239 exceeds the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate to finance the 2021-2022 budget of USD 239, be authorized by a resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by USD 239 that the 2021-2022 budget with a levy of property taxes exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rates calculated for 2021-2022, as adjusted pursuant to 2021 SB 13 and Senate Sub for HB 2104 is hereby adopted for the following funds: General, Supplemental, and Bond and Interest.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021 by USD 239 North Ottawa County in Ottawa County, Kansas.

Board Clerk



Kim Shafer

Board President



Brigitte Nelson