

BOARD BRIEFS

November 8, 2021

Statements from the Audience

**Jesse Tanksley, parent of four students in the Buhler district, addressed the board concerning the district's current Covid policies. He would like to see the district consider going to a 3 foot radius for contact tracing instead of the current 6 foot radius.

**Amy Philbrick addressed the board concerning Covid policies as well. She is concerned about the increase of mental health crisis and the emotional and mental stress that this is putting on our students. She expressed that the right of parents is being taken away by requiring students to wear masks.

**Stephen Cummins, parent of students at PHMS, acknowledged the efforts of all those who are making decisions for the district regarding Covid. He does not agree with decisions that are being made and says that their children have not had a positive, exceptional experience this year. One daughter has been in quarantine for close contact several times and lost opportunities such as playing in her first band concert. He has read the KDHE grant guidelines which clearly state that the mission is to help students and staff have a normal school year. This has not been the case for his family. He is asking the board and administrators to take a closer look at the testing protocols, close contact guidelines and reevaluate how we are responding to Covid.

Approval of Minutes

As recommended the board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on October 11, 2021 and the special meeting on November 4, 2021.

Approval of Building Financials

As recommended the board approved the financial reports from each building.

Resignation/Retirement of Licensed Staff

As recommended the board accepted the resignation/retirement of the following licensed staff:

- i) Susan Blubaugh, 8th grade science at PHMS, retirement.
- ii) Conan Shinn, Spanish and ELA at BHS, resignation.
- iii) Eric Stambaugh, director of bands, resignation.

Resignation of Classified Staff

As recommended the board accepted the resignation of the following classified staff:

- i) Jana McIver, evening custodian at PCE
- ii) Kirsten Strong, CARES Club aide at PCE

Resignation of Supplemental Staff

As recommended the Board accepted the resignation of the following supplemental staff:

- i) Tara Kemp, assistant girls softball coach at BHS
- ii) Eric Stambaugh, assistant boys soccer coach at BHS
- iii) Kara Warren, 7th grade volleyball coach at PHMS

Employment of Classified Staff

As recommended the board approved the employment of the following classified staff:

- i) Eric Pham, technology technician, to begin work on October 19, 2021.
- ii) Tadan Reed, senior IT technician, to begin work on December 20, 2021.
- iii) Jana McIver, part time day custodian at PCE.

Employment of Supplemental Staff

As recommended the board approved the employment of Taylor Petz-Flickinger, assistant dance team sponsor at PHMS.

Gifts and Grants

As recommended the board accepted the following gifts:

- i) \$50 anonymous donation to PCE for the Veteran's Day breakfast.
- \$3900 from the Herman, Esther and Henry Stallman Foundation to Buhler Schools.

Updated Job Description

As recommended the board approved the following updated job descriptions:

- i) Technology Technician
- ii) Senior IT Technician

Updated Classified Wage Schedule

As recommended the board approved the updated Classified Wage Schedule which places the Technology Technician position in Grade 7.

New Credit Card

As recommended the board approved a credit card from Mid Kansas Credit Union for Erica Shook with a credit limit of \$1000.

Special Recognition

The Board recognized Coach Curtis Morgan and the boys and girls cross country teams. The girls team were 4A regional runners up and finished 4th at the State meet. The boys team were the 4A regional champions and also State champions! The boys have been state champions now 4 years in a row. Congratulations to all of these athletes on their exceptional season. Also congratulations to Coach Morgan and the rest of his coaching staff on their work with these athletes and creating such a positive culture and environment.

The girls golf team, girls tennis team and the BHS marching band were not able to attend. The board hopes to recognize these groups at the December board meeting.

Professional Development Council Report

As recommended the board approved PD points for Kara Warren, Rae Beck, Cynthia Beckerman, Kara Bunce, Joanne Burckhart, Bret Gillmore, Conan Shinn, Michael Hill, Debra Laughlin, Joe Kaufman, Kenda Ropp, Julie Rumbaugh and Jordan Seuser.

DNA of a Buhler Graduate

Kyle McClure shared the DNA of a Buhler Graduate, which highlights non-academic skills that are practiced in our classrooms and explains a few ways that teachers implement them.

Building Report - Union Valley Elementary School

Paul Erickson introduced Kenda Ropp, fifth grade teacher at Union Valley Elementary. She shared information with the Board about their Cru Leaders program which is helping build opportunities for student leadership in the elementary school. Mr. Erickson also shared their building FastBridge data and how their staff has responded to those results, providing opportunities to work with kids with higher needs and promoting growth. The tests will be given two more times before the end of the school year.

Ad Astra Virtual School Update

Erica Shook, director of Ad Astra Virtual Academy, shared the mission and vision of the academy. We currently have 81 students enrolled (preschool through 12th grade) for the fall semester and have opened enrollment now for the Spring semester. Ms. Shook gives the students several opportunities to connect with one another through zoom meetings as well as some in-person activities such as field trips and special events held at the district office. The large enrollment creates a need for an additional staff member to help keep track of attendance and class progress.

New Classified Position

As recommended the board approved the new job description for a Virtual Academy Assistant and suggested that the position be posted for up to 25 hours per week.

Executive Session - Personnel

The board met in executive session for four separate personnel issues.

Executive Session - Student Matters

The board met in executive session to discuss student matters.

Executive Session - Negotiations

The board met in executive session to discuss matters related to employee compensation.

Landscaping at Crusader Stadium

Mr. Hecox shared the two bids that he received for landscaping at the north end of Crusader Stadium. The consensus of the board was to proceed with the bid to put in a concrete sidewalk and retaining wall. They think this is the best long term solution.

HVAC Updates

Buhler Grade School has had issues with a refrigerant leak. That has been fixed and now we are waiting to see if there are also compressor issues.

Buhler High School has two units that went down, one in each locker room. The most cost effective solution is to fix the units at BHS rather than install new systems at this time.

Comments

- Mr. Hecox shared that October was Transportation Appreciation Month and the administration served breakfast to the department when they had their safety training for the month. Thank you to the bus drivers that have been working short-staffed and continue to get kids safely to school!
- Busby, Ford and Reimer LLC was here for our financial audit. They should have a review ready for the board by next Monday.
- Mrs. Couchman will be participating in the Kansas Leads meetings this week. This is a group that will organize professional development opportunities for teachers state-wide.
- Congratulations to the BHS Football team on their postseason success!
- Mrs. Couchman gave an update on covid case numbers. Thankfully there have not been any student cases that have had severe symptoms.
- Shane, Cindy and Steve have one more facility assessment to review (PCE) and then they will meet with Brett to make a priority list of projects.
- Buhler USD 313 has been awarded four Star Awards from KSDE. Details of these awards will be shared at the December meeting.

Transportation Update

Shane gave an update on our current transportation department situation. A committee has been formed to look at possible solutions. The district needs to be proactive as we look to the future.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, December 13, 2021.