

Approved, August 19, 2013

MINUTES OF THE
RILEY COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 378
REGULAR
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HELD IN THE
RILEY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Kerry Thurlow called the USD 378 Board of Education's regular meeting to order on Monday, August 5, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Riley County High School Library following the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members were present:

Kerry Thurlow, President
Shane Allen
Ross Wahl
David Higgins
Dan Thomson

The following members were absent:

Randy Glenn
Jennifer Wilson

Others present:

Brad Starnes, Superintendent
Jenae Suderman, Clerk
Antoinette Root, RCHS Principal
Teresa Grant, RCGS Principal
Donna Bulk, Leonardville
Angela Schnee, Riley
Lisa Tindal, Riley
Melissa Wahl, Riley
Margaret Davies, Riley
Tiffany Echols, Riley
Robert Echols, Riley
Trisha Parrack, Riley
Beth and Charles Dugan, Leonardville
Debi Wahl, Manhattan
Nic Porter, Leonardville
Deanna Hanson, Leonardville
Bill Hanson, Leonardville
Curt Porter, Clay Center
Matt Thurlow, Leonardville

Larry and Chris Tawney, Manhattan
Tom and Sylva Nichols, Leonardville
Ronald T. Williams, Manhattan
Verla Williams, Manhattan
Pamela Fajen, Riley
John Fajen, Riley
Ron Jauhson, St. George
Charlie Sargent, Manhattan
Ralph Wahl, Riley
Melissa Cook, Manhattan
Harwood Shawver Riley
Bonita Tegtmeier, Riley
Dennis Tegtmeier, Riley
Valerie and Curt Hazlett, Manhattan

II. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of minutes

Following corrections from several board members, Ross Wahl moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2013, meeting as amended. Second by Dan Thomson. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast.

B. Approval of financial reports

David Higgins expressed concern regarding the financial reports. He found it troubling that accounts were labeled as “miscellaneous.” Ross Wall moved to postpone approval of the minutes until a future meeting. Second by Dan Thomson. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast.

C. Approval of agenda

D. David Higgins moved to add three items to the agenda, including discussion regarding: (1) content on a YouTube account associated with Riley County Schools, (2) district transportation, and (3) maintaining current editions of the student handbook. And remove Administrative Report F. Cancel out of district transfer for Taylor Wilson Second by Dan Thomson. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast.

III. PATRON COMMUNICATION:

A. Hearing of students

No students spoke.

B. Hearing of visitors

Donna Bulk presented a series of emailed correspondence with the district office.

C. Hearing of principals

1. Teresa Grant reported on enrollment, classroom locations and AR.
2. Antoinette Root reported on enrollment, music camps and gave an update on the progress with the YouTube videos.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A. Builder's Club- Kiwanis

Verla Williams spoke on behalf of a group of Kiwanis members. The club already sponsors the RCHS Key Club and desires to start a Builder's Club for middle school students. The Kiwanis Club would be responsible for financing the club.

B. PCI-Custodial contract

Superintendent Brad Starnes reviewed the job responsibilities, contracts and pay for the custodians. David Higgins said he has fielded many comments from patrons about the lack of cleanliness at RCGS. Kerry Thurlow said she wanted to revisit this topic at a future board meeting.

C. Board retreat

Kerry Thurlow said she wishes to bring returning and new board members together at the board retreat August 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the RCGS cafeteria and determine the vision for the year.

D. Federal holiday pay for full time hourly employees

A possible action item was to approve federal holiday pay (3 days during the 2013-2014 school year) for full time hourly employees. Several board members expressed concerns with this change. Dan Thomson asked to see

a pay scale before voting, and moved the board table discussion until this is presented. Second by Ross Wahl. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast.

E. Executive session regarding a student

At 8 p.m., Dan Thomson moved the board, Superintendent Brad Starnes and RCHS Principal Antoinette Root go into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss matters relating to actions adversely or favorable affecting a person as a student. Second by Ross Wahl. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast. Returned at 8:20 p.m.

F. Health insurance update

Superintendent Starnes discussed the anticipated rate increases of approximately 10 percent for the district’s health insurance plan with Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

G. Building report

Using photographs, David Higgins and Ross Wahl reported on their Facilities and Maintenance Committee meetings, where they toured the district’s grounds and inspected for needed improvements. Points of concern included floor settlement, roof leaks and improper draining, sidewalk cracks, rust, and clutter. Dan Thomson said the district needs to have a comprehensive maintenance plan, and suggested this for a topic of discussion at the board retreat.

H. Twin Lakes Educational Cooperative

Superintendent Brad Starnes said legal counsel is being consulted to determine the district's options and implications for an additional autism teacher at RCGS through TLEC.

I. Bus transportation

David Higgins said he wanted an update on bus inspections and an updated bus schedule as soon as it is ready.

J. Student handbooks

David Higgins said he desired a current student handbook to be placed online as soon as possible, with old versions taken off immediately, to avoid violations and confusion.

K. Riley County YouTube account

David Higgins moved the board go into executive session with Superintendent Starnes to discuss non-elected personnel Second by Ross Wahl. Motion passed with five "yes" votes cast. Left at 9:05 p.m. Returned at 9:35.

V. PERSONNEL REPORT

A. Concession supervisor contract

Dan Thomson moved the board approve the contract for Cara Rignell to be the RCHS and RCGS concession supervisor. Second by Shane Allen. Motion passed with five "yes" votes cast.

B. Cheer coach contract

Motion to vote by Ross Wahl. Second by Dan Thomson. Motion failed with a vote of three "yes" votes and two "no" votes (abstain: Ross Wahl). More information will be provided at a future meeting.

C. Technology assistant

Dan Thomson moved to accept the resignation of technology assistant Kyle Cromwell. Second by Ross Wahl. Motion passed with five "yes" votes cast.

D. Part time technology position

1. David Higgins moved the board go to into executive session for 20 minutes with a five minute recess for non-elected personnel Second by Ross Wahl. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast. Left at 10:47 p.m. Returned at 11:10 p.m.

2. Ross Wahl moved to approve the contract for Brian Simonson as part time technology staff. Second by David Higgins. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast.

E. Assistant principal position

The district has 20 applications and 8 possible interviews for an assistant principal. Superintendent Brad Starnes wanted the board to discuss salary and if there should be one or two assistant principals. Dan Thomson moved the board approve a full time grade school assistant principal, with a decision pending regarding a high school assistant principal when responsibilities and financial abilities are reported at a future meeting. Second by David Higgins. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast.

F. Special education suburban driver - 1

Dan Thomson moved the board approve a contract for Loretta Siebert to be hired as a special education suburban driver. Second by David Higgins. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast.

G. Special education suburban driver – 2

Ross Wahl moved the board approve a contract for Angela Burton to be hired as a special education suburban driver. Second by Dan Thomson. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast.

H. Assistant football coach

Dan Thomson moved the board approve a contract for Jeffery Bromley to be hired as the Riley County Middle School Assistant Football Coach. Second by Shane Allen. Motion passed with five “yes” votes cast.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

1. Dan Thomson said he wished to follow up on the drug dog testing in the district before school starts. He also wanted to make sure teachers are locking doors when they leave.

2. Regarding the building and maintenance report, Shane Allen said he was embarrassed and suggested the board consult local experts such as his father for the maintenance plan.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be a retreat August 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the RCGS cafeteria

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Shane Allen motioned to adjourn. Second by David Higgins. Motion passed with five "yes" votes cast. The time was 11:35 p.m.

President Dan Thompson

Jenae Suderman, Clerk