

**Minutes of the Board of Education  
Unified School District No. 435  
Dickinson County**

**Abilene, Kansas**

**November 11, 2013**

The Board of Education of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for their regular monthly meeting in the District Office at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 11, 2013.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 7:26 p.m. by President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray with the following members in attendance:

Gregg Noel	Mark Wilson	Barb Brittan
Debby Barbur	Jeff Bathurst	

Board member Randy Gassman was out of town and unable to attend. Others attending all or part of the meeting were: Superintendent - Dr. Denise Guy, Assistant Superintendent - Chris Cooper, Board Clerk - Angie Schneider, Building Administrators - Ben Smith, Will Burton, Ron Wilson, Dallas Meneley, Tom Schwartz and Greg Heinrichs, Reflector Chronicle representative - Tim Horan, AMS PE Teacher - Diane Wyatt, Transportation Director - Dale Landis, AMS Counselor - Mark Shreve, AMS Communications teacher - Chris Delay, Mary Zey, Deb Roth, Becky Stout, Longhorn Leaders - Quincy Mayden, Brittney Ebersole, Grace Alavarez, Alize Tyler, Nick Wright, Katie Zey, Ben Wright, Sydney Stout, Mika Gose, Kyler Schardein, Morgan Geist, Jensen Roth, Michaela Stover, Jaden Walters, Chris Krenzin, Hannah Colburn, Seth Bowers, Ellen Dobbs, Carly Lynn Graefe, Halli Henry, Justin Houser and Dominic Olivia.

It was moved by Mark Wilson to approve the **Agenda**. Debby Barbur seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Denise summarized the Consent Agenda.

Barb Brittan moved to approve the **Consent Agenda**.

- Approval of minutes for the October 16, 2013 and October 30, 2013 special meetings
- Approval of AHS, AMS and district finance reports
- Approval of Personnel Update - resignations, employment and vacancies
- Approval of Out of District Attendance & Transportation Requests
- Approval of IDP Plans for Certified Staff

The motion was seconded by Gregg Noel and the motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion of any item(s) removed from the Consent Agenda**

None

No one from the audience addressed the board during the **Audience with Patrons** section.

## **Presentations**

KAPERD 2013 Middle School Teacher of the Year - Denise introduced AMS PE teacher Diane Wyatt who was notified in October 2013, that she'd received the 2013 Kansas Association for Health-Physical Education-Recreation-Dance Middle School Teacher of the Year award. Diane's service to the school district goes beyond the middle school classroom. It includes working with K-5 students on healthy challenges, writing grants and supporting all staff members with healthy activities. Diane received the award at a ceremony in Emporia on November 7, 2013. Denise then presented Diane with a certificate from the district and expressed appreciation for all that she does.

Retirement - Transportation Director Dale Landis was on hand to be recognized for his retirement, effective on November 12, 2013. It was reported that students were excited to have Dale as the Greyhound bus driver for their recent trip to Goodland to play football. Denise said that is with sadness that we accept his moving on and that she will particularly miss their 5:00 a.m. discussions on whether school should be canceled due to snow/ice.

Longhorn Leaders - Ron introduced Mark Shreve, Longhorn Leader sponsor, to board members. According to Ron, Longhorn Leaders is one of the coolest things started at the middle school this year. He is also so proud of what these students have done for the school. Mark in turn introduced Chris Delay as his right hand man when it comes to working with the leaders. Mark also thanked Ron for his enthusiasm and support. Abilene has a history of great leaders including President Eisenhower. Our schools should follow suit. The application process to become a Longhorn Leader was summarized. Once chosen, the leaders attend a couple days of training. Several of them spoke about the activities done to help the 6th graders overcome their nervousness and feel more comfortable. Some of the activities took place during 6th grade orientation. Others are throughout the year and include: teamwork activities, bullying ice-breakers, spirit week, dances, food drive and monthly mentoring sessions. The hope is for this group to expand their leadership to K-5 students and community service. Mark stated that these Longhorn Leaders are going above and beyond with the time commitment required and thanked them for their dedication.

## **Action/Discussion Items**

Board Goals/Strategic Planning - Denise asked board members to consider passing the district's Board Goals and Long Range Plan there presented as a first read at the October 14, 2013 regular meeting. Board members asked for clarification if the pillars listed are the goals. Yes was the answer. They give the district a map from which to work. Both the goals and long range plan include the district's mission and vision statements. Board members wanted to change the vision statement to say child's strengths **and** needs rather than strengths **or** needs. Jeff Bathurst moved to approve the 2013-2014 Board Goals and 2013-2014 Long Range Plan, including the vision change mentioned above. A second was received by Barb Brittan and the motion carried unanimously.

Facility Study - Board members were instructed to pull up a website that contains all of the facility study information. Recently added to the site is the district mill levies for the last 15 years. This information reveals that the board has been conservative during that time.

The district had tentatively scheduled a special joint meeting with the City of Abilene for November 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Abilene city commissioners recently voted down a resolution to discuss a possible sales tax to help defer the proposed bond issue cost from property owner. Prior to the vote, a few board members, district bond council Steve Shogren, Facility Advisory Committee spokesman Mike Whitehair, Chris and Denise met with the commissioners and other city employees in a work/study session to discuss the sales tax option. School

attendees of this session left feeling positive that the city would vote in favor of more discussion and possibly letting voters decide this issue. They were very surprised at the result of the city's vote. So the purpose of this tentative meeting was to provide additional information to the three commissioners who voted no. Two of the three no votes couldn't be in attendance so this meeting will not be scheduled.

Much discussion followed regarding whether to pursue the city for sales tax assistance or not. Several board members feel that if we do, we are muddying the waters and taking away from the big picture that is improving our district. Others feel that if we don't, the burden on property owners will be too high. Kari asked them if the sales tax assistance or lack of it would affect their decision on the list of improvements/total amount of the proposed bond. Of those that answered, two said yes and two said no.

Board members felt that they have a couple of options available. One is to ask to be placed on the agenda of a city commission meeting. The other is to try and set up a committee meeting to provide the city with additional information. This meeting would be attended by three board members, two city commissioners, City Manager David Dillner and Denise. The second option is the one board members decided to pursue, hoping that some of the no votes will be in attendance. They also want to keep in mind our deadlines for the proposed bond issue when scheduling the meeting.

### **Board-Administrator Communications**

Administrator Reports - Today was a district-wide technology training day. Chris said that we had the most sought after trainers in the state presenting at it...our own staff members. A short video on the training was shown. This video was produced by Garfield students with a little help from high school students. Thirty-two breakout sessions were provided along with panel discussions and a help desk. Positive feedback was received from staff members. Chris and Denise were pleased to see the collaboration of teachers during break times. Board members are happy that our staff is highly sought after, but want to know how our students benefit from that. Chris' answer is that our staff's passion for teaching grows and that it could also attract additional quality teachers to the district in the future. They also asked if we have a plan in place to help new teachers catch up to our technology use in the classroom. Chris said that the majority of this training would come via grade level support.

McRel Superintendent Evaluation - Denise informed board members that Debby, Gregg and she are signed up for the required McRel Superintendent Evaluation training provided by the Kansas Association of School Boards on December 3, 2013 in Salina.

KASB Annual Convention/Delegate Assembly - Board members attending the annual KASB Convention were asked to get with Angie for registration.

Legislative Luncheon - Gregg, Debby, Denise, Chris and Angie will be attending the annual Smoky Hill Education Service Center Legislative Luncheon on Thursday, November 14, 2013.

Site Council - Minutes and agendas for the Site Council groups at Kennedy, McKinley and the high school were available for board members viewing.

American Education Week - Board members were briefed on the activities that will honor staff and take place November 18-22, 2013.

Other - One board member mentioned a mechanical issue in the middle school boys bathroom that they'd noticed while attending a basketball game. Denise or Ron will will communicate it to Maintenance Director Dave Canfield.

**Policy Review** - Policies up for review were summarized by Denise. Site Council Policy IB was presented with changes for a first read by board members. This policy will be an Action/Discussion Item at the December regular board meeting. They also received a first read copy of the Staff Online Policy and Social Media Guidelines. We currently do not have a policy that addresses this. Positive feedback was received from staff members who have read the policy and guidelines.

A 5 minute break was requested at 8:45 p.m. There were no objections. The meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

At 8:50 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel and to return to open session in this room at 9:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Guy was invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel and to return to open session in this room at 9:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Barb Brittan and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Guy was invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

At 9:50 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel and to return to open session in this room at 10:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Debby Barbur and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Guy was invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Debby Barbur to **Adjourn** the meeting. Jeff Bathurst seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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CLERK

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PRESIDENT