

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

Abilene, Kansas

December 9, 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, December 9, 2013.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 7:00 p.m. by President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray with the following members in attendance:

Gregg Noel	Mark Wilson	Barb Brittan
Debby Barbur	Jeff Bathurst	Randy Gassman

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, Ron Wilson, Dallas Meneley, Tom Schwartz and Greg Heinrichs, Reflector Chronicle representative - Tim Horan, Food Service Director-Kyleen Harris, George K. Baum and Company representatives-Steve Shogren and Bret Shogren, Kennedy teachers - Jessica Smith and Renae Willey, FBLA Sponsor - Dawn James, FFA Sponsor - Travis Pralle, Maintenance Director - Dave Canfield, Transportation Director - Chris Parton, students - McKenna Scott, Amber Otten, Mallory Schardein, Marissa Schardein, Jacob Gillispie, Justin Houser, Chris Stutler, Matthew Anguiano, Will Whitehair, Caysen Smith, Allie Walters, Chelsea Keller, Allison Badding, Tyler Schiffner, Mackenzie Riffel, Haley Reiff, Kialyn Anderson, Blake Anguiano, Kristy Wilson, Matt Allen, McKenna Scott, Carson Sherbert, Keil Kelly, Isaiah Lake, Bree Lake and Hailey Devine.

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

Denise introduced new Transportation Director Chris Parton to board members and had him give a brief biography. One of Chris' comments was that Abilene is the coolest little town that he has ever been in. There were a large number of guests in attendance for presentations and an AHS government class. They were welcomed by Denise. The Consent Agenda was then summarized.

Gregg Noel moved to approve the **Consent Agenda**.

- Approval of minutes for the November 11, 2013 regular meeting, November 11, 2013 and November 25, 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 surplus vehicle sale
- Approval of equipment disposal

The motion was seconded by Debby Barbur 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

FFA National Trip - Morgan Rutter and Caysen Smith, FFA representatives were in attendance to let board members know how their National FFA Convention trip to Louisville, KY went. A career fair was one of their favorite activities. There were several colleges at that were able to field questions and offer advice. Side trips during the convention were: the Louisville Slugger Museum and Churchill Downs. A new record was set with over 67,000 in attendance. Both said it was neat to see everyone in official dress and that they made new friends for life. Board members thanked them for their presentation.

FBLA National Trip - Several FBLA members and their sponsor were in attendance to report on their National Leadership Conference in Grapevine, Texas. Some of their favorite conference highlights were: a workshop on resolving conflict, a dress for success workshop and the overall life experience the trip provided. While in Grapevine, FBLA members visited the Alco stores general office which was formerly located in Abilene. They toured the facility, learned how an ad is done and received job interview advice. They thanked board members for allowing them to take this trip.

Certified Child Nutrition Manager 1 - Food Service Director Kyleen Harris recently achieved the level of Certified Child Nutrition Manager 1. In order to reach this level, Kyleen completed 60 hours of Kansas State Department of Education sponsored Child Nutrition Management Academy training. This is a significant accomplishment. Denise presented Kyleen with a pin provided by KSDE for her hard work. Kyleen was thanked for the important work she does to help keep the kids of Abilene healthy.

MTSS Behavior Initiative at Kennedy - Greg Heinrichs, Jessica Smith and Renae Willey, Kennedy administration and teachers, were in attendance to present to the board regarding behavior initiatives. All three have attended training that is being shared with the rest of the staff. Behavior has such an impact on everything that schools do. One of the main objectives of the training is to work on consistency from teacher to teacher so the kids know the expectations and have structure. One way they are strengthening school-wide routines is by incorporating short, straight, silent lines. This is done in the hallways, at lunch, etc. Students are made aware of how their behavior affects other students and classrooms. In the classrooms, each student has a bucket which represents well-being. Their behavior determines whether they are a filler or a dipper. Filling buckets represents things that buildup a person and dipping from buckets represents things that tear down a person. They are taught that when you fill another person's bucket, yours gets filled too. Instead of a behavior just resulting in a consequence, proper behavior needs to become something that is taught. Punishments such as time-out don't have lasting results. Another training attended gave examples of how to handle a student with discipline problems. Some of them included: proximity-keep them close, work the room and practice-practice-practice. Teachers demonstrated and instructed students on proper use of playground equipment which will has cut down on recess behavior issues. Board members asked if behavior is included on report cards. Students receive a grade for social which would cover this. They also asked if using the instructional approach versus the consequence approach takes more time away from the other students. Greg answered that if it becomes a problem, office referrals can be used. Board members thanked them for their presentation.

Financial Literacy - Chris Cooper and Ben Smith presented board members with information regarding a financial literacy class at the high school. Option 1 would be to cover this information within a current class. Option 2 would be to add a new .5 credit class to our graduation requirements. The second option couldn't be implemented until 2018 when the current 8th graders are slated to graduate. At least a half-time teacher would be needed to implement option 2. Board members received a sheet showing the pros and cons of each option. Chris summarized the details and standards that the class would have. To expedite students receiving this instruction, Ben suggested option 1. Board members asked if we could do that while still working on implementing option 2. Yes was the answer. Another possibility is that this class could qualify for CTE funding if it is taught in the fall. Board members would like to hear more details about the funding at their regular January meeting.

At 8:15 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property and to return to open session in this room at 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property and to return to open session in this room at 8:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

A 5 minute break was requested at 8:35 p.m. There were no objections. The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Action/Discussion Items

Early Graduation Request - Ben Smith recommended approval of an early graduation request from Tana Stafford. Debby Barbur moved to approve the early graduation as recommended with a second by Randy Gassman. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy IB-Site Council - Board members received a first read on a revision of the Site Council policy at their November 11, 2013 regular meeting. Denise summarized the policy, recommending approval. Debby Barbur made a motion to adopt the revised policy as recommended. Gregg Noel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Policy IIBCG-Staff Online Activities - This new policy was up for approval having first been read at the board's regular November meeting. Denise summarized it, noting that it refers to guidelines. These guidelines are not yet complete. Denise has forwarded them to District Attorney, Debra James, for her opinion. Approval was recommended for the policy. A motion was made by Mark Wilson to approve the policy as recommended. Debby Barbur seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Facility Study - During the last few months of the facility study, Denise has compiled pertinent information on a website that board members have been able to access. She now recommends making this information available to the public via the district's website. Included are: Community Advisory Group (CAG) Priorities, CAG

meeting minutes, Talking Points, list of projects in the bond issue, the district's mill levy history, surrounding district mill levy amounts, bond and interest state aid information, mill assumption and impact, minutes from board meetings at which facilities were discussed and articles regarding facilities that were run in the Abilene Reflector Chronicle.

One concern in the facility discussions has been what will happen to Garfield if the proposed bond issue passes. Two options discussed by the FAG were to sell it or re-purpose it for other district needs. This building is on the Historic Register and board members don't want to see it demolished. There are companies that purchase buildings like this and renovate them into low/moderate housing or senior apartments. Purchasers could keep the historic value of it if only the inside is renovated. They would also still qualify for the tax credits. City Manager, David Dillner, has a list of people interested in this type of building. Denise reviewed some of the ways that the building could be re-purposed, stating that rent could offset some of the building upkeep costs. Board members want the public to be aware that they want to retain the historic value of Garfield whether it be through re-purpose or sale.

Discussion then focused on the amount of bonds to pursue. Denise had Keith Blackburn of HTK Architects remove the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) and Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing (MEP) from their project pricing. This lowered their final price from \$27,555,650.00 to \$23,470,113.00. Denise summarized the removal of the HVAC/MEP, stating that if the bond passed and there was money left over, it could be used to fund some of the items removed. Otherwise, they will be taken care of through the Capital Outlay fund during the next several years.

Steve Shogren and Bret Shogren of George K. Baum & Company were in attendance to answer any mill levy or bond process questions that the board may have. Steve began by telling board members that the most chosen time-frame for financing bonds is 20 years. Twenty-five is common and 30 is the maximum allowed. Mill levy information on 20 and 25 years were reviewed. Steve recommended 25 years as this would drop the tax increase on a \$100,000.00 home to below \$10.00 a month.

The process to get a resolution to the state for a bond issue was then summarized by Steve. He reviewed the timeline and steps, stating that the language of the resolution needs to be correct as it sets the parameters on what the money can be spent for. A board member asked that Steve explain wrapping bonds so he could answer patron questions. When bonds are wrapped, the current bonds are not touched. They are paid as scheduled. The new bonds are billed in such a way that the total payments and interest by the district will remain static. For example, the first ten years of the new bonds will be billed lower, but then increase when the old bonds are paid off. They design the new bonds around the old ones.

Board members requested a couple of changes in the bus barn and auditorium language of the draft resolution provided by Steve.

Denise asked Steve to summarize the steps following the adoption of a resolution. Some of the items included are: notice in the paper, filing with the state, notice of election, development of a campaign committee, flyers, newspaper articles, radio spots, door to door, meetings and buttons. Steve did stress that the position of the board and staff can only be informational. Any promotion of the bond issue will need to be handled through a campaign committee. Denise hopes that this committee will start with some of the FAG members and expand from there. The board was also cautioned that district funds can't be spent to promote, only to inform. Board and staff members can be advocates of the bond as individuals. However, it has to be off school property and

on their own time. If a bond issue is pursued, Steve will also share ideas on what has worked at other districts and what they believe will work for Abilene.

Board members said that the community has been questioning the 39% state aid as it could go down. Steve said that is definitely a possibility. However, Abilene has historically received an average of 33% - 35% bond and interest state aid. If the percentage goes down, it is not necessarily a bad thing because it means that Abilene is richer due to more tax base to offset the loss. When figuring the numbers for his mill levy estimates, Steve used a conservative growth rate.

Steve was then asked by board members for his opinion on a mail-in ballot. If this is pursued, Steve said we would lose a couple of weeks of campaign time and he doesn't recommend using that option.

Board members moved on to discussing the HVAC/MEP some more. They want to reassure the community that these items will still be addressed via Capital Outlay funds if they are removed from the bond issue. Maintenance Director, Dave Canfield, was in attendance to answer questions. He reviewed some of the options for replacing the cooling systems in classrooms and stated that he believes that all HVAC/MEP projects could be completed in a 3 year timeframe.

Denise then asked board members what they require from her in order to move forward with facilities. Changing the resolution language and using mill levy numbers for 25 year financing topped the list.

A special meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 7:00 a.m.

Board-Administrator Communications

Administrator Reports - Denise showed a video shot by Tara Noel and Adam Owens of 502 Media at our November 11, 2013 special meeting. State representatives John Barker and Tom Aprke were in attendance at this meeting which highlighted our Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. Board members were pleased with the video which will be available on the district's website. Information on a KPERs article in the Salina Journal was shared. Board members were given an update on the education funding lawsuit. KASB lawyers believe that the courts will rule in favor of the lawsuit. However, they feel that compliance by the legislature is another matter.

McRel Superintendent Evaluation - Denise summarized KASB training on these evaluations that was attended by Dr. Kari Porter-Murray, Gregg Noel, Chris Cooper and her.

KASB Annual Convention/Delegate Assembly - Debby Barbur summarized the Delegate Assembly information that she received at the KASB Convention including items that KASB will lobby for at the upcoming legislative session. Other convention attendees Gregg Noel, Jeff Bathurst and Denise touched on the highlights of the convention.

Kansas Health Foundation PAT Grant - Board members were informed of a \$3,500.00 Health Foundation Grant received by Parents as Teachers. They were also advised that our grant policy will be up for review at the regular January meeting.

Other - Board members received information on the KASB Governmental Relations seminar that is scheduled for January 16-17, 2014 in Topeka.

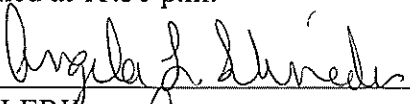
Policy Review - Policies up for review at this meeting were: BCBD-Agenda; BCBF-Rules of Order; BCBG-Voting Method; BCBH-Minutes, BCBI-Public Participation at Board Meetings and DFAA-Grants and other Outside Financial Resources. DFAA had a revision. Board members asked that it be placed on the Action/ Discussion section of their regular meeting in January.

A 5 minute break was requested at 11:10 p.m. There no objections. The meeting reconvened at 11:15

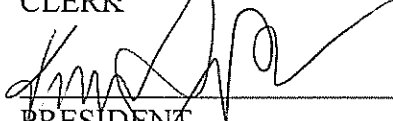
At 11:15 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel and matters relating to employer-employee negotiations and to return to open session in this room at 11:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 11:30 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jeff Bathurst to **Adjourn** the meeting. Randy Gassman seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.



CLERK



PRESIDENT