

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

Abilene, Kansas

April 11, 2016

The Board of Education of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for their regular monthly meeting in the boardroom of the district office at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2016.

Opening of the Meeting

Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Gregg Noel with the following board members in attendance:

Dr. Kari Porter-Murray
Debby Barbur

Barb Brittan
Jeff Bathurst

Mark Wilson

Board member Randy Gassman was unable to be in attendance. 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, Debbie Elliott, Tom Schwartz and Greg Heinrichs, Abilene Reflector Chronicle representative - Kathy Hageman, Abilene National Education Association (ANEA) Representative - Chris Delay, ANEA Teacher of the Year - Sheri Graefe and her family, AHS Art Teacher - Toni Britt, Abilene Tree Board Representative - John Barbur, AHS Science Teacher - Molly Burton, AHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Sponsor - Dawn James, ABC Afterschool Program Director - Dan Brown, District Technology Coordinator - Mike Liby, Eisenhower paraprofessional - Skye Roberts, AHS alumni/sculptures - Donnie Knauss and Jason Lahr, 9 boy scouts and 2 boy scout leaders.

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Barb Brittan to approve the agenda. Mark Wilson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Denise summarized the consent agenda.

Debby Barbur moved to approve the consent agenda.

Approval of minutes for the March 21, 2016 regular meeting and the March 21, 2016 special meeting

Approval of AHS, AMS and district finance reports

Approval of Personnel Update List (see attached)

Approval of Out of District Attendance Requests - none as of meeting time

The motion was seconded by Kari Porter-Murray and it carried unanimously.

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

None

Audience With Patrons

No one from the audience addressed the board during the audience with patrons section.

Presentations

Abilene National Education Association (ANEA) Teacher of the Year

ANEA president Chris Delay was in attendance to present the ANEA Teacher of the Year Award to Sheri Graefe. Sheri is the 8th grade communications teacher at the Abilene Middle School. Chris stated that he was pleased and honored to present the award to this wonderful, wonderful woman. A slide show containing quotes about Mrs. Graefe by her students was shared with meeting attendees. Sheri, whose family was also in attendance, was moved to tears by the quotes. Sheri also received a certificate and words of appreciation from the board.

Cowboy Sculpture

AHS art teacher Toni Britt was in attendance to petition board members for permission to fundraise for a large cowboy sculpture to be placed at the high school. The proposed sculpture would be created by AHS alumni Donnie Knauss - 1981 and Jason Lahr - 1991. Both were in attendance. It would be a traditional bucking bronc pose and be at least 10' tall. Placement would be up for debate, possibly on 14th street or the new entrance on Mulberry. A minimum of \$2,000.00 in metal would be required and 200-300 man-hours. Other costs involved would be cement slab, lighting, landscaping and a plaque. If enough funds can be raised for the supplies, Donnie and Jason would be willing to donate their time. Toni estimates that \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 would be needed and intends to solicit AHS alumni via Facebook. Samples of Donnie and Jason's work was also shared with the board. Discussion followed. This was board members first look at this project. They will consider approval at a future meeting.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary Landscaping

John Barbur, Abilene Tree Board representative, was in attendance to visit with board members regarding landscaping plans and a tree donation for Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary. Plans and types of trees/shrubs/plants/flowers were shared with the board. John stated that landscaping makes buildings feel more like home. All of the foliage chosen are low maintenance and able to tolerate Kansas weather. Board members were cautioned that even low maintenance foliage requires a substantial establishment time in which frequent watering is required. John suggested starting a volunteer group (staff, students, parents, etc.) that may help during this time. Much discussion followed. One board concern was fruit trees and the mess they can make on sidewalks. John assured them that any of the trees with fruit would be in the mulched area and not over sidewalks. An irrigation system is already slated to be installed at Eisenhower. Soil, mulch and type of grass were also discussed. John was asked if this plan could be implemented in phases. Yes was the answer and some ideas were shared.

The Tree Board would like to donate 5 trees for Eisenhower, however, there are only 4 available at the moment. General consensus of the board is to accept the tree donation.

Discussion then turned to boor bugs that are killing ash trees in some neighboring counties. Board members wondered if they should be proactive and develop a plan to address some of our ash trees. John said that was probably a good idea, depending on how dense they are.

Board members thanked John for his time, expertise and tree donation.

Request for Out of State Travel to a Science Workshop

AHS science teacher Molly Burton was in attendance to ask board members for permission to travel out of state to a science workshop. Molly explained to board members that this is a workshop that students have attended in the past, however the students have been with their parents which does not require board approval. This year, there are 2 students attending whose parents aren't able to attend and have asked if Molly will go as their sponsor. This would require board approval for the out of state travel and use of professional development funds to pay for Molly's flight, lodging and workshop fee. Some of the benefits to attending this workshop are: speakers, break-out sessions, see live surgery and materials that can be used in the classroom. Much discussion followed. Board members were a little concerned about the late notice of this request. Denise and Chris explained that this is a unique situation due to the unavailability of parents to accompany their students. Mark Wilson moved to approve the out of state travel and use of professional development funds as requested. A second was received by Jeff Bathurst and the motion carried unanimously.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Request for Out of State Travel to National Conference

Dawn James, FBLA sponsor, was in attendance to petition board members for permission to travel to Atlanta, GA for FBLA's national leadership conference. Students that place 1st thru 4th in competition are eligible to attend the national conference. One FBLA student falls into this category. The conference is from June 27, 2016 - July 3, 2016. All expenses will be paid through the FBLA activity fund. A motion was made by Debby Barbur and seconded by Barb Brittan to approve that travel as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

Summer Science Academy/Approval of Donation

Board members were informed of a potential new opportunity and donation that would fund it. According to Denise, Dan Brown, 5th grade teacher and ABC Afterschool Program director, has always wanted to do a summer science academy with K-5 students. After mentioning this at a Rotary Club presentation, Dan was approached by Hank Royer, representing the Jeffcoat Memorial Foundation. Hank offered to donate \$10,000.00, pending board approval, to make this happen. In addition to the potential Jeffcoat donation, Dan has applied for a \$5,000.00 grant from the Community Foundation of Dickinson County. According to the budget \$10,000.00 would pay for staffing, transportation, utilities, use of Eisenhower and a few supplies. The additional grant if received would enrich the program by allowing some equipment to be purchased. A decision on the grant won't be known until May 20, 2016. Denise stressed that no district funds will be used for this program. Dates, ages, number of students, etc. for the science academy were shared. Students attending will be transported to McKinley to take part in the free summer lunch program. Much discussion followed. Debby Barbur moved to approve the Summer Science Academy as presented. Barb Brittan seconded and the motion carried unanimously. A motion was received by Barb Brittan and seconded by Mark Wilson to accept the \$10,000.00 donation from the Jeffcoat Memorial Foundation. The motion carried unanimously.

Abilene High School Athletics/Activities

With construction at the high school hitting high gear this summer, Will Burton informed board members how summer activities will be handled. Dates and Kansas State High School Activities Association regulations were shared. Discussion followed.

Facilities & Technology

Facilities Update

According to Denise, information/plans for the high school irrigation system/landscaping are still in the works. The weight room equipment has been moved to the newly completed multi-purpose room. This allows

construction to begin on this area of the high school. A stairwell is involved and will take some time to complete.

Conversion of the old administrative area at the middle school to special education classrooms is almost complete. That will finish up the middle school construction.

Barb Brittan reminded board members that the dedication of Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 14, 2016.

Board members received a lot of patron comments regarding their gym banner discussion from last month's meeting. They would like the public to know that eliminating the banners was never their intent.

Legislative Update/Yearend Budget Projections

Denise summarized information on House Bill 2655 that addresses the equity portion of the Gannon school funding lawsuit. With this bill the district would receive less state aid in the supplemental general fund and more state aid in the capital outlay fund. The difference in these numbers is \$6,526.00 and that amount would be received into the general fund as state aid. This bill must be approved by the Kansas Supreme Court before it can be implemented.

Other budgetary numbers were discussed including a reduction in district cash balances. Each year, legislators consider sweeping district cash balances. Abilene has had a plan for the last 4 years to reduce our cash balances via capital projects and instructional resources. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) encourages districts to spend their cash balances so they do not get swept.

Capital Project List

With cash balances still in mind, Denise shared the capital project list with board members. Each item on the list has a rating of 1, 2 or 3. Board members were reminded that they approved the #1 items at their regular March meeting. This evening, Denise asked board members to approve the #2 and #3 items. Denise stated that even though approved, these items may be put on the back burner if there are any financial surprises towards the end of the fiscal year. Discussion followed. Jeff Bathurst moved to approve the #2 and #3 items of the capital project list that total \$482,761.00 as presented. Kari Porter-Murray seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Community Engagement

2015-2016 Calendar

At their regular March meeting, Denise petitioned board members to consider dismissing school one day early for the 2015-2016 school year. This early dismissal would allow construction crews to get into the high school building one day early to begin construction projects. According to Denise, there is a lot to be done before school starts on August 17, 2016. Board member concerns regarding spring activities and final exams were researched and found to unwarranted. A motion was received from Debby Barbur to approve May 25, 2016 as the last day of school with a second from Barb Brittan. The motion carried unanimously. This day will be an early dismissal day.

Free Summer Lunch Program Update

Denise informed board members that the free summer lunch program will take place at McKinley Elementary this summer. Our district is eligible for this free summer lunch program due to our free/reduced meal participants being greater than 50%.

Student Development

2016-2017 Instructional Resources

Board members received a first look at the instructional resource items at their regular March meeting. Since then, Chris Cooper has added final prices to the list. Chris bargained with suppliers to receive the best price possible and an additional year for online books. Board members appreciated his extra efforts. The total price of resources is \$108,440.39. Barb Brittan moved to approve the instructional resource list as presented. Mark Wilson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2016-2017 Parents as Teachers (PAT) Budget

Angie Schneider summarized the 2016-2017 Parents as Teachers budget. A motion was made by Debby Barbur to approve the PAT budget of \$111,481.00 as requested. Barb Brittan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Learning Partnerships

Site Council

Board members were provided with Site Council agendas and/or minutes from McKinley.

Board-Administrator Communications

Board-Administrator Communications

Building administrators report building happenings to board members.

Abilene Cares Coalition

Denise informed board members the local group named above includes community representatives from law enforcement, school district, parents, ministerial, judicial, mental health, etc. The vision of this group is that every child/family in Abilene and surrounding areas will live a safe and healthy life. They will develop a plan and pool their resources to make this vision happen.

Other

According to Denise, the City of Abilene would like to start working on 11th street, south of Eisenhower Elementary, prior to school getting out.

Chris shared that today's professional development technology day went well. It was great to see the building tech integration specialists step up and take leadership roles.

Policy

Approval of Amended and/or New Policies

Denise summarized the following policy amendments that board members first saw at their regular March meeting. They are up for approval this evening. FC - Memorials and Naming of District Facilities, JA - Goals and Objectives, JB - Attendance Records, JBC - Enrollment and JCABB - Searches of Students. Mark Wilson moved to approve the policy amendments as presented with a second from Barb Brittan. the motion carried unanimously.

Policy Review

Policies that have Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) amendment recommendations include: JCDB - Dress Code, JDD - Suspension and Expulsion Procedures, JDDDB - Reporting to Law Enforcement, JDDC - Bullying, JGC - Health Assessments and Physicals, JI - Community Activities, JQE - Alternative Arrangements for Nontraditional Students, JQKA - Foreign Exchange Students, KQL - Hearing Procedures for

Exceptional Students, JQLA - Class-size/Caseload Limits for Exceptional Students and KGC - Bullying by Parents. Denise had the administrative team review these polices also. If there are no issues, the policies will be up approval at the regular May meeting.

A 5 minute break was requested at 8:57 p.m. There were no objections. The meeting reconvened at 9:03 p.m.

Executive Session

At 9:03 p.m., Barb Brittan made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual and to return to open session in this room at 10:03 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mark Wilson and the motion carried unanimously. Denise, Chris and Debbie Elliott were invited to join the executive session. Debbie exited the session at 9:16 p.m. at which time Tom Schwartz entered. Tom and Gregg Noel exited the session at 9:37 p.m.. Ron Wilson entered at 9:38 p.m. At 9:56 p.m. Ron exited the session Gregg Noel entered.

The meeting reconvened at 10:03 p.m.

Executive Session

At 10:03 p.m., Debby Barbur made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual; discussion of matters relating to employer-employee negotiations to protect the districts right to the confidentiality of its negotiation position and the public interest; and preliminary discussion relating to the acquisition of real property to protect the district's financial interest and bargaining position and to return to open session in this room at 10:18 p.m. The motion was seconded by Kari Porter-Murray and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:18 p.m.

Executive Session

At 10:18 p.m., Mark Wilson made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual; discussion of matters relating to employer-employee negotiations to protect the districts right to the confidentiality of its negotiation position and the public interest; and preliminary discussion relating to the acquisition of real property to protect the district's financial interest and bargaining position and to return to open session in this room at 10:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Barb Brittan and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:28 p.m.

Executive Session

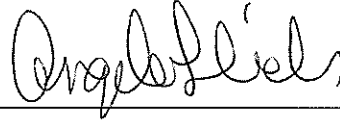
At 10:28 p.m., Barb Brittan made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual; discussion of matters relating to employer-employee negotiations to protect the districts right to the confidentiality of its negotiation position and the public interest; and preliminary discussion relating to the acquisition of real property to protect the district's financial interest and bargaining position and to return to open session in this room at 10:33 p.m. The motion was seconded by Debby Barbur and the motion carried unanimously. Denise and Chris were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:33 p.m.

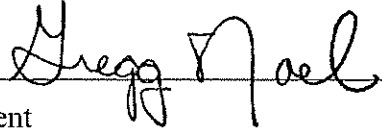
Kari Porter-Murray moved to approve Stacy Smiley to transfer from 1st grade teacher at Kennedy to Title 1 teacher at Kennedy. Mark Wilson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Wilson to Adjourn the meeting. Barb Brittan seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.



Clerk



President

Personnel Update
Action for April 11, 2016

Resignations and Retirements

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
Certified	Megan Hagaman	AHS finance/debate/forensics teacher	Resigned

***Employment, Transfers and Other Action**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>
Certified	Sarah McElroy	AHS math teacher
Certified	Janelle Shaw	Transfer to Title 1 teacher at Eisenhower/Kennedy
Classified	Debra Roper	Substitute bus driver
Classified	Kurt Wassenberg	Substitute bus driver
Certified	Stacy Smiley	Transfer from 1 st grade teacher to Kennedy Title 1 teacher

Employment – Substitute Teachers

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Current positions open – April 11, 2016

AHS finance/debate/forensics teacher
Kennedy 1st grade teacher
Kennedy kindergarten teacher
Eisenhower media/keyboarding/title aide
AMS assistant volleyball coach
ABC afterschool program subs
Substitute bus drivers
Substitute food service
Substitute custodians
Substitute teachers

After executive session, board members moved to accept the personnel change shown in red above.

*Upon receipt of signed contracts, the Board of Education President is authorized to sign.