

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

Abilene, Kansas

December 10, 2012

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 10, 2012.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 7:03 p.m. by President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray with the following members in attendance:

Dale Koop	Gregg Noel	Mark Wilson
Barb Brittan	Randy Gassman	

Board member Debby Barbur arrived at 7:15 p.m. Others attending all or part of the meeting were Dr. Denise Guy, Angie Schneider, Ben Smith, Will Burton, Chris Cooper, Tom Schwartz, Greg Heinrichs, Debra James, Tim Horan, Mike Liby, Chad Remboldt, Adam Johnson, Ann Parr, Greg Dutt, Dave Canfield, Bruce Dale and approximately 15 AHS government students.

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

Mark Wilson moved to approve the **Consent Agenda**.

- Approval of minutes for the November 12, 2012 regular meeting and the November 15, 19, 29, 2012 and December 5, 2012 special meetings
- Approval of AHS, AMS and district finance reports
- Approval of Personnel Update - resignations and employment
- Approval of Out of District Requests - none
- Approval of Used Bus/Van Bids
- Approval of Early Graduation Request

The motion was seconded by Randy Gassman and the motion carried.

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 -

Dr. Guy introduced Ann Parr, WWII Book - 5 Star Writers Coordinator, who was in attendance to give board members an update on the project. Ann started by thanking board members and administrators for their support and use of the students. Planning for this book project started in the summer of 2012 and commenced with the writing in September. Some people told Ann that there was no way that the project would be complete by the early winter deadline. She gave the credit for it happening to Heidi Stohs, AHS English Honors teacher. Seventeen students, who were paired with local people that have ties to WWII, authored the book. Ann

commented that the bonds and relationships between the students and their partners are strong and beautiful. Between the 17 chapters, there are Ike Writes sections. These are excerpts from President Eisenhower's diary and letters that were researched by the students at the Eisenhower Center. Ann also commented that a continuing column in the Reflector Chronicle may transpire due to the project. Mark Wilson asked if there will be more projects like this in the future. With caution, Ann said that there could be, but it was quite an undertaking. Gregg Noel and the rest of the board gave a hand to all involved with the project. The books cost \$36.95 plus tax. A book signing is planned later in the week at the Eisenhower Visitors Center.

Greg Dutt, AHS Auto Tech teacher, was in attendance to inform board members that Holm Automotive donated a 1995 Dodge diesel truck to the AHS automotive classes. Abilene Machine donated an injector pump and other parts for the truck. These donations stemmed from an advisory committee discussion that said there is a real need for diesel mechanics and that earnings for this type of career is paying up to six figures. With the exposure to diesel, students will be aware of the possibilities available. Dale Koop moved to accept both of these donations with a second from Barb Brittan. The motion carried.

Board members received an aLearn Initiative update from building administrators. Greg Heinrichs started out by saying that Kim Funston and Dave McClain are critical to the success of this initiative. It is easy to put the initial excitement up on the shelf. Kim and Dave are there to help teachers and students learn, apply and integrate the iPads, keeping the excitement active and off of the shelf. Ben Smith commented that the experience at the high school level has been pretty good. He then explained My Big Campus to board members. It is an online delivery method for assignments and a communication tool. Students who don't take their iPad home are not at a disadvantage as teachers burn discs for them to take for homework. Another statement from Ben was that not all teachers are at the same comfort level with the iPads. According to Ben, USD #435 has had visits from 6 to 7 other districts, with more scheduled. They all want to see how the use of iPads in the classroom is going. They also want to know how it was funded and how the students/teachers like it. Ben feels that the work done by the steering committee has been very beneficial to the project and our ability to help other schools. There have been a few concerns by parents that students are distracted by games and texting. Ben has asked parents not to be shy and take control of the situation. These distractions are nothing new. In the past, students would have a comic book within the book that they should have been reading and texting is the same as passing notes. The behavior is the same, just the medium is different. Ben then showed board members how simple it is for teachers to check what students are doing on their iPad during class. Notability, a note-taking/organizational app, was discussed by Ben. Board members asked if seniors will have the option of purchasing the iPad upon graduation. At this time, that will not be an option. The plan is for them to be recycled to the incoming freshmen. Another question asked was regarding the wireless issues that we have been having. Mike Liby was in attendance and answered. He said that the problem is density, not internet. Density means that there are not enough radios to handle the users around them. Mike is studying this and said that we will eventually need to purchase more radios.

Dr. Guy explained to board members that Standard of Excellence is a sophisticated formula that looks at the number of students in each of the 5 different proficiency categories. Abilene received 15 Standard of Excellence awards. She said that this has been the best year ever for Abilene. Several of the building administrators were late getting to the meeting due to the Christmas program at McKinley so the awards will be disbursed in January.

Facility Study

Chad Remboldt and Adam Johnson with Trane were in attendance to present the results of their Preliminary Technical and Financial Analysis to the board. Their proposal deals with improving things like lighting, acoustics, air quality, temperature and humidity levels. They feel that fixing them allows teachers to teach and students to learn at an optimal level. The digital presentation showed 4 options, highlighting cost of improvements and the savings that they would create.

Dr. Guy reported that Keith Blackburn, with HTK Architects, is available to meet on December 19, 2012. A special work/study session was scheduled for this date at 6:00 p.m.

Debra James, USD #435 attorney, was in attendance to propose a **Freedom of Information Policy** to board members. Copies of the proposed policy were handed out. Deb explained that since we don't currently have a written policy, the state statute becomes our policy. The policy was summarized by Deb and she also stated that the Freedom of Information Officer is generally the superintendent and that the Custodian of Records is generally the board clerk. Another item stressed was that we need to have requests for information in writing. This disallows interpretation of a verbal request. We are also within our rights to charge for information requested. The pricing guidelines were summarized. Board members requested that Deb make the policy more district specific and present it at a future meeting for a 2nd reading.

Board-Administrator Communications

Administrator Reports

Ben Smith reported that things are progressing nicely at the high school and said that the recent inservice was intense, but in a good way. Finals are next week.

Will Burton reported that winter sports are underway and gave the results of basketball, wrestling and the scholars bowl.

Chris Cooper thanked new Kennedy principal, Greg Heinrichs, for asking tough questions of him and the other administrators. This is part of the learning process and causes them to question themselves and improve. Garfield has had 4 new 5th grade students enroll last week. This is a small class, so the numbers work well. Their inservice was spent working on common core. Revival of the Safe Routes to School is up and coming. There is possible grant money for more walkable/bike-able routes. Chris is also working on a form for calling subs that can be shared by the district. It will save the administrators/secretaries time by letting them know what subs have already been called on any particular day.

Tom Schwartz was a little late arriving due to McKinley's 3rd grade concert. He said that the house was packed and that Mrs. Christner and the kids did an excellent job. Their staff development day was good and they have a Fantastic Friday coming up on December 14th.

Greg Heinrichs reported that their new schedule is done. The priorities of the new schedule were more plan and MTSS time. The general consensus is that they gave up a little to get a lot. The schedule will be started after Christmas break. Greg thanked the committee for their hard work.

Dr. Guy has been in contact with Corey Dehn, HTK Architects, regarding the Garfield elevator project. Corey has been in communication with the contractor requesting some details before the final walk through is

conducted. The elevator is being used on a daily basis and for all practical purposes is complete. Chris Cooper reported that there were some really appreciative grandparents at Garfield's Grandparents Day in November. Once the final payment is made, we will be able to begin pursuing tax credits on the project.

Dr. Guy summarized the No Child Left Behind Waiver for board members. More information will be brought to the January meeting regarding the Common Core Standards. These standards may also be referred to as College & Career-ready Standards. A sub committee consisting of Gregg Noel, Debby Barbur and Barb Brittan met with Dr. Guy in November. Along with the standards, a new evaluation tool for administrators/teachers/superintendents has to be turned in by March 1, 2013. There are a few options. Dr. Guy will pursue opinions of the ANEA and board members. Our choice has to be approved by the Kansas State Department of Education.

Board members Gregg Noel and Debby Barbur attended the Kansas Association of School Boards Convention and reported that it was mediocre this year. Debby was able to visit with KASB's Angie Stallbaumer regarding the policy review that we are currently doing through them. Gregg said that he was approached by many schools regarding the iPads. They both said that KSDE's Dale Dennis is good and that he tells it like it is. Both Debby and Gregg like the camaraderie of the convention.

Board members received information regarding the KASB/NASB Annual Conference and were instructed to contact the board clerk if interested in attending.

Dr. Guy has also been in contact with Angie Stallbaumer regarding our **Policy Review**. All of our KASB's policies have now been received in digital form. The price that we have paid for the policy review includes 3 visits from KASB excluding mileage. A sub-committee consisting of Mark Wilson, Debby Barbur and Dale Koop has been created. Deb James will provide the committee with policies that KASB has that the district does not.

A 5 minute recess was called at 9:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m., Mark Wilson made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for the discussion of non-elected personnel matters in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed; for consultation with an attorney for the board which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship; for matters relating to employer-employee negotiations and for matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 10:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Gregg Noel and the motion carried. District attorney Debra James and Dr. Guy were invited to join the executive session. President Dr. Kari Porter-Murray announced that there would be action following the last executive session. Dr. Guy exited the session at 10:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:10 p.m.

At 10:10 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for the discussion of non-elected personnel matters in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed; for consultation with an attorney for the board which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship; for matters relating to employer-employee negotiations and for matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 10:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dale Koop and the motion carried. District attorney Debra James and Dr. Guy were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:30 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., Gregg Noel made a motion to go into **Executive Session** for the discussion of non-elected personnel matters in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed; for consultation with an attorney for the board which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship; for matters relating to employer-employee negotiations and for matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student and to return to open session in this room at 10:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dale Koop and the motion carried. District attorney Debra James and Dr. Guy were invited to join the executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 10:35 p.m.

Dale Koop moved to extend an 18 month contract, as shown in the written document, to Interim Superintendent Dr. Denise Guy. Gregg Noel seconded and the motion carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Wilson to **Adjourn** the meeting. Barb Brittan seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

CLERK

PRESIDENT