

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

Abilene, Kansas

November 11, 2019

The Board of Education of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for their regular monthly meeting in the board room of the district office at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 11, 2019, with the following members being present:

Present: Jeff Bathurst, Kyle Becker, Randy Gassman, Gregg Noel, Jennifer Waite, Mark Wilson

Absent: Chris West

Others attending all or part of the meeting were: Superintendent - Greg Brown, Assistant Superintendent - Chris Cooper, Board Clerk - Joan Anderson, District Technology Coordinator - Mike Liby, Administrators - Dr. Ben Smith, Will Burton, Jenna Delay, Derek Berns, Ethan Gruen, Mindy Sanders, Dr. Twyla Sprouse; Abilene Reflector-Chronicle Reporter - Kathy Hagaman, Shelly Alderson, Robert Keener, Sierra Tarr, Lydia Keune, Kiersten Bauer, Janeal Schmidt, Kim Townsend, Taylor Burrows, Beth Holmes, Peter Garcia, Nick Mitchell, Hank Royer, Robert J Langhofer, Rick Beins, Adara James

Opening of the Meeting

Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Kyle Becker.

Approval of the Agenda

Randy Gassman moved to approve the agenda. Jennifer Waite seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Consent Agenda

The following items were on the consent agenda:

- Approval of minutes for the October 11, 2019, regular meeting
- Approval of District Office, High School, and Middle School finance reports
- Approval of Personnel Update
- Approval of Early Graduation Requests
- Graduation Credits Request
- Approval of Individual Development Plans for Certified Staff
- Surplus Auction Items

Jeff Bathurst moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mark Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

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

None

Audience With Patrons

Beth Holmes addressed the board concerning the starting of a calming/decompression room at the high school. She noted that the room would provide a safe space and environment for students with anxieties to decompress. Kim Townsend would supervise the room and no electronics would be allowed except for a calming app. Hank Royer presented a check for \$2000 from the Jeffcoat Foundation for the purchase of items for the room.

Randy Gassman moved to accept the donation with gratitude from the Jeffcoat Foundation. Jennifer Waite seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The board would like a follow up at the end of the year.

Action/Discussion

Don & Pat Berkley Family Fund Grant

The Don and Pat Berkley Family Fund, with the Dickinson County Community Foundation, gave a \$1200 grant to the ABC After School Program.

Gregg Noel moved to accept the Don and Pat Berkley Family Fund grant and thanked them and the Foundation. Jeff Bathurst seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Kennedy Donation

The Kennedy School received a \$500 donation from Black & Company Realtors to purchase items for the behavior store.

Jennifer Waite moved to accept the donation and thanked them for the donation. Mark Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Facilities

Kyle Becker updated the board on the progress the facilities task force had made. The task force met with HTK, BG Construction, and Riley Construction to get their ideas concerning the vocational education building. HTK and BG Construction will be coming out next week. The task force is hoping to give the board a recommendation in December on how to proceed.

The task force also had discussions with Hellas Construction regarding the renovation of the Cowboy Stadium. It was noted that this is just a fact-finding process for now. The board does not plan to raise taxes or have another bond issue. They are looking at ways to stay within their budget for this renovation.

Learning Partnerships

SITE Council

SITE council minutes from AHS, McKinley, and Kennedy were presented along with the McKinley SITE Council By-Laws.

Jeff Bathurst moved to accept the minutes and by-laws. Randy Gassman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Strategic Plan Revision

Superintendent Brown presented the timeline for developing a strategic plan for the district's foundational expectations. Dr. Brian Jordan from KASB will work with the district on this process. The process should be completed by the April board meeting.

Action/Discussion Items

USI Employee Benefits Consultants

Bob Langhofer and Rick Biens from USI, a national insurance brokerage and consulting firm, addressed the board concerning ways their company could assist the district in lowering health care premiums. They stated they would negotiate with carriers to secure early renewal pricing and make a recommendation on which type of insurance coverage the district would benefit from, whether it be fully funded or partially self funded. Their company also deals with prescription drug costs. USI works on a contract bases for services performed. Discussion was held.

The board will decide at a later date if they wish to pursue this path.

Learning Partnerships

District Learning Report

The district's learning update was given by Chris Cooper. He stated that enrollment is decreasing and 38% of the student receive free meals. The following items were also discussed: chronic absenteeism, academic and behavioral screeners, state assessments, Kindergarten readiness, graduation rate/post-secondary success, and ACT scores. Chris noted that the district's composite ACT score is above the state trend, but there are still some concerns in the area of math.

Board-Administrator Communications

Board-Administrator Communications

The administrator reports were presented for review.

American Education Week

The district is celebrating American Education week November 11-15 with special activities.

Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) Convention/Delegate Assembly

Gregg Noel, Randy Gassman, Greg Brown, and Veronica Murray will be attending the KASB convention. Gregg Noel is the voting candidate. Greg Brown highlighted the issues that will be voted on.

Other

The board will host a meal for out-going board members Gregg Noel and Mark Wilson. Details will be decided at a later date.

The district received a donation in the amount of \$934.28 from the Knights of Columbus' Tootsie Roll drive.

Randy Gassman moved to accept the Knights of Columbus' donation. Gregg Noel seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Executive Session

Personnel

At 9:04 p.m., Randy Gassman moved that the board go into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting would resume in the board room in 15 minutes. Mark Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Greg Brown, Dr. Smith, and Derek Berns were invited into executive session.

Derek Berns left at 9:18 p.m.

The board returned to the open meeting at 9:19 p.m.

At 9:19 p.m., Randy Gassman moved that the board go into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting would resume in the board room in 15 minutes. Gregg Noel seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Greg Brown and Dr. Smith were invited into executive session. The board clerk was instructed to send in Will Burton when he arrived.

Will Burton entered executive session at 9:22 p.m.

Dr. Smith and Will Burton left executive session at 9:33 p.m.

The board returned to the open meeting at 9:34 p.m.

At 9:34 p.m., Gregg Noel moved that the board go into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting would resume in the board room in 5 minutes. Randy Gassman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Greg Brown was invited into executive session.

The board returned to the open meeting at 9:39 p.m.

At 9:39 p.m., Jennifer Waite moved that the board go into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting would resume in the board room in 5 minutes. Gregg Noel seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Greg Brown was invited into executive session.

The board returned to the open meeting at 9:44 p.m.

At 9:44 p.m., Gregg Noel moved that the board go into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting would resume in the board room in 5 minutes. Mark Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Greg Brown was invited into executive session.

The board returned to the open meeting at 9:49 p.m.

Acquisition of Property

At 9:50 p.m., Randy Gassman moved that the board go into executive session to discuss potential properties for office/classroom space pursuant to the exception for preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property under KOMA, and the open meeting would resume in the board room in 10 minutes. Gregg Noel seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Greg Brown was invited into executive session.

The board returned to the open meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Mark Wilson moved to adjourn. Gregg Noel seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

12-9-19

Date



Clerk



President

Personnel Update
Action for November 11, 2019

Resignations and Retirements

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
Certified	Justin Amos	AHS Chemistry & Physical Science	Resignation

***Employment, Transfers and Other Action**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>
Classified	Diana Smith	Transfer from food service sub to AMS Dishwasher
Classified	Jaden Walters	Substitute for ASP

Employment – Substitute Teachers

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>
Certified	Susanne Anderson	Substitute Teacher
Certified	Rebecca Swartz	Substitute Teacher
Classified	Amy Feigley	Substitute Para
Classified	Cody Jenne	Substitute Para
Certified	Patricia Blanke	Substitute Teacher
Certified	Daniel Woods	Substitute Teacher
Classified	Thelma Morrow	Substitute Para
Certified	Judy Reusser	Substitute Teacher

Current positions open – Nov. 11, 2019

AHS Chemistry & Physical Science Teacher
Kennedy Breakfast Supervisor
AHS Boys Asst. Tennis Coach
McKinley Lunch Supervisor
Van Driver
AHS Asst. Track Coach
Bus Driver
Substitutes ABC afterschool program
Substitute bus drivers
Substitute food service
Substitute custodians
Substitute teachers

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