

MINUTES SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

December 16, 2009

President Kent Grieder called the Special Meeting of the Southern Lyon County USD #252 Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at the Board of Education Office in Hartford, Kansas.

CALL TO ORDER:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kent Grieder, Craig Clark, Kevin Flott, Kenny Hamman and Jeanette Schmidt

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Veatch and Charles Steffes

SUPERINTENDENT:

Michael Argabright

CLERK:

Brenda Redeker

VISITORS:

Bill Warner, Curtis Simons, Shane Clark, Haley Rhoads, Matt Walker, Phyllis Krueger, Jenny Grieder, Amy Wilson, Mike Wilson, Mel Schwinghamer, Jerry Tempelmeyer, Jon & Laura Breshears, Sandra McAvoy, Steve Burris, Clare Spellman, Brian Creagor, Lesa Wecker, Mike Wecker, Angela Swihart, Becky Bridges, Mike Watkins, Kevin Darbyshire, Emily Darbyshire, Bettina Shank, Joyce Wilson, Carol Ann McCarthy, Rebecca Fawcett, Ken Scheidegger, Stacy Heins, Lynn Redeker, LG Barnard, Justin Redeker, Rollie Martin, Diana Rohde, Keith Pimple, Yvonne Gardner, Michael Dakota, Brandy Nance, Melissa Laws, Karla Mendoza, Lane Ikerd, Deb Ikerd, Debbie J. Redeker, Beth Webb, Jeff Herrick, Tom Coble, Gil Gardner, Eric Holmes, Larry Fowler, Kelly Farr and Randy Ikerd

Jeanette Schmidt (Craig Clark) moved to recess and to reconvene in the Hartford new gym at 7:05 p.m. to accommodate the patrons attending. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Meeting reconvened in the Hartford new gym at 7:05 p.m.

2010-11 BUDGET

President Grieder thanked all the patrons for attending the meeting and listening to the difficult options for the upcoming decisions the Board has to make.

Superintendent Argabright informed the Board and patrons that the administrators and he had struggled with the ideas to present and that to remember to keep the kids in mind and that the kids will get through these decisions easier than the adults.

Superintendent Argabright explained the concerns with cuts to this year's Budget and the difference in the Published General Fund Budget from July 2008 to current General Fund Budget after state cuts of a

reduction of \$736,639 budget authority. The Board cut \$279,000 last spring and reduced our teaching staff by 10%.

This year's state cuts as of November 24th are \$202,836 less than what we published in July 2009. Approximately \$50,000 of reductions from last year has not been filled in for the 2009-10 Budget and the Board is working on balancing the \$252,836 shortfall.

Superintendent Argabright presented the RTTT (Race To The Top) Grant project that is being offered by the US Department of Education. If the state of Kansas qualifies for it, Superintendent Argabright recommended the Board to apply for the Grant. Those districts who have applied and meet the requirements of the Grant may be considered for the funds. Superintendent Argabright mentioned that the Teacher's Union has to sign the agreement as well.

Jeanette Schmidt (Kenny Hamman) moved to apply for the RTTT Grant. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Superintendent Argabright reported on the proposals and grants that the District has applied for: Technology Rich Classroom (TRC), Jones Trust proposal request for technology equipment and the Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) Grants when and if they become available.

Superintendent Argabright also reported on the 2009-10 State Cuts, the State Revenues vs Actual end of the month revenues and how they affect the school funding. Also explained was the end of the year cash balances and why certain funds need large balances to start up the school year.

The Form 150 for the 2010-11 Budget was explained with estimates given as it currently stands. An approximate deficit of \$423,836 remains for the 2010-11 budget year. (\$202,836 cuts from 2009-10 General Fund + \$50,000 reductions from 2008-09 not filled + \$171,000 projected decrease in General Fund and LOB due to state cuts and declining enrollment.)

KASB has compiled a K-12 Enrollment Projection Report for USD #252 using birth rate information and District demographics.

Maps with District residences and bus routes were presented and Superintendent Argabright thanked the administrators and staff for compiling those locations on the Maps.

KSHSAA information was provided in the event the high schools were combined as well as utility costs in each building from the past year.

The list of Board approved reductions from the last meeting were explained and discussed; Superintendent Argabright requested from the Board their input on sustainable items from the list.

Kent Grieder (Jeanette Schmidt) moved to have Item #5 (utilities at Neosho Rapids old Jr. High and Brown Metal Building "Barn"), Item #8 (pay for mowers out of Capital Outlay Fund) and Item #11 eliminate Blue Slips (extra duty pay) up to \$7,000 included as sustainable cuts for the 2010-11 Budget. Motion Passed. (5-0)

With these sustainable cuts identified, Superintendent Argabright reported that this leaves the 2010-11 Budget deficit at \$405,799.

The six restructuring options were presented:

Option #1 – Reduce the number of attendance centers from three to two with two K-12 attendance

centers to maintain the integrity of both High Schools and programs with estimated reductions in teaching staff from current 48.55 to 40.8.

Option #2 – Maintain three attendance centers with 7-12 minimum core classes (required) and programs at each secondary building: reading, math, social studies, science, PE and share elective programs and classes: Family and Consumer Science (FACS), Industrial Technology (Woods/shop), Art, Business, Music, Counseling and elective PE with estimated reductions in teaching staff from current 48.55 to 40.8.

Option #3 – Combine both High Schools into one and determine the location. This option has the highest potential for reducing expenditures as staffing core and elective areas can be reduced from an estimated 48.55 to 38.3 and also estimated savings of \$66,362 in Supplemental Contracts.

Option #4 – Combine two of the listed options above. Example: combine Options #1 and #2.

Option #5 – Reduce the number of attendance centers from three to two with moving to one K-12 attendance center and one K-8 attendance center with an estimated reduction of current teaching staff of 48.55 to 39.8.

Option #6 – Other Considerations: Reduce the number of attendance centers from three to two; move to one K-5/9-12 attendance center and one K-5/6-8 attendance center; all district students in grades 6-8 will attend the same attendance center and all district students in grades 9-12 will attend the same attendance center with estimated reductions in current teaching staff of 48.55 to 40.1.

Superintendent Argabright recommended narrowing down to three options to gather more details to present to the Board and patrons and welcomed questions about the options.

President Grieder read letters from absent Board members Bill Veatch and Charles Steffes. Bill Veatch recommended: Option #1 – no; Options #2 – yes; Option #3: yes, to consider; Option #4: nothing to consider at this point; Option #5: no; and Option #6: yes, if considering all three buildings operating instead of two. Charles Steffes noted that we are in very trying financial times as a Nation, State and School District and that USD #252 needs to prepare for the future. Budget cuts are unpleasant but necessary and that there was no way to keep everyone happy, but to remember that the main goal is the academic success of the children of USD #252. Charles Steffes recommended in numerical order, not necessarily preference order: Option #1 – two K-12 attendance centers with Hartford and Olpe locations because of facilities and space with the positive of keeping the integrity of the east and west side of the district with budget savings of closing an attendance center and the negative of losing the Neosho Rapids attendance center and confined space at Hartford. Option #2 – maintain core classes and share elective classes between schools with the positive of cost savings on the reducing of electives and maintain east and west attendance centers and the negative of stress on elective classes and the expense of three attendance centers. Option #4 – Combination of #1 and #2 with two attendance centers and the positive and negative of Option #2 and Option #5 – another combination scenario like Option #4 which has some of the same positives and negatives. With that said, basic math is going to be needed to determine the direction for the best interest of USD #252.

President Grieder recommended to the patrons to contact their legislators and let them know how their tax cuts and decisions have hurt our education systems resulting in these difficult decisions for Districts across Kansas.

Discussion and concerns among the Board members were shared. There was a clarification made that no option was presented to have one elementary school. President Grieder then opened the meeting to public comments limited to a two minute session. Brian Creagor asked about the option of a four day school

week and if a combination of high schools was made, if the cost of uniforms and busing was considered and the concern of losing a lot of kids. Amy Wilson presented her concerns with sharing teachers that the students would be limited to help from those teachers resulting in poor academic performance. Former board member Rollie Martin shared his concerns for the time the students would be on bus routes and to keep the students in mind and how it will affect them down the road with the decisions made. He also mentioned looking at Option #2 with one, two and three years in mind not five to ten because no one knows what the future will be.

President Grieder encouraged questions and letters to the Board about the proposed Options and that forced change in not easy for adults to accept but it is easier for the kids to accept.

Jeanette Schmidt (Craig Clark) moved to recommend Option #2 as a choice to look at with figures. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Kevin Flott (Jeanette Schmidt) moved to recommend Option #1 as a choice to look at with figures. Motion Failed. (3-2) with Craig Clark and Kenny Hamman opposing. No action item - requires four votes.

Kevin Flott (Jeanette Schmidt) moved to recommend Option #5 as a choice to look at with figures. Motion Passed. (4-1) with Kenny Hamman opposing.

Craig Clark (Kenny Hamman) moved to recommend Option #3 as a choice to look at with figures. Motion Passed. (4-1) with Jeanette Schmidt opposing.

Superintendent Argabright explained to the patrons that Personnel was next on the Agenda and that the Board would be going into executive session and no further discussion would be on the Options presented.

Haley Rhoads, Matt Walker, Phyllis Krueger, Jenny Grieder, Amy Wilson, Mike Wilson, Mel Schwinghamer, Jerry Tempelmeyer, Jon & Laura Breshears, Sandra McAvoy, Steve Burris, Clare Spellman, Brian Creagor, Lesa Wecker, Mike Wecker, Angela Swihart, Becky Bridges, Mike Watkins, Kevin Darbyshire, Emily Darbyshire, Bettina Shank, Joyce Wilson, Carol Ann McCarthy, Rebecca Fawcett, Ken Scheidegger, Stacy Heins, Lynn Redeker, LG Barnard, Justin Redeker, Rollie Martin, Diana Rohde, Keith Pimple, Yvonne Gardner, Michael Dakota, Brandy Nance, Melissa Laws, Karla Mendoza, Lane Ikerd, Deb Ikerd, Debbie J. Redeker, Beth Webb, Jeff Herrick, Tom Coble, Gil Gardner, Eric Holmes, Larry Fowler, Kelly Farr and Randy Ikerd left the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

PERSONNEL

President Grieder (Kevin Flott) moved to recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed for 20 minutes with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (5-0)

President Grieder (Craig Clark) moved to rescind the previous motion and move back to the board meeting room. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Jeanette Schmidt (Kevin Flott) moved to take a 5 minute recess before going into executive session. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Meeting back in open session at 9:37 p.m.

Superintendent Argabright informed the Board that he had visited with the Board Office staff and noted that things wouldn't be the same. Haley Rhoads will be helping with the Hartford lunch from approximately 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and then covering the Hartford office from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. to allow a lunch break for the secretary. Phyllis Krueger will be assisting the cooks at Olpe and will relocate her office to Olpe and that she would need to be in the other two kitchens from time to time with the possibility of a sub being used. With only one staff member in the central office between 11:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. will leave the office with only one line for communication and to be aware of comments of the phone not being answered. An additional letter (on letterhead) following verbal and written notification was sent to the classified staff whose positions were eliminated in order to have a letter for unemployment on file.

President Grieder (Craig Clark) moved to recess into executive session at 9:41 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed for 10 minutes with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Clerk Redeker, Bill Warner, Curtis Simons and Shane Clark left the room.

At 9:51 p.m. President Grieder declared the meeting in open session with Clerk Redeker returning.

President Grieder (Craig Clark) moved to recess into executive session at 9:52 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed for 10 minutes with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 10:02 p.m. President Grieder declared the meeting in open session with Clerk Redeker returning.

President Grieder (Craig Clark) moved to recess into executive session at 10:03 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed for 10 minutes with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 10:13 p.m. President Grieder declared the meeting in open session with Clerk Redeker returning.

President Grieder (Craig Clark) moved to recess into executive session at 10:14 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed for 5 minutes with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 10:19 p.m. President Grieder declared the meeting in open session with Clerk Redeker, Bill Warner, Shane Clark, Curtis Simons and Jenny Grieder returning.

Superintendent Argabright recommended an Early Retirement Incentive for those licensed personnel eligible to retire with KPERS and that it would need to be negotiated.

Jeanette Schmidt (Kevin Flott) moved to approve and submit the Early Retirement Incentive to the Teachers Negotiating Team. Motion Passed. (5-0)

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Argabright reported on our construction projects. It was mentioned to Superintendent Argabright to halt construction projects at Hartford and Olpe until the Board decides what direction to go with the Options presented. Superintendent Argabright agreed that the timing of the projects was not favorable but reminded the Board that the Hartford project was partially funded with donations and that one donation had a completion date of 18 months. He also mentioned that the lumber materials had been purchased with delivery taking place at both construction sites.

Superintendent Argabright reported that a letter was received from the Teacher’s Union willing to reopen Negotiations and to agree on dates to hold a meeting. Jeanette Schmidt and Kevin Flott members of the Board’s Negotiating team recommended Mondays or Wednesdays to hold meetings.

Superintendent Argabright requested to the Board to go into executive session for a personnel item that he forgot to mention in the previous executive session.

President Grieder (Kevin Flott) moved to recess into executive session at 10:36 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed for 5 minutes with the Board, Superintendent and Principal Clark present. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Clerk Redeker, Bill Warner, Curtis Simons and Jenny Grieder left the room.

At 10:41 p.m. President Grieder declared the meeting in open session with Clerk Redeker returning.

President Grieder (Kevin Flott) moved to recess into executive session at 10:42 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed for 5 minutes with the Board, Superintendent and Principal Clark present. Motion Passed. (5-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 10:47 p.m. President Grieder declared the meeting in open session with Clerk Redeker, Bill Warner, Curtis Simons and Jenny Grieder returning.

ADJOURNMENT

Jeanette Schmidt (Kevin Flott) moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Kent Grieder, *President*

Date

Brenda J. Redeker, *Clerk*

Date