

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 13, 2010

President Kent Grieder called the Regular Meeting of the Southern Lyon County USD #252 Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at the Board of Education Office in Hartford, Kansas.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Veatch

SUPERINTENDENT:

Michael Argabright

CLERK:

Brenda Redeker

VISITORS:

Curtis Simons, Bill Warner, Shane Clark, Haley Rhoads, Matt Walker, Penny Watson, Tammy Wilson, Machel Nuessen, Steven Redeker, Kim Redeker, Linda M. Dieker, Mike Wilson, Shirley Hogan, Laura Breshears, John Schierling, Shandi Schierling, Mary Beth Bonitatibus, Russell P. Bonitatibus Jr., Tracy Tucker, Scott Anderson, Shirley Gulick, Linda Davis, Dennis Scoggin, Jerome Blaufuss, Sheila Broyles, Ricky S. Bridges, Dana Cole, Marie Walker, Jenny Grieder, Shelly Rhodes, John O'Connor, Justin Redeker, Monica Countryman, Wayne Redeker, Travis Heins, Brian Zweimiller, Amy Wilson, Tammy Darbyshire, Brianna Zweimiller, James R. Laws, Travis Fritts, Lane Ikerd, Terry King, Nancy King, Bill Rhodes, Trisha Hoelting, Eric Hoelting, Jennifer Hamman, Liesa Wecker, Mike Wecker, Cory Schulz, Brian Creager, De McDougald, Jennifer Anderson, Lisa Cole, Debra L. Ikerd, Kevin Wellnitz, Damon Birk, Gennifer Birk, Rex R. Fisher, Mike Cole, Jeanna Beeman, J. Preston Beeman, Mike McDougald, Diana L. Rohde, Kevin Darbyshire, Mike Henderson, Gwen Wellnitz, Jennifer K. Wellnitz, Ken Scheidegger, Peg Scheidegger, Gil Gardner, Debbie Redeker, Beth Webb, Carolyn Cole, Keith Pimple, L.G. Barnard, Melissa Laws, and Bettina Shank

Jeanette Schmidt (Kevin Flott) moved to approve the Agenda as presented with additions to **Item 3 b.** *Pull bill payable to C Allen Doors* and **Item 3. h.** Addition to Resignations of *Michael Plunkett*.

Motion Passed. (6-0)

President Grieder (Craig Clark) moved to recess at 7:03 p.m. in order to move the meeting to the new gym in the High School. Motion Passed. (6-0)

Meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m. in the Hartford High School new gym.

President Grieder thanked all patrons for coming to the meeting and to please sign in on the attendance sheet, as a record of those attending the meeting is needed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approved Minutes from the December 9, 2009 Regular Meeting and the December 16, 2009 Special Meeting
- b. Approved Bills Due and Payable and Journal Entries
- c. Approved Payrolls for December 18, 2009 and January 1, 2010
- d. Approved Financial Reports and Security Pledges
- e. Accepted Donation from *Kevin and Mary Flott* in the amount of \$1,000.00 to *Southern Lyon County Education Foundation* for Olpe Schools; Donation from *Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line* in the amount of \$250.00 to *Olpe High School Library*; Educational Grant from *Wal-Mart* in the amount of \$1,500.00 to *Olpe Elementary School*; Donation from *Dale & Cindy Baysinger* in the amount of \$3,000.00 to *Southern Lyon County Education Foundation* for Hartford High School Uniforms; and Donation from *Flint Hills Youth Charitable Foundation Trust* in the amount of \$15,500.00 to *Southern Lyon County Education Foundation*; Donation from *American General Finance* of filing cabinets, teacher desks, executive desk, trash baskets, tables, ladder and clock to *Olpe High School*
- f. Approved State Rate for Mileage from 55 cents to 50 cents per mile
- g. Approved E-Rate Discounts for the 2009-10 School Year
- h. Approved Resignations of *Alice Dreier*, Hartford High School/Neosho Rapids Jr. High School and *Michael Plunkett*, Olpe Jr./Sr. High School at the conclusion of the 2009-10 school year

Jeanette Schmidt (Charles Steffes) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion Passed. (6-0)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

None

SITE COUNCIL REPORTS

Principal Curtis Simons presented the Hartford High School/Neosho Rapids Jr. High School Site Council Report. Council members are: Curtis Simons, Dana Cole, Paul Cassity, Melissa Laws, Penny Watson, Yvonne Gardner, Diana Thomsen and Sandy McAvoy. The Council meets five times a year and discusses upcoming school events and school issues/concerns.

Principal Bill Warner presented the Neosho Rapids Elementary Site Council Report. Council members are: Bill Warner, Karen Zoglman, Deb Ikerd, Joellen Dill and Joanne Kuhens. The Council meets five times a year and keeps the members updated on any pertinent or upcoming school issues and serves as an advisory board.

Jeanette Schmidt (Kenny Hamman) moved to approve the Hartford High School/Neosho Rapids Jr. High School Site Council Report as presented. Motion Passed. (6-0)

Jeanette Schmidt (Kevin Flott) moved to approve the Neosho Rapids Elementary School Site Council Report as presented. Motion Passed. (6-0)

BUILDING REPORTS

Principal Shane Clark presented the Olpe Jr./Sr. High School Building Report. Information included a total of 17 students are enrolled this semester in Dual Credit Courses in English Composition I and College

Algebra. Eighth graders Kayleb Allen and Chase Coble placed in the 2009 Kansas School Students essay contest sponsored by Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas. Student Council members have voiced concerns about potential school reorganizations options. Both Jr. High boys and girls have earned the top seed in the SLCJHL Basketball Tournament. Olpe Schools have moved from 4 to 3 bus routes; four band students will participate in the Flint Hills Music Youth for Music Clinic and perform the same evening at the Granada Theater; and teachers will receive training in state assessment testing procedures during the January 18th In-Service.

Principal Curtis Simons presented the Hartford High School/Neosho Rapids Jr. High School Building Report. Information included a total of 14 students are enrolled this semester in Dual Credit Courses in English Composition I and College Algebra. Also reported was that Hartford High School was recognized for one of the top 43 schools in Kansas according to U.S. News World Report.

Principal Bill Warner presented the Olpe Elementary and Neosho Rapids Elementary Building Reports. Information included the completion of the winter DIBELS assessments at both Elementary Schools. DIBELS is a testing used to determine which students in K-3 are selected to work in the MTSS intervention groups. Number of students scoring "At Risk" has decreased in all K-3 classrooms. The MTSS Program may include 4-6 graders for next school year. Both Elementary Schools will be holding their Spelling Bees near the end of January and the top three spellers and an alternate will attend the Lyon County Spelling Bee. A Body Venture Program will be held at Neosho Rapids Elementary School on January 28th. This program is sponsored by the KSDE Child Nutrition and Wellness Department. Students from both Elementary Schools will be able to learn the importance of good nutrition and physical fitness while exploring a large model of the human Body. Volunteers are needed for set up and take down for the Program and to contact Principal Bill Warner if available to help.

Matt Walker left the meeting at 7:26 p.m. and returned at 7:29 p.m.

President Grieder informed the Board and Patrons that absent Board Member Bill Veatch will be participating in the meeting by teleconference and voting will be by Voice during the teleconference which is a change for tonight's meeting.

Board Member Bill Veatch joined the meeting by teleconference at 7:30 p.m.

Lane Ikerd left the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and returned at 7:39 p.m.

Peg Scheidegger left the meeting at 7:44 p.m. and returned at 7:45 p.m.

Lane Ikerd left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Ken Scheidegger returned to the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

2010-11 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Superintendent Argabright recommended approving the Strategic Plan – Class Size Guidelines to facilitate and ensure what Administration prepares is the vision and direction of the Board with regards to Options and future budgets. The plans if approved, could be altered as needed in the future.

Jeanette Schmidt (Charles Steffes) moved to approve the Strategic Plan – Class Size Guidelines to get a base started for planning Options. Motion Passed by Voice Vote. (7-0)

Matt Walker left the meeting at 7:52 p.m. and returned at 8:00 p.m.

Penny Watson left the meeting at 7:59 p.m. and returned at 8:00 p.m.

Damon Birk left the meeting at 8:14 p.m. and returned at 8:20 p.m.

Bill Rhodes left the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and returned at 8:17 p.m.

Superintendent Argabright presented a Powerpoint with updated 2010-11 Budget Planning.

1. Additional patron letters have been received and copies provided to the Board members.

Information that has been requested by Board members was given to all Board members.

2. Information requested from Board members given to all Board members
 - a) St. Joseph students transported by the District was 28 and 15 out of 28 qualify for reimbursement to the District
 - b) Projected enrollment for the 2011-12 school year is Juniors = 44 (16 at HHS, 28 at OHS), Pre-K = 20 (8 at Neosho Rapids, 12 at Olpe), potential drop of 24 students as they stand now and normally may pick up a few more Kindergarten students
 - c) Hartford Elementary Students and Neosho Rapids Elementary Students (Hartford and South = 53, Neosho Rapids and North = 46, Neosho Rapids North and South = 50, Hartford =49, number transported (shuttle route) = 28
 - d) Out of District Students = 104 – Neosho Rapids =10, Hartford =12, Olpe Elementary = 50, Olpe HS =32
3. Athletic Costs – 2008-09 Total Expenses =\$272,152.00 Gate Receipts and Fees
Income = \$34,251.00 for a Grand Cost Total of \$237,901.00
4. Future Administrative structure of USD #252 to consider:
 - a) Area District and their District office and Administrative numbers were shared with the Board
 - b) All four current Administrators are on a two year contract
 - c) Normally these contracts are reviewed in January. It was recommended not to review until a clear direction is given by the Board with regards to Options
 - d) With permission from Principal Bill Warner to release information, it was recommended to look at two K-12 Principals when he retires (current and past test scores clearly indicate the advantage of having both elementary and secondary principals! We do not have any buildings on improvement and this is reflection of the focus and leadership of Building Principals and their respected staff! Research backs up our experience and we need to acknowledge this if the direction heads that way!)
5. Costs associated with combining High Schools:
 - a) Uniform Costs (estimated) =\$80,561.90 and can't be paid out of Capital Outlay. Would have to come out of General Fund, LOB or Contingency Fund
 - b) Other Costs/Considerations: Gym floors and padding, locker colors, hallway colors (hallway tiles can be replaced and not the entire floor), scoreboard colors, league affiliation (most likely a 3A High School) and others
6. Energy Savings Plan Update (November 2008 thru November 2009): Currently a savings of \$2,858.57 (savings in natural gas, no savings in electrical due to the rate hikes, but fewer KWH were used)
7. Additional Costs associated with any options which can be paid out of Capital Outlay:
 - a) Annex building, modifications to rooms/buildings
 - b) Capital Outlay Cash Balance as of 1-13-10 = \$484,074.09
 - c) Capital Outlay Unencumbered Balance as of 1-13-10 = \$623,930.76
- 8) The Administrative Team prepared Options #1, #2, #3, #5 with respects to costs and staffing.

The Administrators felt Option #1 may come back up and wanted to have prepared information for the Board. Options #2, #3 and #5 will be presented as directed.

Some Board members commented that they had received some requests to put numbers to Option #1.

Jeanette Schmidt (President Grieder) moved to bring Option #1 back to the table with numbers. Motion Passed by Voice (5-2) with a Voice Vote of No from Bill Veatch and Craig Clark.

9) Information input shared from the Neosho Rapids Site Council and PTO, HHS Site Council, and the District Facility Study Committee held this past Monday:

a) Olpe Site Council, PTO and those District Facility members unable to attend this past meeting will be invited to attend a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 20, 2010 at Olpe

10) Board Informational Input

An Informational Input Tally sheet was presented to Board members present and Patrons to prioritize the importance of factors to consider with each Option. Not present Board Member Bill Veatch will prioritize at a later date. Board members present prioritized with these results:

#1 – Academic offerings for students’

#2 – Adequate facilities for student programs

#3 – Location of Attendance centers open

#4 – Additional Costs associated with implementing any Options or changes

#5 – Out of District students (maintaining and/or possible growth)

#6 – Number of attendance centers open

tie for #7 – Activity/Athletic offerings for students’ and Number of students displaced because an attendance center is now closed

#9 – Transportation

#10 – Transition period relating to time factors associated with implementing changes.

A request for Board Informational Input to be posted on the Web was made by Charles Steffes.

11) Transition Ideas shared by Superintendent Argabright:

a) Where do we want to be in 1-3 years and developing a transition plan which meets the financial requirements and moves us in the direction the Board desires. It may help financially in spreading out costs. If financial matters change for the better, we have not made such drastic changes too quickly

12) Information Requested from KSDE yesterday: Survey from Kansas Dept. of Education with the question: *How many FTE school district employees (include licensed and non-licensed) would you estimate to be released if the base state aid per pupil was reduced from \$4,012 to \$3,726 for the 2010-11 school year?* Superintendent Argabright answered the request with: *7 staff as we have already eliminated most of our classified support staff. This represents licensed employees!*

13) Presentation of Options.

Option #1 – Move to two K-12 attendance centers to maintain both High Schools and programs while sharing staff. Estimated cost savings = \$476,471.00.

Option #2 – Maintain three attendance centers with the only difference from Option #1 is costs of maintaining three buildings, utilities, custodians, maintenance, grounds, food service, etc. Estimated cost savings = \$360,000.00.

Option #3 – Combining both High Schools into one and determine the location. This Option has the highest potential for reducing expenditures as staffing in core and elective areas can be reduced.

Option #3 a. – Estimated Savings with District Jr./Sr. High School at Hartford, Olpe K-6, and Neosho Rapids K-6 = \$594,475.00.

Option #3 b. – Estimated Savings with District Jr./Sr. at Olpe, Olpe K-6, Hartford K-6 and Neosho Rapids closed = \$618,877.00.

Option #3c. – Estimated Savings with District Jr./Sr. High School at Olpe, Olpe K-6, Neosho Rapids K-6 and Hartford closed = \$639,757.00.

Option #5 – Move to one K-12 attendance center and one K-8 attendance center. K-8 at Hartford and K-8 and District 9-12 at Olpe = \$498,877.00.

Superintendent Argabright requested the Board to continue narrowing the Options as time constraints will start to become factors with teacher contracts, etc.

Jeanette Schmidt moved to narrow down to Option #1 with that motion retracted.

Kevin Flott spoke to the Board and Patrons on keeping the kids' education in mind at all times. President Grieder spoke on taking small steps and to take a week to think about all information presented and to possibly set some special meetings to look at the Options again with those being held at Olpe and Neosho Rapids.

Superintendent Argabright recommended the next special meeting to be held at Olpe and if another special meeting is called, hold it at Neosho Rapids.

President Grieder (Kevin Flott) moved to table and think about the Options presented and to hold a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Olpe High School new gym with the Agenda Items of 2010-2011 Budget, Personnel, Negotiations and Superintendent's Report. Motion Passed by Voice Vote. (7-0)

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

President Grieder spoke to the Patrons in reminding them to state their name and address as they present their comments from the public. Each will be allowed a two minute session. Comments were heard from Peggy Scheidegger – Olpe, Amy Wilson – Hartford, Russ Bonitatibus – Olpe, Keith Pimple – Olpe, Carolyn Cole – Emporia address – in-district resident. President Grieder thanked all patrons for their comments and concerns and encouraged all to write or email their legislative representatives and to act now and let your feelings known on the effects of their decisions on the school district.

Board Member Kevin Flott encouraged all patrons to ask questions and share their concerns with Board members.

Superintendent Argabright answered some questions from the comments from the public and informed the Board and Patrons that a 4-day school week will be discussed; just waiting on direction first. This issue deals with teacher contracts and there is a process to go through. At an appropriate time, this will be discussed. Students can go to another school and be eligible for sports if their attendance center is closed.

FACILITIES

Energy Savings Plan had been previously presented. Water meter at Neosho Rapids for the old Jr. High Building has been shut off but currently paying minimum water and sewer charges at this time. The pulling of the meter was tabled for discussion at a later date. Updates for the Hartford Concession/Locker Room Project and Olpe Storage Building Project were reported on the expense sheets. No further updates were given. Superintendent Argabright expressed thanks and appreciation to all patrons and employees for their help with snow removal at the attendance centers. A request to purchase the old Central Office was received from Kimberly and Tony York.

Kevin Flott (President Grieder) moved to table the request to purchase the old Central Office building until a direction in Options is made. Motion Passed by Voice Vote. (7-0)

Brianna Zweimiller left the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Superintendent Argabright will survey the surrounding school districts and report on the temperature settings of buildings to the Board.

Superintendent Argabright informed the patrons that there would be no more discussion on Options tonight and the Board will be moving back to the Board Office for Executive Sessions in Personnel and Negotiations.

President Grieder (Kevin Flott) moved to recess at 9:28 p.m. for 10 minutes to move back to the Board Room. Motion Passed by Voice Vote. (7-0)

Curtis Simons, Bill Warner, Shane Clark, Haley Rhoads, Matt Walker, Penny Watson, Tammy Wilson, Mabelle Nuessen, Steven Redeker, Kim Redeker, Linda M. Dieker, Mike Wilson, Shirley Hogan, Laura Breshears, John Schierling, Shandi Schierling, Mary Beth Bonitatibus, Russell P. Bonitatibus Jr., Tracy Tucker, Scott Anderson, Shirley Gulick, Linda Davis, Dennis Scoggin, Jerome Blaufuss, Sheila Broyles, Ricky S. Bridges, Dana Cole, Marie Walker, Jenny Grieder, Shelly Rhodes, John O'Connor, Justin Redeker, Monica Countryman, Wayne Redeker, Travis Heins, Brian Zweimiller, Amy Wilson, Tammy Darbyshire, James R. Laws, Travis Fritts, Terry King, Nancy King, Bill Rhodes, Trisha Hoelting, Eric Hoelting, Jennifer Hamman, Liesa Wecker, Mike Wecker, Cory Schulz, Brian Creager, De McDougald, Jennifer Anderson, Lisa Cole, Debra L. Ikerd, Kevin Wellnitz, Gennifer Birk, Rex R. Fisher, Mike Cole, Jeanna Beeman, J. Preston Beeman, Mike McDougald, Diana L. Rohde, Kevin Darbyshire, Mike Henderson, Gwen Wellnitz, Jennifer K. Wellnitz, Ken Scheidegger, Peg Scheidegger, Gil Gardner, Debbie Redeker, Beth Webb, Carolyn Cole, Keith Pimple, L.G. Barnard, Melissa Laws, and Bettina Shank left the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Bill Veatch disconnected from the meeting by teleconference at 9:31 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:43 p.m. in the Board of Education Room.

PERSONNEL

President Grieder (Craig Clark) moved to recess into executive session at 9:44 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. Motion Passed. (6-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 9:54 p.m. President Grieder declared the meeting in open session with Clerk Redeker and Matt Walker returning.

NEGOTIATIONS

President Grieder (Jeanette Schmidt) moved to recess into executive session at 9:55 p.m. for 5 minutes to discuss 2009-10 negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (6-0)

Clerk Redeker and Matt Walker left the room.

At 10:00 p.m. President Grieder declared the meeting in open session with Clerk Redeker returning. President Grieder (Jeanette Schmidt) moved to recess into executive session at 10:01 p.m. for 5 minutes to discuss 2009-10 negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract

with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (6-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 10:06 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 10:07 p.m. for 15 minutes to discuss 2010-11 negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (6-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 10:22 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 10:23 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss 2010-11 negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (6-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 10:33 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 10:34 p.m. for 5 minutes to discuss 2010-11 negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (6-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 10:39 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 10:40 p.m. for 5 minutes to discuss 2010-11 negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract with the Board and Superintendent present. Motion Passed. (6-0)

Clerk Redeker left the room.

At 10:45 p.m. President Grieder declared the meeting in open session with Clerk Redeker, Matt Walker and Haley Rhoads returning.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Argabright congratulated Hartford High School students and staff for the US News and World Report Bronze Award for one of the 43 best High Schools in Kansas.

Special thanks was given to all those who have donated and contributed to our District! Their generosity is sincerely appreciated.

The State Audit Report will be presented at the next regular meeting.

Funds are coming in for the Southern Lyon County Education Foundation Fund Raiser Project for Stage Curtains at Hartford and Olpe. Approximately \$3,300 has been donated to date.

Thanks and recognition to Alice Dreier and Mike Plunkett for their years of dedicated service to the District.

Matt Walker and Haley Rhoads will help any Board members or anyone else having difficulties with their email accounts.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The debt increase is very depressing. No matter what we seem to do, will not please everyone. Hopefully the right decisions will be made and for all to pull together so we don't lose everything. It is astronomical what our state government is doing to our kids; the next generation's education. Everyone understands that changes are coming; we still have great schools and must keep moving forward. Congratulations to Hartford High School on their award from US News for one of the best High Schools in Kansas. It's great to hear good news such as this. Good luck to the teams in the LCL Basketball Tournament. Appreciation was given to the Superintendent and Administrators for all their time into gathering valuable information for the Board to evaluate. Patron involvement and sharing their ideas and concerns is appreciated. In these tough times, it is very important to stay together on things and look out for the long term good of the District in the decisions to be made.

ADJOURNMENT

Kevin Flott (Kenny Hamman) moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed. (6-0)

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 p.m.

Kent Grieder, President

Date

Brenda J. Redeker, Clerk

Date