

USD 377 BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SESSION 7:30 PM
JANUARY 8, 2007
CENTRAL OFFICE, EFFINGHAM

The Board of Education of Unified School District #377 met at 7:30 pm on January 8, 2007, at the Central Office, Effingham. Board members present: Steve Caplinger, Cindy Ladd, Leonard Lange, Jeff Martin, Mark Westermann. (Todd Gigstad, Michael Postma absent.)

Administrators present: Steve Wiseman, Mark Preut, Tom Sack, Terry Slattery & Tom Hinrichs.

Visitors: Jeff Schmucker & Emily Randall Globe; Pat Forge, Cy Wallisch.

Caplinger called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Agenda

Revisions were made to the Consent Agenda to add an Out-of-District student application and additional items under gifts and grants.

Westermann moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Martin.

Motion passed 5-0.

(The consent agenda included approval of the minutes of the December regular meeting, the treasurer's report dated 12-31-06, school activity fund statements, Bills & Claims in the amount of \$411,597.75, the Personnel report, Acceptance of Gifts, and approval of one Out-of-District Student application.)

(Gifts were accepted as follows: Bunge Milling \$100 and Project Concern \$66.75 for Soundmasters; Susan Erickson & Linda Boos books to the ACCHS Library; Linda Boos, Tom Sack, Susan Erickson, YALB & Children's Library Resources to the ACCMS Library & AR; Target Take Charge of Education \$46.44 towards student recognition for academic achievement; Wal-Mart \$1,000 for classroom teaching materials for Pat Forge, Teacher of the Year.)

(A resignation was accepted from Tonya Smith from her two hour cook position at Effingham Elementary. The Personnel report included approval to offer contracts to Patricia George for a full-time position as head cook at Lancaster and to Jan Oswald for a two hour assistant cook position at Effingham Elementary.)

Hearing of Audience

None

Commendations/Letters of Appreciation

Mark Preut recognized Pat Forge for being named as Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Forge was nominated for the award by her students.

Tom Hinrichs presented a letter of appreciation to Cy Wallisch for his outstanding leadership as Social Studies Department Chair during the textbook adoption process.

Special Ed Report:

Steve Caplinger reviewed information received from Todd Gigstad from the last board meeting. He related NEKESC is in the process of reorganizing which includes the conversion of some hourly to salaried positions.

Reports:

The Clerk reviewed the Health Insurance renewal with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas for the contract year beginning April 1, 2007. To renew the current policy would be a 29% increase in premium. The district was presented two options to consider which would decrease the premium.

Leadership Reports

The board packet contained a written report from Terry Slattery. In addition to the items listed, Slattery reviewed a survey Allison Ostertag uses for all kindergarten and 1st grade students. Slattery reported they have seen considerable growth in reading levels over first semester.

Tom Sack corrected the start of boys basketball season from what was reported in his written report. He announced a 7th grader was selected as a national finalist for the book she wrote that was sent in to be published..

Preut announced that 6th place was received at the Big 7 Scholars Bowl held today. He informed the board upcoming items for the February meeting would include the request to add a full time At-Risk VPL position at the high school next year. The high school staff is looking into upgrading cafeteria tables. Saturday school detention was explained with attendance of six to eight students anticipated. Two Saturdays a month will be scheduled.

Wiseman said he met with Dan Riggs from Lenexa regarding the track. This company has a different approach to repairing the track. Riggs suggested cutting out eight major crack areas and filling with an Armour seal then overlay with 3/8 inch of Latex on top of what is already there. This procedure would have a two year guarantee. Riggs also looked at the tennis court. This is different from McConnel's recommendation to tear off the 3/8 inch which is on the track now. Wiseman informed the board he would be bidding out the track project.

Wiseman discussed the purchase of a bus routing software program. The price quoted for the program he went through today was \$13,795. Wiseman said he was to meet with the County Appraiser next Wednesday to see if they have an option for scheduling bus routes.

Wiseman discussed the possibility of increasing nursing services for next year.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Executive Session – Personnel

Motion by Caplinger at 8:10 to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed and that the board return to open session in this room at 8:25 pm. Motion seconded by Martin. Motion passed 5-0. (Wiseman, Preut present).

The board resumed in open session at 8:25 pm.

Motion by Caplinger at 8:25 to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed and that the board return to open session in this room at 8:40 pm. Motion seconded by Westermann. Motion passed 5-0. (Wiseman present, Preut 8:25-8:38).

The board resumed in open session at 8:40 pm.

b) Facilities Study Discussion

Drawings from Terry Slattery were presented for elementary schools refurbishment. Wiseman informed the board he was in the process of doing preliminary cost analysis.

c) Athletic/Activities Handbook Draft

Preut reviewed a draft of a proposed Athletic/Activities Handbook calling the board's attention to page 17, an abuse policy agreement. It was pointed out the language is inconsistent with that in board policy. Preut said he could pull the language from board policy for the handbook agreement. The handbook will be presented at the February meeting for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

a) State of the District Report

Wiseman said he is in the process of finishing the State of the District Report and will be presenting it at Lancaster and Cummings and to the USD 377 community.

b) Review 2007-08 School Calendar Draft

Wiseman included a copy of Calendar B in the board packet. Two calendars were presented to staff with different spring break times. Wiseman stated 95% of staff wanted to go with calendar B with a full week off in March.

Motion by Martin to adopt Calendar B as presented by Mr. Wiseman. Motion seconded by Westermann. Motion passed 5-0.

c) Approval of Resolution for Destruction of Records

Motion by Westermann to approve the resolution for destruction of records. Motion seconded by Ladd. Motion passed 5-0. (Central Office Records: 1987-98 Cummings Elementary receipt books, 1991-99 cancelled checks & bank statements, 1992-96 Petty cash checks & vouchers, 1993-96 bookkeeping books of entry.)

d) Executive Session – Negotiations

Motion by Caplinger at 9:18 pm to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract and that the board return to open session in this room at 9:28 pm. Motion seconded by Westermann. Motion passed 5-0. (Wiseman present, Hinrichs 9:18-9:20)

The board resumed in open session at 9:28 pm.

e) Executive Session – Superintendent Evaluation

Executive session not needed.

f) Select Place for February Meeting

Motion by Caplinger to hold the February meeting at the Central Office. Motion seconded by Lange. Motion passed 5-0.

At 9:30 pm Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Westermann. Motion passed 5-0.

Ruth Dillon, Board Clerk