

# **OSKALOOSA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

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The Board of Directors of the Oskaloosa Community School District met in regular session at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, in the Administration Board Room, 1800 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Present were Board members Tom Richardson, Shelly Herr, Erik Edgren, Nicholas Hansen, Sharma Parlett (via telephone), and Kraig Van Hulzen. Member Carl Drost was absent.

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Also present were Superintendent Mr. Russell Reiter, Dr. Mary Cooksley, Bill Almond, Stacy Bandy, Michael Comfort, Kim Gile, Kristen Bandy, Mike Goudy, Ken Allsup, Ginger Allsup, Tim Veiseth, Mike Dursky, Beverly Jenkinson, Joyce Eveland, Liz Roe, Kahlie Green, Steve Overbergen, Marcia Hadden, Emily Kelly, Lisa Brown, Ginny Foster, Amy Simmons, Laura Ross, Carrie Van Mersbergen, Anna Gritters, Amanda Reynolds, Kista Grosshans, Dennis Parks, Bret Foster, Tamara Knudtson, Jeanne Clark, Eduardo Zamarripa, Hailey Brown, Stephanie Cannon, Dana Sereg, Amanda Doud, Kris Butler, BettyAnn Latchaw, Grant Hladik, and Chad Vink.

### **AGENDA**

President Richardson called the meeting to order. Van Hulzen moved to approve the Agenda. Herr seconded and all voted in favor.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Goudy announced the presence of the High School Vertical Team and several High School faculty members due to interest in the scheduling deliberations.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

Herr reported on the recent meeting of the County Assessor's Office Conference Board, noting that they received updates and set a budget.

Richardson stated that, while the Board could establish ad-hoc committees as needed in the future, he wished to appoint the following Board members to areas fitting their expertise: Parlett and Herr – student achievement, Van Hulzen – construction trades projects, and Drost and Richardson – Recreation & Childcare Center.

### **BUILDING REPORTS**

Board members inquired about the results of behavioral interventions at the Middle School, and Richardson recognized the High School Honor Band members as well as the grant received by the Math Department.

### **CURRICULUM DIRECTOR REPORT**

Dr. Cooksley added to her report that the cycle for curriculum replacement dictates that they will be piloting and analyzing the math curriculum over the next year. Parlett inquired about increased use of the Instructional Coaches, and Dr. Cooksley noted that usage was higher than predicted at this point, but that they have attended other schools to observe how to use them even more.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Mr. Reiter took the floor to inform the Board on events and activities in the District. He began by alerting the Board that he would be providing the 800 policy series to Board members soon for their review and approval. He also commented that there might be an opportunity for students to contact an astronaut in a space lab, that he intends on providing budget information at the second monthly meeting, and that there is a Board Appreciation Dinner scheduled for Wednesday, March 9. He concluded by introducing the new Operations Director, Bill Almond. The Board thanked Mr. Reiter for his report.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES, ABSTRACT, AND FINANCIALS**

Herr moved to approve the Minutes, Abstract, and Financial Statements presented. Edgren seconded and all voted in favor.

### **PRESENTATION BY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY**

Members of the third grade faculty were in attendance to update the Board on the progress of their PLC. They noted their SMART goal as well as the use of Balance Literacy, including read-alouds, shared reading, interactive reading, guided reading, independent reading, model writing, shared writing, interactive writing, guided writing, and independent writing. The Board members followed with questions regarding independent reading, journaling, and conferencing. The Board thanked them for the information.

### **PRESENTATION ON REVISED HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING STRUCTURE**

Mr. Reiter took the floor to present the options available concerning a seven- or eight-period instructional day at the High School. He commented on expended offerings with limited staff, staff sharing with the Middle School, staff sharing with other districts, flexibility in student scheduling, increased workloads, traditions, and the status of surrounding districts.

Board members discussed and deliberated regarding early bird classes, transportation, MTSS, lunch periods, financial savings, teacher workloads, concurrent enrollment courses, resistance, communication, block scheduling, and boosters. The Board thanked Mr. Reiter for his presentation.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRIP FOR STUDENTS**

Mr. Reiter requested that the Board approve the out-of-state trip to Chicago involving the Educational Talent Search program.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the out-of-state trip for Educational Talent Search students to Chicago, Illinois, occurring in March 2016. Herr seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HIGH SCHOOL COURSE – ADVANCED GEOMETRY**

Joyce Eveland, High School Math Teacher, came forward and provided the details of a proposed additional course, Advanced Geometry. She noted that much of the content was the same as Geometry, but at an accelerated pace and more in-depth to help students with their further studies. Richardson inquired about concurrent enrollment credit, and Eveland noted that community colleges don't offer such a course, so that would not be an opportunity.

Van Hulzen moved to approve an additional High School course offering – Advanced Geometry as presented. Hansen seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER APPLICATION FOR ALLOWABLE GROWTH – DROPOUT PREVENTION**

Vink provided information regarding the budget for the dropout prevention and at-risk programs and the associated request for a Modified Supplemental Amount, citing that it cannot exceed 5% of the total budget and is matched by other local funds.

Herr moved to approve the At-Risk/Dropout Prevention budget in the amount of \$556,595 and request the School Budget Review Committee for Modified Supplemental Amount for Dropout Prevention in the amount of \$353,228. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RFP FOR SCHOOL BUS CAMERA PROJECT**

Mr. Reiter introduced the need for the Board to consider updating and expanding the camera system on District school buses. He provided a draft RFP for their consideration. The Board asked about screen resolution, time constraints, confidentiality, installation, and future expansion.

Edgren moved to approve the Request for Proposals for the School Bus Camera Project as presented. Herr seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Richardson opened the floor for anyone wishing to speak regarding the proposed 2016-2017 School Calendar. Hearing no one after three announcements, Richardson closed the hearing.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Mr. Reiter introduced the need for the Board to approve a calendar for 2016-2017. He recommended a trimester calendar that continued using Wednesday early-outs. Discussion ensued regarding an 8-period day, proper timing for collaboration, longer terms, and four-day school weeks.

Herr moved to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar as presented. Edgren seconded and all voted in favor, except Van Hulzen who voted against.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISED HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING STRUCTURE**

Mr. Reiter recommended changes to district schedules for financial and flexibility reasons, beginning with a change to an 8-period High School instructional day in 2016-2017. Board members commented on opportunities, researching other districts' schedules, Middle School transition, MTSS continuation, breaking tradition with too many changes, retaining staff, staff workloads, and budget concerns.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the revised High School scheduling structure, including an 8-period day, as presented. Hansen seconded, and all voted in favor except Herr and Parlett, who voted against.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Mr. Reiter introduced the need to approve an agreement with a company that provides SINA tutoring services as outlined and required as part of our Title I program.

Herr moved to approve the Contractual Services Agreement with Sylvan Learning Centers of Iowa as presented. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

#### **CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF 2015 AUDIT REPORT**

Vink provided information to the Board on the 2015 Audit Report. He highlighted several areas of the audit, noting the unmodified opinions throughout. Van Hulzen inquired about the large unfunded retirement liability, and Vink noted that it was an actuarial assessment of potential Other Post-Employment Benefits and fully funding such liabilities would take time.

Herr moved to accept the Independent Auditor's Report for the year ended June 30, 2015, as presented. Edgren seconded and all voted in favor.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HOT LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PRICES**

Mr. Reiter conveyed the recommended changes to food service prices based on the tool provided by the State.

Edgren moved to approve Hot Lunch and Breakfast prices as presented starting with the 2016-2017 school year. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SUPPORT STAFF RETIREMENT PACKAGE**

Mr. Reiter recommended that a modest retirement package be offered to support staff that matches what was offered four years ago and would assist in budget savings.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the Retirement Incentives Plan for 2015-2016 for certain support staff employees as presented. Edgren seconded and all voted in favor.

#### **CONSIDER ADOPTION OF BUDGET GUARANTEE RESOLUTION**

Mr. Reiter recommended that the Board adopt a resolution that would allow them to adjust their budget for the subsequent year to allow for 1% growth if aid from the State was insufficient.

Herr moved to adopt the Resolution to Levy for Regular Program Budget Adjustment as presented. Hansen seconded the motion. Those that voted in favor when the roll was called were Edgren, Hansen, Herr, Parlett, Richardson, and Van Hulzen.

#### **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Reiter provided the Board with one resignation.

Van Hulzen moved to accept the resignation of Mike Sterner as Varsity Football Head Coach effective immediately. Edgren seconded and all voted in favor.

### **REVIEW SUBSEQUENT MEETING DATE**

It was agreed to next meet on Monday, February 22, 2016, at 7PM to discuss Recreation/Childcare Center funding and the Certified Budget for 2016-2017.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 9:42PM.

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Chad M. Vink, Board Secretary

I Have finally got my thoughts together on the High School semester/ 8 period day plan. Please get this to all Board members, and please look over my "English" mistakes as this is done on my I pad.

1. The IASB assessment of Oskaloosa Schools (Tony VanderZyl) said we change things too often and we should stay the course.
2. I have been very critical of Oskaloosa's declining test scores. In 2008, when Oskaloosa and Pella were even, Oskaloosa was on a trimester/ 7period day so any change could not improve where we used to be.
3. Our Board Policy which we just reviewed states that we make decisions based on research.(I assume takes some time)
4. Just before Christmas,the Administration shortened classes 5 minutes and added a 30 minute studytime or go home with no research and not evenBoard approval (no motion or vote)
5. Last year, Mr. Reiter and I had discussed setting up a timeline to look at changing the high school to a semester/8 period school with staff meetings, student meetings, and public meetings. Because of the School Board elections and the change of the board leadership, this was not done but I sincerely think that is the proper way to look at this issue.
6. In the last 2 plus years, our staff morale has increased tremendously from the programs and encouragement from the Board of Education. HAPPY STAFF always brings great results in any organization and I personally believe that is where our improvements in students learning are coming from.
7. At the January Board meeting, the High School staff and HS Administration gave a report about changes to semester/8period day which was very negative to any change of the present program. If the Board forces the issue (which it can) morale will go down (sink) and the students lose.
8. The only reason the Board should consider a change in any educational a program is because it will improve student learning and achievement.
9. I am still not convinced that any cost savings will out-weigh the loss of morale and the quality of our efforts and the integrity that OUR Board has shown 10.I still firmly believe there are more elective options under the trimester system.

11. I believe the Superintendent is taking the opportunity of a new Board, and the need to save as much money as possible for the budget, and with NO research proof, go for the change. It is our children's futures at stake.

12. I believe it is time for a Board committee to work with the Supt. and the Administration to take time to study this issue and come back to the Board in October with a recommendation to be implemented (or left the same or other recommendations) so all The involved staff have adequate time to implement.

13. Why hurry this through when the last time this was changed was 30 years ago or so, and it was done then to improve The education of our students, and that should be the ONLY reason we change now.

Thanks for your reading and consideration. Carl G. Drost