

OSKALOOSA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 8, 2015

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The Board of Directors of the Oskaloosa Community School District met in regular session at 7:00 PM on Monday, June 8, 2015, in the Administration Board Room, 1800 North 3rd Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present were Board members Carl Drost, Tom Richardson, Shawn Moyer, Neal Hadden, Nik Rule, and Kraig Van Hulzen. Member Shelly Herr was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT

Also present were Superintendent Mr. Russell Reiter, Dr. Mary Cooksley, Dale Nelson, Mike Goudy, Jan Palmer, Mark Scholes, Stacy Bandy, Jolene Liebl, Andy Hotek, Tim Scott, Mike Dursky, Amy Langdon, Duane Nollen, Tim Veiseth, R.D. Keep, Charlie Comfort, and Chad Vink.

AGENDA

President Drost called the meeting to order. Rule moved to approve the revised Agenda, deleting items 20, 21, & 22. Moyer seconded and all voted in favor. Drost noted that the Board would be meeting on June 22 and would handle the deleted items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD REPORTS

Hadden took the floor to compliment Mr. Dursky and Miss Deffenbaugh on their work with the Elementary courtyard project. He also noted the help of Central Reformed Church in cleaning up the entry areas at the Elementary School.

Drost presented his “take-aways” from building staff meetings, and Mr. Reiter expanded by noting his perspective of the meetings. Discussion ensued about the distribution of Board Report items.

BUILDING REPORTS

In addition to written reports, Hadden noted the strong attendance rate, the slight free/reduced percentage decline, and the lower end-of-year student count at the buildings during the recently-concluded school year.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR REPORT

None, other than the written report.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Reiter took the floor to inform the Board on events and activities in the District. He started by updating the Board on the actions of the Iowa Legislature. He continued by noting that he would be bringing a therapy dog proposal next month, that the District would likely be moving to two nurses out at the Elementary School, that he hopes to move forward with tennis court paving, that the GPAEA will be presenting to the Board next month, and that he is finalizing details to maximize sharing with the Twin Cedars School District. The Board thanked Mr. Reiter for his report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hadden moved to approve the Minutes from May 2015 as presented. Moyer seconded and all voted in favor.

ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIALS

Van Hulzen moved to approve the Financials from May 2015 as presented. Moyer seconded and all voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACTS

After two vendor questions, Hadden moved to approve the Abstract of Claims for June 2015 as presented, including an additional invoice to Albia Community School District in the amount of \$240.00. Rule seconded and all voted in favor.

PRESENTATION ON BACKPACK WEEKEND FOOD INITIATIVE

Jan Palmer came forward to present on a potential program to provide weekend food in student's backpacks each week during the school year. She answered questions about qualifications, funding, faculty perspective, and privacy. Mr. Reiter noted that the Board might approve the program at a later meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Palmer for her presentation.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISED OMS SCHEDULING STRUCTURE

Mr. Hotek, Middle School Principal, took the floor to present information on changing to an 8-period day with 6th Grade dyads, including the background, changes, potential benefits, and challenges. Several questions were answered regarding High School coordination, excess changes, staff approval, and the integration for 7th and 8th Grades.

Richardson moved to approve the revised Middle School Scheduling Structure as presented. Rule seconded and all voted in favor.

CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN

Drost opened the floor for anyone wishing to speak regarding the District-developed Special Education Plan. Hearing no one after three announcements, Drost closed the hearing.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2015-2016 ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

Dr. Cooksley was in attendance to provide the data and analysis driving the proposed Annual Improvement Goals for next year as developed by the District Advisory Council.

Van Hulzen expressed concern about those students just now exiting 6th Grade, and Dr. Cooksley responded about the ability for 7th Grade teachers to use additional time for interventions and focus more on those struggling students.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the District's Annual Progress Report Improvement Goals for 2015-2016 as presented. Richardson seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TRAITS WRITING CURRICULUM

Mr. Reiter took the floor and recommended approving a reduced package of the Traits Writing Curriculum for Grades 6-8 and the Professional Development for Grades 6-12.

Rule moved to approve the Grades 6-8 and Grades 6-12 Professional Development parts of the Traits Writing curriculum program as presented with a cost not to exceed \$13,000. Richardson seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER ANNUAL APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 501.111

Mr. Reiter introduced the need re-evaluate and re-approve the open campus policy annually. Discussion ensued regarding the minimum grade allowed to qualify for the privilege as well as which scores should be used to evaluate awarding the privilege.

Hadden moved to approve Board Policy 501.111 – Senior High School Open Campus as presented for the 2015-2016 school year. Rule seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2015-2016 PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Mr. Reiter introduced the need to approve the revised Parent/Student Handbooks. Van Hulzen inquired about the change to the Middle School in-school suspension language, and Mr. Hotek noted his desire to use activities as a motivator for some of the suspended students.

Rule moved to approve the Middle School and High School Parent/Student Handbooks for the 2015-2016 school year as presented. Moyer seconded and all voted in favor.

CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON SALE OF STUDENT-CONSTRUCTED HOUSE

Drost opened the floor for anyone wishing to speak regarding the sale of student-constructed property. Hearing no one after three announcements, Drost closed the hearing.

CONSIDER REVISED TERMS OF SALE OF STUDENT-CONSTRUCTED PROPERTY

Mr. Reiter noted that he requested Dave Bower, Kraig Van Hulzen, and Lisa Tucker to evaluate the terms of sale for the Construction Trades house being built at 503 South M Street. Van Hulzen noted that several tasks are yet to be completed, and he recommended waiting to set a listing price. The Board agreed by consensus.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF JUNE INVOICES

Vink introduced the need for the Board to authorize the payment of June invoices for disbursement in the current fiscal year.

Hadden moved to authorize the payment of June invoices necessary to close the fiscal year. Moyer seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SALARIES FOR ADMINISTRATORS & DIRECTORS

Mr. Reiter introduced the recommended compensation package for Administrators and Directors, noting 2% raises for Administrators and 2.35% raises for Directors. Discussion ensued about obtaining additional comparability data for Administrator salaries.

Richardson moved to approve the compensation increases for Administrators and Directors as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Rule seconded the motion. Those that voted in favor were Van Hulzen, Rule, and Richardson. Those opposed were Moyer, Hadden, and Drost.

Hadden moved to approve the compensation increases for Directors as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Rule seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WAGES FOR OTHER SUPPORT EMPLOYEES

Mr. Reiter presented wage recommendations for support staff that are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement. He noted it was consistent with increases for the bargaining groups.

Rule moved to approve the wage increases for Other Support Employees as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Hadden seconded and all voted in favor.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Reiter presented the Board with a resignation and five appointments.

Hadden moved to accept the resignation of Kendra Roquet effective at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Van Hulzen seconded and all voted in favor.

Hadden moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the appointment of Joseph Kane as High School Special Education Teacher starting with the 2015-2016 school year at the MA Step 2 salary level or \$39,516. Moyer seconded and all voted in favor.

Rule moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the appointment of Matthew Johnson as High School Special Education Teacher starting with the 2015-2016 school year at the BA Step 5 salary level or \$39,347. Hadden seconded and all voted in favor.

Van Hulzen moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the appointment of Janna Lundein as High School Talented & Gifted Program Teacher starting with the 2015-2016 school year at the MA Step 5 salary level or \$44,114. Moyer seconded and all voted in favor.

Moyer moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the appointment of Brett Hoffman as Middle School Math and Language Arts Teacher starting with the 2015-2016 school year at the BA Step 3 salary level or \$36,931. Hadden seconded and all voted in favor.

Van Hulzen moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the appointment of Emily Nieuwsma as Middle School Math and Science Teacher starting with the 2015-2016 school year at the BA Step 6 salary level or \$40,555. Moyer seconded and all voted in favor.

CLOSED SESSION

Rule encouraged all Board members, staff, and the public to work as a team for the benefit of all groups of people in Oskaloosa. Van Hulzen moved that that the Board of Directors of the Oskaloosa Community School District hold a closed session to evaluate an individual whose performance is being considered as provided in Section 21.5 of the Iowa Code and pursuant to the individual's request. Moyer seconded the motion. Those that voted in favor when the roll was called were Drost, Hadden, Moyer, Richardson, Rule, and Van Hulzen.

The Board entered closed session at 9:21PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board exited closed session at 11:29PM.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH SUPERINTENDENT

No action was taken regarding the Superintendent contract.

ADJOURNMENT

Drost adjourned the meeting at 11:30PM.

Chad M. Vink, Board Secretary