

# **OSKALOOSA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

**MARCH 7, 2016**

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The Board of Directors of the Oskaloosa Community School District met in regular session at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 7, 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, Sharma Parlett (via telephone), Kraig Van Hulzen, and Carl Drost. Member Nicholas Hansen was absent.

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Also present were Superintendent Mr. Russell Reiter, Dr. Mary Cooksley, Bill Almond, Stacy Bandy, Jolene Liebl, Ginger Allsup, Tim Veiseth, Mike Dursky, Eduardo Zamarripa, and RD Keep.

### **AGENDA**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

Board members expressed their pleasure at the success of all Jazz Bands and congratulated the High School Jazz band on their District placement at competition.

Van Hulzen reported that he attended the weekend production of High School Non-Musical and thought the students performed well.

Mr. Reiter stated that the Orchestra performed at the State Capitol Building and did an outstanding job.

Edgren said that he enjoyed his time visiting each of the buildings and encouraged other board members to do the same.

Drost read his comments that were submitted to fellow board members in writing prior to the regular meeting held on February 9 when action was taken regarding the 8-period day at the High School.

### **BUILDING REPORTS**

Parlett commented on the success of MTSS at the High School and noted the decrease in number of "F's". Mr. Bandy reported that the students like the 1:1 for missed work or better understanding noting that the excitement is shared by students and staff, alike.

### **CURRICULUM DIRECTOR REPORT**

Board members requested a copy of the results from the School Improvement Survey and data from the January assessments reported in the Building Reports.

Edgren inquired about the elimination of extra credit mentioned in the DLT report. Dr. Cooksley explained that often times extra credit has not been academically related. Rather than provide extra credit unrelated to the class, teachers are asked to re-teach and re-assess in order to show evidence of learning.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Mr. Reiter took the floor to inform the Board on events and activities in the District. He began by informing the Board that a video presentation titled "Most Likely to Succeed" would be held on Thursday, March 10 at 3:30 pm in the Auditorium. He stated that his communications with the Iowa astronaut are continuing and he will update board members when he has more information. Mr. Reiter mentioned that there would be an exempt session following the meeting. He reported that the house being built by the Building Trades students is coming along and stated that he and Van Hulzen are reviewing the process for the sale of the houses built by the Building Trades class. The Board thanked Mr. Reiter for his report.

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

Drost requested that his comments be added to the meeting minutes from February 9, 2016.

Drost commented on Open Enrollment billings and Edgren expressed a desire to see more invoice itemization.

Edgren moved to approve the Financial Statements, revised Minutes with the addition of Drost's comments and an additional correction, Abstract of Claims, including additional invoice for \$730.50 to Tesa Davis. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2016-17 BUDGET AND HEARING FOR PUBLISHING**

Mr. Reiter discussed the levy of 15.4989 Income Surtax and provided 6 examples of SSA scenarios ranging from 0 to 4 percent.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the publishing of the 2016-2017 Proposed Oskaloosa School Budget Summary as presented with a tax rate of \$15.49891 and schedule a public hearing for same on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. Herr seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER PURCHASE & INSTALLATION OF HIGH SCHOOL GYM BLEACHERS**

Mr. Reiter presented quotes for the purchase and installation of high school gymnasium bleachers.

Herr moved to accept two proposals for High School Gymnasium Bleacher Replacement and award the contract to Seating and Athletic Facility Enterprises, LLC at a cost not to exceed \$53,210. Drost seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 STUDENT FEES**

Mr. Reiter presented the proposed Student Fees for 2016-2017 and stated that the fees will remain the same as 2015-2016 with the exception of nutrition fees that were previously approved by the Board.

Drost moved to approve the student fees for District educational programs as presented effective for the 2016-2017 school year. Herr seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL SOLAR GRANT PROJECT**

Mr. Reiter presented information regarding a Middle School Solar Grant that has been received from an estate. He explained that this is an opportunity that will benefit Science Education by giving kids hands-on education. Atwood Electric from Sigourney has agreed to provide additional donations for hardware, as well as periodic instruction.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the Middle School Solar Grant Project as presented. Edgren seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER PROPOSALS AND CONTRACT FOR BUS CAMERA PROJECT**

Herr moved to accept two proposals for the School Bus Camera Project and award the contract to Thomas Bus Sales of Iowa, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$54,735.63. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUS SPECIFICATIONS AND TO SOLICIT BIDS**

Mr. Reiter stated the need to solicit bids to purchase 2 buses in a continued effort to update our fleet. Drost requested that the bids be solicited for a cash price with a trade-in option.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the specifications for two 77-passenger school buses with trade-in option and authorize bids to be solicited for the purchase of same. Edgren seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER DECLARING SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING SALE**

Mr. Reiter presented a list of items that are obsolete for the District that could be sold.

Herr moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and declare surplus property as presented and authorize the sale of same by Superintendent in the most efficient and effective means possible. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISED POLICY EXHIBIT 407.6E1**

Mr. Reiter recommended extending the response date for Voluntary Early Retirement notice to March 31, 2016.

Edgren moved to approve revised Board Policy Exhibit 407.6E1 - Voluntary Early Retirement Plan for 2015-2016 as presented. Van Hulzen seconded and all voted in favor.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISED POLICY SERIES 800 - FIRST READING**

Mr. Reiter presented various updates/revisions in the 800 Series.

Herr moved to approve, for the first reading, revised Board Policy Series 800 - Business Procedures as presented. Van Hulzen seconded and all voted in favor.

#### **REVIEW SUBSEQUENT MEETING DATE**

After a short discussion, it was agreed to next meet on Tuesday, March 22, for the purpose of discussing budget reductions.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM.

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Lisa Walston, Personnel & Finance Assistant  
for Chad M. Vink, Board Secretary

At Board Report time I defended the vote towards an 8 period day at the high school for 2016-17 because that same item was unanimously voted for the Middle School one year ago and there have been no objections since that time. Low state funding the past six years and the fact that Oskaloosa's enrollment has dropped 13 of the past 15 years justifies a proactive step by the School Board to reduce costs through staff sharing rather than laying off teachers and cutting programs. I believe that an 8 period day gives students more options than a 7 period day in their daily schedule to choose core, cocurricular or elective classes or a study hall or take advantage of time with a teacher for MTSS. With the current MTSS system in place the Oskaloosa High School has the lowest number of F's for the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester in the past 8 years. This additional period for MTSS already gives our high school an 8 period day and it is 9 periods for those students who participate in early bird PE. I believe that the best interest of our students should be the first concern of the Oskaloosa School Board. This revised schedule does that and also helps to reduce costs, which benefits our local taxpayers.

Tom Richardson