

OSKALOOSA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MAY 9, 2017

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The Board of Directors of the Oskaloosa Community School District met in regular session at 6:00PM on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, in the Administration Board Room, 1800 North 3rd Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present were Board members Tom Richardson, Shelly Herr, Amanda McGraw, Sharma Parlett, and Kraig Van Hulzen. Members Carl Drost and Erik Edgren were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT

Also present were Superintendent Mr. Russell Reiter, Dr. Joy Prothero, Ryan Parker, Amanda Reynolds, Mark Scholes, Stacy Bandy, Jolene Liebl, Andy Hoteck, Ginger Allsup, Mike Dursky, Lisa Brown, Angie Holland, Tim Veiseth, Jeff Nicholson, Donna Nicholson, Ginny Foster, Mike Foster, Bill Brown, Marion Vos, Denise McLellan, Bruce McLellan, Marty Stowell, Duane Stowell, and Chad Vink.

AGENDA

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

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES

Mr. Reiter provided some introductory remarks on all of the retirees from the District for the current year, and then presented plaques to each staff member for years of service as follows:

Marion Vos – 28
Jeff Nicholson – 30
Denise McLellan – 16

Ginny Foster – 18
Marty Stowell – 21

The Board and the public in attendance thanked them and gave them a round of applause in appreciation of their time and dedication.

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. Reiter took the floor to recognize the Board during School Board Appreciation Week. He provided an introduction and then offered thanks and recognition with a Certificate of Recognition to each member. Those in attendance thanked the Board with applause.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD REPORTS

McGraw commented on her enjoyment in hosting Chinese students recently. Van Hulzen noted that progress is being made on a proposal for the sale of District timber, as well as that he hopes to determine the value of the Construction Trades house in the next couple of weeks.

BUILDING REPORTS

Parlett and Richardson commented on the proposed computer programming course at the High School. Richardson noted the low office referral rates for behavior at the Elementary and Middle Schools. Herr inquired about Iowa Assessment results.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR REPORT

None in addition to the written report.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Reiter took the floor to inform the Board on events and activities in the District. He began by citing the success of sixth-graders that finished 1st and 3rd in a recent math competition. He continued by noting the development of a Behavior Support Plan, that academic reports will be presented on May 23, the lack of violations during the recent Desk Audit, the evolution of regional planning partnerships, the progress on an employee handbook, and a preview of Board policies to be amended due to changes to the law. The Board thanked Mr. Reiter for his report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, ABSTRACT, AND FINANCIALS

After questions about Wilson Reading and the purchase of a washer and dryer, Herr moved to approve the Minutes, Financial, and Abstract of Claims as presented. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SOFTBALL PROJECT AND TO SOLICIT BIDS

Mr. Reiter introduced the plans for construction of a new softball field. Ryan Parker, Activities Director, took the floor to discuss the plans and detail steps to make the current field safe and appropriate, including restroom renovations, road improvements, and the addition of a railing. Both Mr. Reiter and Parker cited the local help being contributed for the work, including by students in the Construction Trades class.

Van Hulzen moved to approve specifications for the Softball Field Project and to solicit bids for the same. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ARCHITECT CONTRACT FOR GYM RENOVATION

Mr. Reiter presented the architect contract for approval, noting that legal counsel is still reviewing the document. McGraw inquired about timing and liquidated damages, but Mr. Reiter noted that it would increase the cost and the project should still conclude by December.

Herr moved to approve the Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect with FEH Design of Des Moines, Iowa, subject to review by legal counsel. Van Hulzen seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF OSSA TENTATIVE AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENTS

Mr. Reiter presented the Board with the Tentative Agreement between representatives of the Board and of the Oskaloosa Support Staff Association and recommended approval. He noted that, upon completion of the handbook for the certified staff, one will also be compiled for the support staff.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the Tentative Agreement and accompanying amendments to the Master Agreement with the Oskaloosa Support Staff Association for the 2017-2018 contract year, subject to ratification by the Oskaloosa Support Staff Association. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SALARIES FOR ADMINISTRATOR AND DIRECTORS

Mr. Reiter introduced the pay for Administrators and Directors and recommended a 1.3% increase for 2017-2018. Parlett inquired about insurance, and Mr. Reiter noted that it was the same as for licensed staff. McGraw asked about blanket increases and was concerned that certain staff could be compensated more considering additional time worked during the year. Mr. Reiter said that there are comparisons among Superintendents about handling compensation, but that a team approach is common.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the salary increases for Administrators and Directors as presented. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor except McGraw, who voted against.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WAGES FOR OTHER SUPPORT EMPLOYEES

Mr. Reiter recommended a 1.67% pay increase for support employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Van Hulzen moved to approve the wage increases for Other Support Employees as presented. Herr seconded and all voted in favor except McGraw, who voted against.

CONSIDER REVISED BOARD POLICY SERIES 100 – EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Mr. Reiter introduced the second reading of Board Policy Series 100. Parlett voiced concern about practicing the policy text, and Mr. Reiter said he has been taking special note of that as he has been updating the policies.

Parlett moved to approve, for the second and final reading, revised Board Policy Series 100 – Educational Philosophy as presented. Van Hulzen seconded and all voted in favor.

CONSIDER REVISING BOARD POLICY 210.8 – BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Van Hulzen took the floor to voice concern about Board behavior and the need to work together, add transparency, and stay on task to meet common goals. He noted that he submitted his Board reports ahead of time so that they could be more thoughtful, and then only need to share items that the public would want to know. He would like to know about items ahead of time rather than have surprises, but is open to proposals on how best to accomplish that.

Herr said that she wanted to ensure that open meeting laws are followed and that the Board may need to identify the purpose of Board reports. Parlett stated that she understands the need to be heard, and wishes that there was more discussion on

progress toward behavioral and academic goals on every agenda. She recommended inviting Anne Morgan from the AEA to assist in Board relations. Van Hulzen reiterated that he doesn't want to limit topics, but doesn't want to be surprised by the information conveyed.

McGraw mentioned that she doesn't want members to be silenced, and that there should be information presented on scores and the results of the Iowa Report Card. Various members cited concerns regarding public notification, use of agenda items, and how best to publicize scores and academic progress. There was a consensus to not have a Board policy, but look to improve board communication and address it in June when more Board members are present.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Reiter provided the Board with one appointment.

Van Hulzen moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the appointment of Alice Bowling as High School Agricultural Sciences Teacher starting with the 2017-2018 school year at the BA Step 3 salary level or \$38,227. Parlett seconded and all voted in favor.

CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON SALE OF STUDENT CONSTRUCTED HOUSE

Vink introduced the process for the sale of the Construction Trades house, and noted that conducting a hearing is the first step. Richardson opened the floor for anyone wishing to speak regarding the sale of student-constructed property. Hearing no one after three announcements, Richardson closed the hearing.

CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING 2016-2017 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Vink presented the Board with the proposed budget amendment, noting that there were no changes from the version previously approved for publishing. Richardson opened the floor for anyone wishing to speak regarding the proposed 2016-2017 Budget Amendment. Hearing no one after three announcements, Richardson closed the hearing.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Parlett moved to adopt the 2016-2017 Amendment of Current Budget as proposed and published on April 25, 2017. Herr seconded and all voted in favor.

REVIEW SUBSEQUENT MEETING DATE

It was agreed to next meet on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at 7PM regarding the draft employee handbook, District assessments, the Iowa Report Card, the Behavioral Special Education Plan, and Personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

President Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:16PM.

Chad M. Vink, Board Secretary