

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, in the School District of Scottsbluff, in the County of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, was held at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, February 19, 2007, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 2601 Broadway, Scottsbluff, with the following members present: Bob Kinsey, Mark Lang, Tim Lordino, Kim Magana, Megan Massey and Michael Shedd. Notice of meetings was given by publication of time and place thereof in the Star-Herald on February 16, 2007.

President Lordino called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adopt the agenda, as presented, passed with a motion by Robert Kinsey and a second by Kim Magana. Yes: Kinsey, Magana, Massey, Shedd, Lang, Lordino; No: None; Motion carried.

There was no one from the community to address the Board. There were no student or SEA reports.

Vice President Kinsey reported he attended a town hall meeting where Senator Harms discussed a couple of school issues with regard to school buses and legislation to create a funding formula to help school districts pay for buildings which he didn't think would get anywhere. He also attended Coach Hartman's retirement reception on Sunday sponsored by the coaches.

Dr. Shedd expressed his thanks to Dr. Reynolds, SHS Counselors, and Julie Pengelly for the AP parent meeting which was well attended.

Mindy Burbach reported she has been gathering information for a series of articles that will be published in the Star-Herald on bond issue and will be editing the parent AP meeting video to air on the access channel as well as providing a copy of the video for the counselor's office.

Mrs. Magana questioned if there were plans for another AP parent meeting for 8th graders? Dr. Reynolds asked Dr. Schmucker if Middle School had plans for parent meetings for 6th and 8th students on the opportunities they have for accelerated classes at the middle school and planning towards their high school years. Dr. Schmucker stated Middle School generally has meetings in April for the elementary students and plan on adding this to the agenda and reported there was an 8th grade parent meetings scheduled by the high school for tomorrow night but didn't know what was on agenda. Dr. Reynolds noted he would be going to the elementary schools to speak to the 5th grade students.

President Lordino reported the Roosevelt Elementary Site Council minutes were on file for review.

President Lordino read the Bond Referendum Resolution for the record.

Motion to adopt the Bond Referendum Resolution calling for a Special Election, as presented and read by President Lordino, passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Megan Massey. Yes: Shedd, Massey, Kinsey, Lang, Magana, Lordino; No: None; Motion carried. (A copy of the Bond Referendum Resolution is attached to and made a part of the official minutes.)

President Lordino read the Resolution to Appoint Selection Team to Interview CMC Candidates and Make Recommendation to the full Board.

Motion to appoint Selection Team to interview CMC Candidates Resolution, as presented and read by President Lordino, passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Kim Magana. Yes: Shedd, Magana, Lang, Kinsey, Massey, Lordino; No: None; Motion carried. (A copy of the Selection Team to interview CMC Candidates Resolution is attached to and made a part of the official minutes.)

President Lordino reported the Board was in receipt of a letter from the Scottsbluff Schools Classified Association (SSCA) requesting recognition as the bargaining agent for terms and conditions of employment. The Board committee representatives will be Bob Kinsey, Mark Lang, and Kim Magana.

Motion to recognize Scottsbluff Schools Classified Association (SSCA) requesting recognition as the bargaining agent for terms and conditions of employment, as presented passed with a motion by Kim Magana and a second by Mark Lang. Yes: Magana, Lang, Kinsey, Massey, Shedd, Lordino; No: None; Motion carried.

Bill Knapper, Director of Business Services, reported bid specifications were developed, advertised, and made available to contractors interested in re-coating the West Stadium deck. He noted the project was a little over the expected price. Also, the other bidder who bid at a much higher rate was bidding a completely different system imported from Europe and not to the specifications. Mr. Knapper stated the current system used is not the proper seal and has been a system that has been applied for decades. The low bidder, Fisher Roofing, will remove all of the existing seating, sandblast and scrap the old coating and apply the new seal which should give a waterproof seal. President Lordino questioned if the seal was completely different than the current seal. Mr. Knapper stated currently the seal is a mixture of tar and roofing paint. Mr. Lang questioned what the budget was for this project. Mr. Knapper stated he was expecting more in the mid \$70,000. The recommendation was to approve the low bid from Fisher Roofing, in the amount of \$ 93,608.00, for the West Stadium Coating.

Motion to approve the low bid from Fisher Roofing, in the amount of \$93,608.00, for the West Stadium Coating as presented, passed with a motion by Mark Lang and a second by Michael Shedd. Yes: Lang, Shedd, Kinsey, Lordino, Magana, Massey; No: None; Motion carried.

Dr. Shedd stated the current policy is essentially zero tolerance for possession of cell phones in the building. He stated he understands the rationale for the policy but the policy puts the board in conflict with the parent's desires. There have been many parents who have contacted him and included himself among them who have encouraged their students to have cell phone for security purposes. He stated approximately 70% of students carry cell phones and the current policy is encouraging people to break the rules and is not a great approach; therefore would like to see the Board consider alternatives to current zero tolerance policy and have rules that people are willing to respect rather than break with their parents approval.

President Lordino questioned if Dr. Shedd had a recommendation for consideration. Dr. Shedd stated he didn't have a recommendation but stated clearly cell phone use in the classroom is not something that should be permitted but cell phone use during lunch hours and having them on the premises or in the lockers would not be completely unreasonable so the students can communicate with their parents and was worth looking at a policy that allows students possession of cell phones but not for use during the class time hours.

Galen Nighswonger, Senior High Principal, stated there has been a lot of discussion around the country and districts who are trying a lot of different approaches from the zero tolerance down to they don't care. All the articles he has read notes there are two primary concerns: 1) disruption of the classroom, i.e., student texting during class time; and 2) use of cell phones for texting answers and taking pictures and beaming to other students which takes place around the country. So within the classroom it is an issue and that currently the principals have agreed if they do not see a cell phone they won't go out look for them. Mr. Nighswonger stated his administrators review all the policies for the student handbook and this year he would like to do this in May which is fairly early and feels this would be an appropriate time for the administrators to work up language to address the Board's concerns when making changes to handbook.

Mr. Kinsey questioned if the students were deliberately disobeying this policy and what the consequences would be for student using cell phones. Mr. Nighswonger stated students are deliberately disobeying the policy because it is very clear the students are texting during class and noted the first offense cell phones are confiscated and kept overnight and returned to the student the next day after school and second offense the parent has to come and pickup the cell phone and are then informed if there is third offense by their student using the cell phone during class that it would require a two-day out-of-school suspension.

Mrs. Massey stated she agreed with Dr. Shedd that the current policy clearly encourages the students to break the rules and that it would be good to have a policy with more specific and if the students are allowed to have cell phone she would prefer the phones be turned off and in their backpack or locker and then can use them only after school or outside of the building. She noted she has had several parents call her about the cell phone issue and feels it would be a good idea for the administrators to review and provide a recommendation. She questioned Dr. Shedd if this timeline would be too late.

Dr. Shedd stated he didn't perceive this issue as urgent but the problem is that there are many parents, including himself among them, who want to their children to have cell phones and parents like himself are encouraging their children to break the district policy and that use rather than possession needs to be the issue. Mrs. Magana stated she agreed with Dr. Shedd and Mrs. Massey and would rather have students be able to have their cell phone with them but would like to see a much tougher policy enforced if students are using their cell phone during class time and texting or using to them cheat that the first offense would be a student receives an "F" for the day, second offense they can fail a class which she stated she was aware a policy in several school districts.

President Lordino stated if the students are intentionally violating the school policy the students need to realize if they have a cell phone and violate a rule there will be consequences. He stated he didn't have any issues with students having cell phone if they were put away in their lockers or backpacks but does not see any educational value in having cell phones in a classroom or in the locker room and would be willing to compromise if the issue was safety related, not strictly for convenience, and the cell phone would need to be put away in a backpack or locker and if the students thinks the policy is not tough enough and continue to use them he would then agree with Mrs. Magana to have tougher rules.

Vice President Kinsey stated he was willing to compromise but feels society is getting awfully lazy and is only a convenience. He noted his three children went through school without cell phones and managed to survive. He stated he wasn't opposed to the students bring their cell phone and putting them in their lockers but wasn't too big on having them in the backpack and would like to have some real strict consequences and suggested first offense the cell phone is confiscated and the parents would need to come to the office to claim the cell phone and the second offense the cell phone would be taken away and not returned which would need to be reviewed.

Mr. Lang stated he agreed with the members on reviewing the cell phone policy and noted he brought this up when the Board reviewed the student handbooks and that his daughter was going to have one but keeps it in locker or backpack and there may be a need to have tougher consequences if students use their cell phones in the classroom.

It was the consensus of the Board to direct the administration to review the cell phone policy and bring back a recommendation in May for Board consideration.

President Lordino read future meetings and dates.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. passed with a motion by Megan Massey and a second by Michael Shedd. Yes: Massey, Shedd, Kinsey, Lang, Magana, Lordino; No: None; Motion carried.

Katherine A. Reyes, Secretary
Board of Education