

**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 25, 2008, in the Meeting Room of the Senior High School, 313 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Scottsbluff with the following members present: Bob Kinsey, Mark Lang, Paul Snyder, and Michael Shedd. Absent: Kim Magana, Megan Massey. Notice of meeting was given by publication of time and place thereof in the Star-Herald on February 22, 2008.

**Motion to excuse Michael Shedd from this meeting, passed with a motion by Megan Massey and a second by Kim Magana. Yes: Massey, Magana, Lang, Snyder, Kinsey; No: None; Absent: Shedd; Motion carried.**

**Motion to accept the Consent Agenda passed with a motion by Megan Massey and a second by Paul Snyder. Yes: Massey, Snyder, Magana, Lang, Kinsey; No: None; Absent: Shedd; Motion carried.**

The Board recognized the Bluffs Middle School 8th Grade All-State Band members Giles Hovseth, Lindsey Schanaman, Brooke Newens who were selected and participated at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska State Bandmasters Association in Kearney on January 12, 2008 and Michael Koch, Band Instructor, who helped prepare these students.

There was no one from the community to address the Board.

Andrew McKay, reported on student activities: district boys basketball games were underway; speech team had conference meet last weekend; girls basketball season was over; spring sports season starts today for girls/boys track, girls/boys soccer, girls tennis, and boys golf; and the drill team received 1st at state and are on to nationals in Orlando, FL. There was no SEA report.

Mrs. Massey reported the Community Relations Committee will be holding a Scottsbluff/Gering Joint Meeting on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at noon.

**Dr. Shedd entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.**

Bill Knapper, Director of Business Services, provided a legislature update and noted the Nebraska Economic Forecasting and Advisory Board met last Friday and revised downward their revenue projections for the state and by April 17<sup>th</sup> the state will be 68 million dollars in the whole and on the biennium they will be 126 million in the whole; therefore noted the District will see some adjustments to the state aid number going forward. Mr. Knapper also review the Blue Cross/Blue Shield rates for 2008-09 school year, noting the faculty was on a \$300 deductible plan and the rest of the staff is on a \$550 deductible. He noted there will be increases to the insurance premiums for the upcoming school year; a single plan will increase 15.3% and family plans will increase 9.2% for either deductible. Also, the cable franchise with Charter cable expires this

calendar, December 31, 2008, and in the past the school district has sat on committees formed by the City to look at what features the cable company offers to local government, education and medical community across the cable system and noted the District will certainly want to participate in these discussions.

Sandy Porter, Director of Curriculum/Technology, reported the State Department will be in the district on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> to review the district math portfolios and noted the district has put in a lot of time developing point of assessments and noted the review committee will be taking a look to see if the district has met the six quality criteria's and determine if the district has met or not met these standards. Also, Mrs. Porter reviewed the new Nebraska standards for language arts, reading, science, social studies and math. By the fall there will be a new state assessment for reading and language arts and noted the standards look a lot different from the past. For language arts the standards include: essential learning for pre-k-12 for reading, speaking and listening, and writing. Under each of the essential learning's there will be content standards for learning and using. Mrs. Porter noted the assessment that will be created by the state, teams and teachers working on the assessments will be ready to pilot in the fall. Nebraska Department of Education has been directed to administer a state assessment. The United States Department of Education (USDE) passed this information down because we were not totally in compliance with NCLB. Dr. Shedd noted the standards for grades 4, 8, 12 all look the same and questioned if this was the intent? Mrs. Porter noted the intent was for all the standards to look the same for each of the grade levels however the grade level expectations are different and are more rigorous as the student's progress. Andrew McKay, student representative, questioned how the standards would be tested? Mrs. Porter reported the standards would be tested with STARS for now and in the future there will be pilot in language arts and reading in the fall which will be a state test standard for every district across the State of Nebraska.

School Site Council reports from Roosevelt Elementary and Bluffs Middle School were provided in writing and are on file for review.

Dr. Diana Doyle, Scottsbluff Foundation representative, along with other members of the SCB Foundation board Tammie Ostdiek, Randy Prouty, Karla Edwards, Amy Wisniewski, and Dave Schaff provided the Board with an update on their fundraising project for advanced technology in the classroom specifically white boards and writing tablets for teachers to use. A presentation was provided and one white board and writing tablet were donated by the company to Scottsbluff Schools which were currently being used by Seanna Wright, Longfellow and Tammie Sessions, Westmoor for the semester and noted they are now ready to give demonstrations at both Westmoor and Longfellow Schools. A goal of the Foundation Board is to be able to put multiple writing tablets and white boards into all of the schools. Dr. Doyle provided a copy of the Foundation brochure that describes the Foundation and the major gift campaign along with pledge cards. The Foundation requested a board member be at each presentation to show the Foundation Board and School Board were working together for the betterment of the students. Mrs. Massey questioned how many presentations were anticipated and if the presentations would be opened to the public by invitation. Dr. Doyle noted the Foundation would like to

hold six presentations, three at Westmoor and three at Longfellow; will be sending out invitations to individuals who donated, advertise into the community for anyone to attend, and finally do a mass mailing of the brochure with letter of encouragement. Dr. Shedd questioned if the training for the teachers would be a part of the Foundation project. Dr. Doyle stated the Foundation Board would be responsible for purchasing the equipment and the training for teachers would be provided by the school district. Andrew McKay questioned the cost of the equipment and what grades would be receiving this equipment. Dr. Doyle stated the smart board are \$1,500 each and writing tablet are \$500 each for a total of \$2,000 to equip a classroom and the hand held assessment devices are \$1,000 for thirty of them. It was the hope of the Scottsbluff Foundation for all of the elementary schools including the middle school and high school would be able to receive some of the technology but it would be up to school personnel to determine where they would go and what grades they should be put in. President Kinsey thanked the Scottsbluff Foundation for the work they have done to support the school district.

Lynette Richards with the Project Extra Mile Youth Group along with students Janet Sanchez, Michelle Moreno, and Rebecca Torres invited the Board to a community briefing at WNCC Theatre on March 6, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. to learn about what is happening with youth and alcohol in the community.

**Motion to accept the certified resignation from Julie Brown, Grade 3 Instructor, Roosevelt Elementary, effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year, as presented, passed with a motion by Megan Massey and a second by Michael Shedd. Yes: Massey, Shedd, Lang, Snyder, Magana, Kinsey; No: None; Motion carried.**

**Motion to accept the certified staff retirement resignation from Nancy Sakurada, Family & Consumer Science Instructor, Senior High School, effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year, presented, passed with a motion by Kim Magana and a second by Megan Massey. Yes: Magana, Massey, Shedd, Snyder, Lang, Kinsey; No: None; Motion carried.**

President Kinsey, on behalf of the Board, thanked both Julie Brown and Nancy Sakurada for their years of service to the District.

Mr. Knapper reported bids specifications were developed and made available to interested parties for the purchase of two 2008 conventional style school buses which will be used primarily for daily routes and determined that two buses from the existing fleet would be surplus. The low bid from Nebraska/Central Equipment, in the amount of \$159,488.00, for two new 2008 Blue Bird buses was recommended for approval. Mr. Knapper also requested the Board to approve the sale of two surplus buses which would be sold to the community via a sealed bid process.

Mrs. Magana questioned if there was discussion about purchasing another excursion? Mr. Knapper stated there was discussion about buying a Type A bus, mini bus, and then equipping it for activities which came from the committees work on recommending this bid

and are in the process of lining up an activity bus to be brought out to view which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4th.

**Motion to award the purchase of two 2008 Blue Bird buses from Nebraska/Central Equipment, in the amount of \$15,488.00, as presented, passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Paul Snyder. Yes: Shedd, Snyder, Massey, Magana, Lang, Kinsey; No: None; Motion carried.**

**Motion to authorize the sale of the two surplus buses by seal bids, passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Megan Massey. Yes: Shedd, Massey, Magana, Lang, Snyder, Kinsey; No: None; Motion carried.**

President Kinsey read future meetings and dates. **It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the March 24th regular meeting, next regular board meeting will be April 7th.**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. passed with a motion by Megan Massey and a second by Paul Snyder. Yes: Massey, Snyder, Shedd, Magana, Lang, Kinsey; No: None; Motion carried.**

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Katherine A. Reyes, Secretary  
Board of Education