

**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, June 25, 2007, in the Lecture Hall of the Administration Building, 2601 Broadway, Scottsbluff, NE 69361, with the following members present: Bob Kinsey, Mark Lang, Tim Lordino, Kim Magana, and Michael Shedd. Absent: Megan Massey. Notice of meeting was given by publication of time and place thereof in the Star-Herald on June 22, 2007.

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

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

President Lordino requested the agenda item #9a, Report and Action on SHS Random Student Drug Test be moved to item #3 followed by item #4, Awards and Recognitions of the Drug Testing Committee.

**Motion to adopt the agenda with the following changes: agenda item #9a, Report and Action on SHS Random Student Drug Test be moved to item #3 followed by item #4, Awards and Recognitions of the Drug Testing Committee, as amended, passed with a motion by Kim Magana and a second by Mark Lang. Yes: Magana, Lang, Kinsey, Shedd, Lordino; No: None; Absent: Massey; Motion carried.**

Galen Nighswonger, SHS Principal, provided a summary of the SHS and BMS Student Random Drug Testing program. He reported the total number of entrants into the pool were SHS-477, BMS-260; total number of tests performed: SHS-270, BMS-130; total number of positive tests: SHS-4, BMS-0; percentage of positive tests, of those tested: SHS-1.5%, BMS-0%; percentage of entrants tested: SHS-57%, BMS-50%; SHS-17% Oral, 2% Oral QNS, 3% Alcohol, 78% Urine; BMS: 91% Oral, 9% Oral QNS; the four positive tests were from students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade with 1 positive cocaine and 3 positive marijuana tests and all positives were in the second semester; and the total cost of the program for the 2006-2007 school year was \$11,000.00.

Mr. Nighswonger expressed his appreciation to WPCI who provided a lot of documentation and were very good to work with and commend Misty West and her staff, thanked all of the members of the Task Force who helped create board policy which has been a very effective tool for Scottsbluff High School; as well as thanked the Board for stepping up, realizing this was a challenge and the effectiveness that has resulted from the testing and the program.

President Lordino thanked Mr. Nighswonger who was the leader of this project and who brought the task force together and developed a quality policy. This policy is a positive

move for the District and noted Scottsbluff is the only school district in Nebraska that moved forward with random drug testing for students and became the leaders in western Nebraska and that there were other districts who have contacted Mr. Nighswonger and are looking at this type of program which has changed the mindset of the students from using drugs. President Lordino questioned if the Board wanted to up the number of tests or if there was any interest in decreasing the number of tests.

Dr. Shedd stated from his stand point the number would need to be big enough to be a deterrent and noted based on the numbers he didn't feel there was a need to increase the number of tests. **It was the consensus of the Board to retain the number of drug tests for the 2007-2008 school year.**

The Board recognized the Drug Testing Committee as follows: Dean and Kathy Behling, Lee Dick, Dick Douglas, Chuck Elley, Barb Joliffe, David Ojeda, Hannah Reinhardt, Lynette Richards, Pamela Richardson, Juanita Rodriguez, Maria (Lucy) Saenz, Jim Schmucker, Carla Stein, Nate Stindt, Doug Warner, Stephen Wescher, Jordan Wilberger; and Misty West.

President Lordino asked for public input on bond referendum and noted this was an opportunity for the patrons of the district to visit with the Board about facility needs and solution to those needs.

David Thiele, patron, stated he had an opportunity to speak to the Board at the June 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting and from that time the "Save the BMS Committee" met on Thursday following the June 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting to discussed a wide-range of ideas, emotions, and thoughts about various subjects and then re-established the group to move forward with focusing their efforts solely on the problems faced with BMS and the idea being they would like to renovate the building. He stated he had a couple of groups speak of the success stories that other districts had witnessed in renovation projects similar to the one they would like to pursue in one way or another. He noted Lexington School District had undergone a similar type of situation that Scottsbluff is currently under and he was able to speak with Dean Tickle, Lexington Middle School Principal, and provided a CD-R of their conversation and phone number for the board's review. Mr. Tickle stated he was one of the first people to say the building should be knocked down and now couldn't imagine not going to work in the building now and that it was the crown jewel of their school system and parallel to the building Mr. Thiele was trying to keep vital and upgrade it to the point where it is still of good use. One of the questions the board raised at the last board meeting was if the group could obtain potential funding through the National Trust for Historic Preservation funds, Mr. Thiele stated he did some research and found that there was a grant for \$5,000 in matching funds towards a feasibility study, but noted President Lordino had stated it would not be practical to cut away from the architect the district is already using and stated this was fine but he was keeping all options on the table regarding architects and feasibility studies but wanted to show the good faith gesture on the Committee's part that they were willing to do the leg work, etc. and noted the grant would need to be submitted by the District if they are interested. Mr. Thiele provided the Board with a list of architects and other options of 9 different names of which two were

Scottsbluff alumni and noted he has spoken to five of the individuals and has a background in renovation and historical preservation. One of the architects, Laura Matisse, an alumni of Scottsbluff, who works out of California is currently working on a project on the USC campus and provided stories of converting an outdoor California high school cafeteria with shelters which included environmental technology, green technology to put solar panels on the shelters in the cafeteria area and these solar panel fueled an entire computer lab. The committee talk about wanting to be leaders among the state educators so this would be a great way to apply that leadership and might be able to apply for additional funding in a form of grants such as the Innovation Funds, available through the Nebraska state lottery program, and thinks this would be a great example of something no other school has thought of in applying to get funding for this project. Mr. Thiele provided a summary of Mrs. Matisse's thoughts on remodeling BMS and is very enthusiastic about getting involved in this project in one way or another. Mr. Thiele noted he had information from Al Urbel who has a background in environmental issues and who has worked with the Great Plains Sustainability Network with several symposiums on energy efficiency and green technology. Mr. Thiele invited the board to tour any of the facilities and asked the Board if they were willing to consent to appointing someone from the Facilities Committee or a volunteer to attend the "Save the BMS Committee" meeting and to work together and solve some of the problems. He noted their next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 28, 2007, 6:00 p.m. in the Frank building located at 18<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. President Lordino requested Mr. Thiele to continue sending any requests to the [www.boe@sbps.net](mailto:www.boe@sbps.net).

Vice President Kinsey reported he stopped at Lexington Middle School for a tour and was very impressed which gave him a whole new perspective of what you can do and noted the their building was completely gutted and was a really attractive building. Another thing that was interesting was Lexington renovated the building with student in it and did not relocate the students, noting this was the most ideal situation but they did it and got it done.

Lonnie O'Bryan, patron, stated the Board needed to take positive steps, needs to look at various things and then plan, set goals, gather information, and schedule what needs to be done which also includes maintenance and other future needs and then there was a need to develop successful results. In order to do this there was a need to develop momentum, have unity and have the school board and public work together to tackle these problems as the school board is the leadership of the school district, as well as bring the school district into the 21st Century. He would like to see a first class plan, first class maintenance, and green construction which he felt was doable. It is hard to piece meal together plans; therefore there was a need to have a task force and he would like to see two board members be involved. He believes the BMS can be the crown jewel of the Scottsbluff District, is still a very good building, and would like to see it kept up and needs the participation of the school board and public.

Jim Kozal, served as Co-Chair of the Bond Referendum Committee for the May 15<sup>th</sup> Special Election, reported in terms of the election results there were 2-1 negative votes to generate funding for school renovation projects. He applaud the patrons who were in

attendance with the intent of the MS renovation but noted the issue was down to a much more practical approach then do you have the right plan or not and in his mind having worked the election and talking a lot of people there was a need to change the minds of 500-600 voters that voted in the last special election from a "no" to "yes" to generate the funding to do school improvement, regardless of the type of project that is done whether it is renovation or new construction; therefore the Board there was a need to do something to try to figure out why 2,000 people voted "no". Mr. Kozal stated he guessed the reason for the no votes was money and the only way to get money to do what ever magnitude of projects that need to be done is to figure out how we can create "yes" votes out of "no" votes. There was a 31% voter turn out, which was very good, for a special election, noting there was 37% of Scottsbluff voters who voted in the last general election, so 31% special election turn out was very good when you're looking at the 17% voter turn out that the jail bond referendum had so there was a need to figure out why 2,000 people voted "no" and what would it take to get 500-600 of these people to vote "yes". The first tasks that needs to be done as well as put all options for school facilities on board and what ever preconceived notions have been as to what is needed that all alternative are open and determine the cost in savings whether its a new building or renovation and then figure out where the District will go from the money standpoint, but noted the main issue will probably be money and the taxpayers were not willing to come to the table with tax dollars for the request that is being asked.

Chuck Henry, employee of Scottsbluff Schools and patron of the District, stated he was a 1965 graduate of Scottsbluff High School and a retired teacher of 30 years. He stated there were approximately 1500 students in the BMS back in 1965 with 389 graduates. He came from Utah and the district he came from recently built two new elementary schools and eleven new schools and previously had bonds shot down noting the teachers got behind the referendums. He noted half of the current Scottsbluff faculty does not live in Scottsbluff. His taxes, in four years, have gone up \$650 on his home. He noted the Utah school he taught at was built in 1954, it was a high school and then went to a junior high, they had double sessions as they did when he was in high school, it was tough but they survived it. High school students went from 6:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. and the junior high students went from 12:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. and they survived. In Utah on May 30<sup>th</sup>, they began renovating the junior high which he was against the renovation but after one and half years later when he walked into that building he knew they made the right choice which housed 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, approximately 1500 students. Mr. Henry noted his old district this summer will be remodeling the middle school, which is 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, again with 1,500 students; therefore challenged the Board to travel 450 miles to tour these facilities and would be willing to line people up to talk to the Board in Utah. He noted Scottsbluff needs new schools, can sell a bond and supports education. He stated BMS was a land mark but there was a need to do something with it and felt a bond could be passed because the students deserve new buildings.

Cliff Reisig, graduate and patron of Scottsbluff, stated he took a tour of the Middle School was shocked the 80 year old structure of mass masonry structure was not cracked on the west, south or on the north side that he could see and feels the building built to last and has. He noted he had the option of returning to Scottsbluff and stated he looked at the

increase of property tax and said, "he didn't think so" and is probably what happened in the recent election that people are getting somewhere near the point of resistance. He reported on a renovation in Albuquerque, New Mexico that he witnessed and noted Albuquerque had a similar situation as Scottsbluff where they renovated a 1914 high school building into high end condos and was cheaper to renovate. Also, he noted he had the opportunity toured the city of Greenburg, KS that experienced a force 5 tornado which is as bad as it gets and of the structures in town the only reusable structures were of massive masonry construction, very similar to BMS, and his point was if a tornado would every visit Scottsbluff students in BMS would be a lot safer than they would be in their own homes.

Marilyn Einfalt, patron, stated her group would like to propose a spending lid on the area not connected to the failed bond initiative. Budget measures currently being discussed have strayed from the priorities that the School Board established. She would like to know, can they hold the School Board accountable for the \$8 million they have and do not want the money to all be spent before the renovation of the Bluffs Middle School.

Don Gillam, patron, stated he toured BMS he was pleasantly surprised that the building looks a lot like it did when he was there in 1959 when they had three times the students then they have now but knows that the building needs to be updated, no questions about this, electronics need updated and have seen some things that bothered him about maintenance and engineering and his groups feels that getting involved with an architect so that any maintenance or repairs that are done are done in such a manner that it is not wasted money and if we take care of those problems as the Board mentioned is part of the reason they wanted to rebuild and they felt there were some maintenance issues that have not been taken care of like a maintenance engineer should and possible it isn't the priority situation he wasn't sure but they felt the architect should be the number one person to tell the Board what order things should be done and how it should be done. Their group, of course, would like to save the building but the number one goal is education and he has heard different things and different comments about them not caring about the students and their education and that is not true. They want to work with the Board, they want to help, they want to be a part of the answer and they don't want to be a part of the problem but they do want the Board accountable for the money spent so it is spent in the right direction.

Mark Masterton, patron, stated he shared ideas with President Lordino and Dr. Reynolds. As a member of the County Commissioner Board he has information that is kind of pertinent to what is done here. There is approximately 16.5 billion dollars worth of property in Scottsbluff County, noting this number fluctuates. He is hearing from the people who have spoken is there is effort to save the Middle School, there is some confusion of what the public understood in what the School Board was trying to do, and the taxes are high and noted he was part of the problem with the taxes being high because in 2005 when the jail bond issue passed was part of the tax increase. For resident of Scotts Bluff County for every tax dollar spent on personal property 75% goes to school, 12 cents of the dollar goes supporting the local city, 6 cent goes to support the county, 2 cents goes to support the college and the other balance is distributed for district and county services. It is

obvious the school district take a big chunk of the money. Now where we address this the Board has huge responsibility to deal with the money and commended the Board for taking action and trying to do something although it failed. The county passed a bond and had a 17% turn out and they won with probably the same ratio that the District lost. He finds it incredible that the residence of Scotts Bluff County would pass a bond issue for a jail and wouldn't pass it for a school. He noted we could attribute a lot of things that are happening in the community: new airport, new jail, John Harms Center, a new library in the works, and have many, many things that are attractive and the only way we are going to get the 6.5 million worth of property tax is to attract new business because we can not keep adding value to existing property that we have. The only way to do that is to attract business and the only way you attract business is to have an infrastructure in place, part of this infrastructure is the four-lane highway, the Harms Center, jail, airport, Gering Civic Center, golf courses, etc., but one thing we are missing in Scottsbluff and Gering is that we don't have updated schools. People will come to the community and see that we have everything else but the schools are not updated and the last new school was built approximately in 1965 and that we don't have new school buildings with new technology. So what he thinks that needs to be done as a community and with the School Board find out: why the school bond issue failed and the Board and the community should get together and sit down and analyze what went wrong. Then we need to do is see what can be done to meet the middle ground, in terms of fixing what went wrong, and then prove to taxpayer why this is a good idea, not only for education of children but for economic development, and ultimately to get the taxes down. So in summary, Mr. Masterton stated he would like see committees formed, things analyze, and ways that we can work together to save the schools if that is what the general public wants. He expressed he would happy to help any way he can with his expertise in passing a bond issue and would be happy to share and is something that we need to do is organize and then do what the people want us to do.

President Lordino thanked all the patrons of the District for coming and sharing their feelings and thoughts on the Scottsbluff Public Schools facilities.

There was no SEA report. Dr. Shedd congratulated Kara Rada and the Speech team who attended the National Forensic League Competition in Wichita, KS on June 17-22, 2007 and noted Logan Vath received 10th place in the country.

Vice President Kinsey reported he visited Lexington Middle School remodeling project and thought it would be worthwhile and suggested the Board take a trip to Lexington and tour their facilities.

President Lordino reported the Finance Committee met and have begun the 2007-2008 budget discussion and was working toward the September 20, 2007 deadline date.

Bill Knapper, Director of Business Services, reported various summer projects were underway but noted the Roosevelt church property with the Facilities Committee's understanding that we would move forward with removal or demolishing this facility to leveled ground or made into a parking lot so he was in the process of seeking bids for the

removal and/or demolition and for approximately 4,000 sq. ft. of asbestos tile removal in the church basement.

Dr. Reynolds reported the teaching staff was polled at the end of the year to ensure that they had the textbooks and supplemental materials ordered for the 2007-2008 school year and noted the elementary orders have been mailed; Middle School, the Board approved the adoption of the new 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies and ordered textbooks for damaged or lost 8th grade social studies; and Senior High, noted two new classes were added to the course offerings: Life Skills-Social Studies and Life Skills-Science and adoption of new World History textbook series, new theatre textbook, and a new biology series which will be addressed at the July 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Julie Brown, patron, noted her daughter just completed Comp IV but finished the entire second semester without a textbook and questioned who one speaks to when this happens. She also questioned if Comp IV textbooks were ordered for this class and if textbooks were ordered in the middle of the year.

President Lordino stated there have been no textbooks requests that have come before the Board that have been denied and he first heard of this issue just prior to the bond but requested Mrs. Brown contact Mr. Nighswonger to discuss this issue. Dr. Reynolds stated textbooks are ordered in the middle of year to accommodate class numbers for the second semester. Mrs. Magana questioned if Comp IV was on the list for needing textbooks. Mr. Nighswonger stated Miss Pengelly had gathered the information from the teachers and it was his understanding that these have been ordered.

Dr. Shedd questioned if there was a general mechanism to deal with this type of issue and when you are in midstream and surprised by the numbers of students in one particular class, with respect to Comp IV, if this is a one shot deal that's fine but there needs to be a process in place to identify the shortage of textbooks before the class starts so they can deal with it in a timely fashion. Mr. Nighswonger stated when there is a shortage traditionally the teacher will go to the curriculum coordinator and then the coordinator will visit with Mrs. Porter to ensure the textbook are ordered and in place but some teachers opted to only have textbooks in their classrooms. What Mrs. Brown shared was probably an illustration where the textbook numbers were low and maybe they didn't have sufficient numbers to send textbooks home with students but is certainly something that needs to be addressed and taken care of. Dr. Shedd questioned the number of teachers who don't check out books or are most textbooks assigned to individual students. Mr. Nighswonger stated there are a lot of textbooks that come back and are not useful and some times this also takes place between semesters but to give an exact number of teachers that do not actually issue textbooks but they do all of the work in the classroom, Comp IV would be one of them and noting there were approximately 5-6 classes that falls into this category. President Lordino questioned if the Comp IV instructor requested textbooks over the last couple of years. Mr. Nighswonger stated he would have to look if textbooks were ordered but anytime they are short they are requested to make sure they have enough books.

President Lordino reported the Comp IV textbook request form specified “no new textbooks requested, one text per student”; therefore understands Mrs. Brown’s frustration but she also needs to understand that the Board was not getting the appropriate requests from the teachers for textbooks and there was a need to start back with Mr. Nighswonger to address this issue with Mrs. Mensing. President Lordino questioned if the all the high school classes have been assessed for additional textbooks. Mr. Nighswonger stated he had the report and will go back through and review the entire requests as well as personally visit with the Comp IV Instructor. Mrs. Magana requested developing a check out system for textbooks to students and felt this was a ridiculous situation. Vice President Kinsey stated he concurred with Mrs. Magana and the Board took criticism when the bond issue started that there was money to do everything else but the students didn’t have textbooks but noted the Board never denied any textbook request and every student should have a textbook to take home to study.

Mary Skiles, patron, questioned what the procedure was when there was a fairly good idea of the number of students enrolled in the classes prior to the semester and if the procedure wasn't working, since we are saying one textbook per child, it should be pretty clear cut that maybe the policy needs to be reviewed to ensure there are enough textbooks. Dr. Reynolds stated that was exactly what they tried to do on the last day when teachers checked out was to obtain this information and it was very disheartening to know the teacher didn't order any textbook knowing the students didn't have them in class. Mrs. Skiles stated unfortunately this issue may be one of the reasons people voted against the bond issue. Mrs. Magana stated it would be nice if people would tell the Board their concerns because had she not spoken to Mrs. Brown about this issue she had never heard specifics and if a parent is looking out for the best interest of their child they need to address the issue and work up the chain of command until you get to the top and get the answers. Mrs. Skiles stated if the issue is there aren't enough textbook in the classroom that the teacher would be requesting more textbooks. President Lordino stated the issue wasn't there weren't enough textbooks in the classroom; the issue was there weren't enough textbooks to go home with the students and would hope that there were people who would vote against the bond to improve schools because there weren't enough textbooks. Mrs. Skiles stated she felt it was issues like this that make people frustrated and then don't necessarily look at the whole picture but would challenge the Board, depending upon the type of curriculum, whether you have textbooks that can be borrowed out of the classroom or one per student, especially with block scheduling it makes it a little bit more difficult because you are not in the classroom every single day and not every child can do their work in the classroom; therefore this needs to be looked at a little bit differently since we are teaching differently. President Lordino stated the bottom line is the person responsible for the classroom is the instructor and noted the shortage of textbooks in this particular class will be ordered. Mr. Henry stated that every textbook can be downloaded off the internet.

Rod Businga, BMS instructor, stated that when he taught science he had a classroom set of textbooks so used the same thirty textbooks but the issue is there are classes with textbooks for every student and then there are classes at the high school where they have class sets in the classrooms but hears there needs to be a few in each class to check out.

At the Middle School most of the teachers check out books to students, not much class sets.

Linda Pilkington, patron, state her issue wasn't with textbooks but with the SHS Director of Curriculum and an elective class. During the middle of the school year she was hearing issues that were taking place in one of her daughter's elective class so she went to Miss Pengelly who did not make any accommodation to meet with her so Mrs. Pilkington emailed her three times and her response was "she was swamped" which infuriated her very much, even though it was an elective class, she didn't bother going to talk to Mr. Nighswonger which was her fault because her daughter was busy with so many other things. Mrs. Pilkington expresses she was pleased to hear the Dr. Schmucker was taking Miss Pengelly's place because as soon as it was announced that Dr. Schmucker was taking her place her daughter marched right into Dr. Schmucker's office at the Middle School and presented to him the problems she was having in this elective class and he promised her that he would look into this at the beginning of the next school year.

**It was the consensus of the Board to receive a report back on the SHS textbook requests and directed the administration to review the textbooks requests to ensure there weren't other issues.**

**It was the consensus of the Board to tentatively set the board retreat date on Tuesday, August 14th with an alternate date of Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Motion to accept the certified staff resignation of Beth Correa, Lake Minatare Grades 1-2, contingent upon finding a suitable replacement, passed with a motion by Kim Magana and a second by Mark Lang. Yes: Magana, Lang, Kinsey, Shedd, Lordino; No; None; Absent: Massey; Motion carried.**

**Motion to approve the certified staff election of Brenda Trump, SHS Family Consumer Science Instructor, passed with a motion by Robert Kinsey and a second by Kim Magana. Yes: Kinsey, Magana, Shedd, Lang, Lordino; No; None; Absent: Massey; Motion carried.**

**Motion to approve the certified staff election of Comron Yazdgerdi, SHS Science/Biology Instructor, passed with a motion by Kim Magana and a second by Robert Kinsey. Yes: Magana, Kinsey, Lang, Shedd, Lordino; No; None; Absent: Massey; Motion carried.**

Karen Johnson, Lake Alice and Lake Minatare Principal, reported the 2007-2008 Lake Alice/Lake Minatare Student Handbook changes included the following: pages 6-8, delete Quantum Learning and Judicious Discipline since they haven't had an opportunity to train staff; pages 9-12, added manner behavior character; page 12, severe weather and school cancellations, due to differing weather and road conditions in rural area; page 16, school phones, added "in an effort to teach responsibility no students will be allowed to use the phone for homework or clothing they have forgotten at home"; page 17, personal property at school added statement regarding student drivers to park in designated parking for

safety; page 20, delete grading code and maintain their existing grading scale; pages 21-23, added academic eligibility policy for extracurricular activities; pages 50-57, add mandatory drug testing policy for grades 7-8.

Mrs. Magana stated she has visited both Lake Alice and Lake Minatare schools and was been very impressed with their discipline policy. President Lordino stated he did not have an issue with the Lake Schools continuing with their existing discipline policy for another year but sometime before the 2008-2009 school year the District will need to review and have one disciplinary policy for all of the elementary schools within the District.

President Lordino stated he had an issue with the use of school phone policy because as adult we forget things and you call someone to obtain what ever it is and can understand if there was an issue with a student who habitually called home then the administrator would need to address them as a disciplinary issue. Mrs. Magana stated this policy will teach students responsibility and helps them organize for their classes the night before and feels the Lake Schools are incorporating good work habits for the students and applaud what they are doing. Dr. Shedd stated he didn't care what policies there were for student discipline, responsibility, or grade scales as long as it is working and the student, parents and teachers are on board and understand he didn't see any problems. Vice President Kinsey concurred with Dr. Shedd and felt if the system was affective and working he didn't see a problem.

President Lordino stated he felt all of the elementary schools grading scales should be consistent throughout the District and noted he wasn't opposed to the Lake Schools grading scale and a discussion that should be held beginning with the Curriculum/Technology Committee to review and bring back a recommendation for the board's consideration. Mrs. Magana stated she would not have the Lake Schools come to elementary schools level but recommended elementary schools going to the Lake Schools grade scale level and should be reviewed.

**Motion to approve the 2007-2008 Lake Minatare/Lake Alice Student Handbook, as presented, passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Kim Magana. Yes: Shedd, Magana, Kinsey, Lang, Lordino; No; None; Absent: Massey; Motion carried.**

Mr. Knapper reported the laptop project was approved to release for bid at the June 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Bids were solicited for the purchase of 180 Intel Core 2 Duo Processor/1.83 GHz ThinkPad laptop computers and noted there were two bids received and the recommendation was to award the bid to Lenovo, in the amount of \$197,820.00.

**Motion to approve the bid from Lenovo, in the amount of \$197,820.00 for 180 Intel Core 2 Duo Processors/1.83 GHz ThinkPad laptops as presented, passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Kim Magana. Yes: Shedd, Magana, Kinsey, Lang, Lordino; No: None; Absent: Massey; Motion carried.**

Wendy Kemling, Director of Student Services, reported one change the District would like to make for the next school year at the Middle School is to add an Achievement Center. The Achievement Center would provide a place for all students to attend during the school day as necessary for extra help. This would be for any student that need extra help provided the teacher agrees that the student need to go to the Achievement Center. In order to implement this program there were several items that need to be purchased and put in place such as computer software, desktop computers, and scanners, in the amount of \$33,109.98. Mrs. Kemling noted the expenditures would be funded out of 2006-2007 Special Education budget. Mrs. Magana noted the implementation of this program was recommended by the Curriculum and Technology Committee. President Lordino questioned if this program was being piloted for a year and if a report would be brought back to the Board. Mrs. Kemling indicated the program will be piloted at the Middle School in the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade levels and would provide a report back to the Board. Dr. Shedd questioned where the classroom would be located at the Middle School and if the District was allowed to use special education dollars to fund the program for non-special education students. Mrs. Kemling noted it will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on the south side and the District can use up to 15% of the special education budget to serve non-special education students. Mr. Knapper noted that in the interest of time and getting ready for the next school year the purchase of the 24 computers for the Achievement Center will be added on the recent Dell computer bid the board approved. **It was the consensus of the Board to implement and pilot the Achievement Center at the Middle School for the 2007-2008 school year and fund it out of 2006-2007 special education budget.**

Mr. Knapper reported that along with the City's project on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue the District had an opportunity to pickup a bus turnout and noted there were a couple of options to consider on a 6 ft. or 10 ft. turnout. President Lordino stated it was his recommendation to go with the 10 ft. turnout which is approximately \$6,000 difference between the 6 ft. and 10 ft. turnout due to safety issues and the District has an opportunity to move the buses off the street when loading or unloading students so cars can move freely on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The only issue with moving in this direction would be the need to move the Longfellow sign in which he suggest moving it to the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Dr. Shedd agreed that due to safety the District should proceed with the 10 ft turnout but questioned if there were any issues to deal with the State of Nebraska Department of Roads to prevent the District from going forward with the 10 ft. turnout. Mr. Donald Dye, M.C. Schaff & Associates, noted his recommendation was for the School District to contract directly with Paul Reed Construction to work outside of the City's right of way, wouldn't need a change order or have to go through the State of Nebraska. There would be a 5 ft. sidewalk easement. Dr. Shedd questioned if the District could legally contract with the firm without a formal bid. Mr. Knapper stated it would be as the Board permits but noted the issue was the City has the contract for this project and their contractor was established through public bid for unit prices which will be utilized and the turnout would be the pre-established bid price except for the retaining wall and it would be very difficult to have another contractor work with and coordinate or bring in the process.

**Motion to approve the lower cost option for a 10 foot bus turnout as described in the June 21, 2007 memo from Mr. Knapper and requested a report back to the**

**Board, passed with a motion by Robert Kinsey and a second by Mark Lang. Yes: Kinsey, Lang, Shedd, Magana, Lordino; No: None; Absent: Massey; Motion carried.**

President Lordino read future meetings and dates. Vice President Kinsey noted he would not be at the July 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting due to work related commitment.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. passed with a motion by Kim Magana and a second by Michael Shedd. Yes: Magana, Shedd, Kinsey, Lang, Lordino; No: None; Absent: Massey; Motion carried.**

---

Katherine A. Reyes, Secretary  
Board of Education