

**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, August 20, 2007, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 2601 Broadway, Scottsbluff, NE 69361, with the following members present: Bob Kinsey, Mark Lang, Kim Magana, Megan Massey, and Michael Shedd. Absent: Tim Lordino. Notice of meeting was given by publication of time and place thereof in the Star-Herald on August 17, 2007.

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

**Motion to excuse absent board member, Tim Lordino, passed with a motion by Kim Magana and a second by Michael Shedd. Yes: Magana, Shedd, Lang, Massey, Kinsey; No: None; Absent: Lordino; Motion carried.**

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

Lonnie O'Bryan addressed the Board and stated the "Save BMS" committee was still waiting for dialogue with the Board. He noted it was his understanding that the middle of September was the timeline for the Board to establish a committee and then will begin the dialogue about saving Bluffs Middle School. He noted he would appreciate if the Board would keep them informed about the schedule when it is established. Vice President Kinsey stated this was the plan and the Board was getting information together and will schedule a meeting with representatives from the "Save BMS" committee.

Rod Businga, SEA Representative, reported the staff appreciated the back-to-school staff picnic on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and would like to see the Board continue this event. Vice President thanked Mr. Businga and stated the Board really enjoyed serving the staff and noted there was an outstanding attendance from staff members.

Mrs. Massey reported she received a lot of good feedback from parents, especially at the BMS with orientation day and noted the students were really excited and a number of people comment on the fabulous staff that is at the BMS and that everyone was enthusiastic and teachers were excited which was really good to hear.

Mrs. Magana stated the first day of football practice for BMS she was impressed with and appreciated the amount of accountability that BMS was pushing for students both in the classroom with teachers and academics.

Dr. Shedd reported the Curriculum/Technology Committee met on August 14<sup>th</sup> with no specific recommendations a side from the HALs progress report which will be addressed later on the agenda. Also, the committee will be putting together a more formal textbook review process noting one of the issues the District's had is that there is really isn't a time

cycle for textbook reviews, there is no formal process on adopting textbooks, and will be trying to create procedures that will be seamless and transparent so that it becomes a good process for textbook adoptions. Dr. Shedd reported the committee discussed career academy that WNCC is proposing for students who have special interest in a particular career and will be hearing more about in the future and will require board action down the road with issues such as tuition, dual credit, etc. Mrs. Porter reported Mrs. Kemling has been looking at probes for the elementary schools, noting these probes would help with the response to the intervention process and have reviewed one called AimsWeb and will reviewing others. Mrs. Kemling reported the probes will track student progress over time and will be short assessments that will check certain things and as you go along the teachers will be able to track student progress to see if they are progressing the way they should or there may be a need to change the intervention they are working on. Dr. Shedd noted there are several different ways of doing this and several different vendors of products to accomplish this goal but noted at this point it was very preliminary and the intervention may require board action in the future but noted the ultimate goal is to identify students prior to needing special services and intervene so they won't need the services later on.

Vice President Kinsey stated he thought it was a good idea to have a plan when textbooks are being reviewed. Dr. Shedd stated there were two issues: 1) how do you identify when a textbook needs to be replaced; and 2) identify a process for the replacement of textbooks.

Mrs. Massey reported she attended a joint meeting with Gering/Scottsbluff Superintendents, board members, and athletic directors on August 16th to discuss the joint school calendar relative to moving September 21st "no school day" to September 28th because of the SCB/Gering football game on Thursday evening and a volleyball tourney starting the next day and noted the decision of moving these dates will be determined by the superintendents; a classified staff wage survey that ESU is doing with Gering and Scottsbluff Schools; and EHA health issue. Dr. Reynolds noted the volleyball tournament doesn't start until 4:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon; therefore there was no reason to change the calendar.

Mindy Burbach, Communications Specialist, reported she has been working on back to school activities including: insert for the Star-Herald, new staff pictures for rotary, and power point presentation for all-staff meeting. Dr. Shedd questioned if the pictures of the new staff were on the website. Mrs. Burbach stated she would be happy to add to the website.

Wendy Kemling, Director of Student Services, reported she had a group of staff members working on Autism toolkits that will be going out to Special Education staff members and for the Autism committee which was part of the Autism grant.

Mrs. Massey reported a Special Education Transitional Program, for 18-21 year olds students, was implemented in the District and attributed this program to Mrs. Kemling and Dr. Reynolds for realizing the need. The 18-21 year old students, who are still in the

school district and choose not to graduate, are now going to be in classes at the Harm Center. Mrs. Massey stated her son will be attending these classes and it was so neat to watch the students walk in to the facility and what a great self-esteem to have them at the college and noted they were taking their same regular classes at the Harms Center and also out in the community for 2-3 hours a day at jobs. Mrs. Massey noted this was a really big leap for the District, was a fabulous program and feels the community needs to be aware of this program. Mrs. Kemling noted that Jan Barbour, from the ESU, has lined out the program and Scottsbluff Schools contracts her services and noted her vision of the program is amazing. Mrs. Massey noted the program is modeled after a program at Penn State, the students will also be partnered with WNCC students for other activities, and noted ESU services 11 counties and their were 14 students in the program. Vice President Kinsey suggested the District should contact NASB to promote this program as an annual conference presentation.

Sandy Porter, Director of Curriculum/Technology, provided an overview of the curriculum toolkits. She noted the staff has access to the toolkits on the district "k" drive which is by grade level with includes core content areas of math, science, writing, reading, social studies with standard; appropriate reading levels; standard monitoring forms; assessment program denoting when and what they are assessing; there is block help for SHS teachers; small group learning and all kinds of resources such as communications, websites, and test tips for teachers and resources for students to take tests; reading has a lot of strategies that teachers can use and when it is appropriate; graphic organizers; writing has great rubrics, posters for teachers to hang on walls, and writing resources. Mrs. Porter noted the tool kits are packed with resources that teachers can access immediately along with developing a standard based unit of study. Mrs. Porter noted there were three ways to build curriculum: 1) with the curriculum tool kit which includes all of their resources; 2) curriculum tool box include grade level groups/meetings for the content areas; and 3) the curriculum tool belt wraps around so teacher meet vertically, K-12 teachers meet and talk about curriculum. Dr. Reynolds noted Mrs. Porter completed this process last school year. Mrs. Magana stated this would be a great resource for new teachers coming into the district. Barb Edwards, Longfellow Elementary Principal, stated the Board need to know that Mrs. Porter was the hero last year when teachers came on board and had an opportunity to present the K-5 and show them the accessibility to so many wonder resources which has really saved them time since it is right at their fingertips and expressed appreciation for the many hours Mrs. Porter has put into developing these took kits. The Board commended Mrs. Porter for the work she has done for the District.

Dr. Reynolds reminded the Board of the Special Meeting scheduled for Friday, August 31st at 7:00 a.m. to take action on year-end expenditures and noted with Mr. Lordino's vacancy and Mrs. Massey absence noted the rest of the Board would need to be in attendance for a quorum. Also, Dr. Reynolds noted Mrs. Magana, Dr. Shedd, and Vice President Kinsey will meet with Mark Masterton and tentatively scheduled this meeting for Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

Merry Witzki, HALS Coordinator, reported on the High Ability Learner Program Progress Report. Mrs. Witzki noted the progress report was amended since she felt the old report

was not educationally appropriate but should move into the era of assessments. She noted the new progress report will be a formative type, more monitoring, rather than summative with a formal grade given. There are five major areas identified which include: motivation, problem solving, reasoning, creativity, communication. She requested the Board's approval of the new progress report so that it can be put into use during the 2007-2008 school year. Mrs. Witzki noted this progress report was presented at a conference in Colorado and has been put to use in four states. Dr. Shedd noted Curriculum/Technology Committee reviewed this at their last meeting and were very comfortable with the changes and recommended approval.

**Motion to approve the High Ability Learner Program Progress Report., as presented, passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Megan Massey. Yes: Shedd, Massey, Magana, Lang, Kinsey; No: None; Absent: Lordino; Motion carried.**

Dr. Reynolds noted the Board, at their last meeting, heard a presentation from Mr. Knapper that reviewed much was going to happen earlier this year when the bond referendum upgrades for the elementary schools and noted Mr. Knapper looked at the major projects that would benefit the schools the most and would request the Board direct the District administration to contact Schemmer and Associates to look at elementary upgrades and renovations and look at what the budgets might be, plans, specification, and timelines to consider and move forward on these projects. Mrs. Massey questioned if the HVAC replacement included air conditioning and ventilation. Dr. Reynolds noted the air quality in the buildings is an issue. Mr. Lang reported on his observation that he had when he took his daughter to Westmoor on the first day of school and that was one first grade classroom was moved into the 4th-5th grade wing. He feels the District needs to look at all buildings and the possibilities of adding on more classrooms because he knows that Westmoor was busting at the seams. Mr. Lang noted the District will be adding classroom space at Lincoln Heights and the Senior High School and feels discussion needs to be held with the building administrators on their classroom needs and have them bring back a report to the full Board for consideration. Vice President Kinsey noted there was a study conducted when the District was looking at closing Lincoln Heights and at that time we could have moved almost all the students into the existing buildings and would have a better idea when the enrollment numbers are obtained but noted the buildings are actually made for more capacity than what there is currently. Dr. Reynolds noted the District continues to add new programs which utilize classroom space noting most recently the Longfellow early childhood program and built an additional classroom at Westmoor for their early childhood program. Vice President Kinsey questioned if reviewing the building classroom needs, once the enrollment numbers are in, was something the administration could do. Dr. Reynolds noted he will be providing enrollment number through the month of September and will review the building classroom needs.

**Motion to direct the District administration to contact Schemmer & Associates to develop budgets, plans, specification, and schedules to upgrade the District buildings as discussed at the Board Retreat held on August 14<sup>th</sup>, passed with a**

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

Dr. Reynolds reported Mr. Knapper provided the Board with an extensive list of items to be auctioned. Permission was requested to dispose of the property via auction and recommended approval.

Mr. Lang stated he was surprised the District was selling some large expensive power tools. Dr. Reynolds noted most of the tools on the list were not in the best working conditions or have safety issues. Galen Nighswonger, Senior High Principal, stated some of the tools are equipped for large heavy construction, do not have the safeguards and are being auction due to safety reasons and should not be in high school.

**Motion to declare the property listed as surplus and to authorize the sale of the obsolete equipment by public auction, as presented, passed with a motion by Kim Magana and a second by Megan Massey. Yes: Magana, Massey, Shedd, Lang, Kinsey; No: None; Absent: Lordino; Motion carried.**

Vice President Kinsey reported the Board was in receipt of Tim Lordino's resignation. Tim will be moving to Chadron to accept the Chadron Chief of Police position, effective immediately.

**Motion to accept the resignation of Tim Lordino, board member, effective immediately, passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Kim Magana.**

Vice President Kinsey stated the Board will really miss Mr. Lordino's work. Mr. Kinsey stated he was always amazed how prepared Tim was and the fact that he was always able to work into his schedule the meetings and activities in the schools and noted Tim was really devoted to his job on the School Board. Mr. Lordino did an excellent job and will be missed but will be an asset to the Chadron Police Department and their community and wished him the best of luck. Mr. Lang thanked Tim for his years of service and noted he did a fantastic job for the District.

**Vote on the Motion is as follows: Yes: Shedd, Magana, Lang, Massey, Kinsey; No: None; Absent: Lordino; Motion carried.**

Vice President Kinsey stated the Board will need to develop a plan to fill Mr. Lordino's position and noted the state statute requires the position be filled within 45 days of the resignation. He noted the vacancy will be advertised in the Star-Herald and the Board will accept letters of interest. Vice President Kinsey recommended the full board meet to discuss the applications. Dr. Shedd stated he felt this was a reasonable approach but questioned if the position needs to be filled in the next general election to fill out the term or will this person serve until 2008. Dr. Reynolds noted the person the Board selects will fulfill Mr. Lordino's term and then someone will be elected in November of 2008 to come on the Board in January, 2009. Also, the District has a board policy which stated if the Board President can not continue to serve on the Board the Vice President will assume

the position until the Board re-elect officers at the re-organizational meeting in January. Dr. Reynolds noted the Board Secretary will advertise the vacancy for two weeks, take applications until Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, and then the Board would be able to review the applications and make an appointment at the September 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Mrs. Massey questioned if there was a policy with regard to the number of members on the board and stated she was visiting with a couple of individuals, from other states, who indicated there needed to an odd number of members to break ties and was curious if the Board had an option of adding two members. Dr. Reynolds stated the Board can have up to twelve members and read recently that the Board can choose to have more than six if they want. Vice President Kinsey stated if the Board was interested in increasing the size of the Board then maybe this can be explored prior to the next election. **It was the consensus of the Board to advertise the board vacancy and accept letters of interest from residences and registered voters from Scottsbluff School District until Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Vice President Kinsey read future meetings and dates.

**Motion to move into executive session to discuss a student matter at 7:48 p.m., passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Kim Magana. Yes: Shedd, Magana, Massey, Lang, Kinsey; No: None; Motion carried.**

**Motion to reconvene into open session and adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Megan Massey. Yes: Shedd, Massey, Lang, Magana, Kinsey; No: None; Motion carried.**

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Katherine A. Reyes, Secretary  
Board of Education