

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF DISTRICT 497, HELD IN THE LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER,
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER,
110 McDONALD DRIVE, IN THE CITY OF LAWRENCE**

April 28, 2008

INTRODUCTION OF STUDY SESSION

At 5:30 p.m., Superintendent Randy Weseman introduced the informal study session as a means for the Board of Education to receive new information regarding the timing and changes in the formula for determining the 2008-2009 budget. He encouraged board members to ask questions at any point during the presentation.

Kathy Johnson, division director, finance, presented a timeline which will be used as a guideline to establish the dates when particular determinations and decisions need to be made by the board before the budget is submitted for certification by the Douglas County clerk.

Ms. Johnson said that starting with this meeting through the June 9th meeting discussions can be held in regard to the budget and on June 23rd, a preview will be presented along with the impact of decisions made. In addition, she presented unofficial dates in the new school year when the budget will be approved for publication, a budget hearing held and final approval given.

Anticipated formula changes for 2008-2009 were highlighted, and Ms. Johnson reported that the biggest change will be in the way that virtual school students are counted. She reported that the district will no longer receive correlation (low/high enrollment) weighting or any other weighting on these students. She said, however, that at a meeting earlier in the month, Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), presented the following ways in which virtual students will be calculated:

- Estimated 5% weighting on FTE for virtual students (105% BSAPP)
- Virtual students below proficient receive an extra 25%, but must be in an approved at-risk virtual school program approved by the state (program guidelines have not yet been written)
- Virtual students in advanced placement courses will receive an additional 5% weighting per semester. If students are in virtual advanced placements and their home districts have advanced placement courses, the districts where they are virtually attending cannot get this weighting

She noted, in addition, that students completing their degrees in the Lawrence Diploma Completion Program (LDCP) through the Lawrence Virtual School will be moved from the LDCP classification into virtual counts in the district's enrollment audit. She noted also that a separate fund will be required for all virtual school expenditures. Ms. Johnson said these adjustments could alter the budget, but she does not anticipate it changing a lot.

STUDY SESSION (Continued)

Preliminary budget information and requests to the 2007-2008 budget, adjusted for 2008-2009, were presented. Kim Bodensteiner, chief academic officer; Kim Young, specialist, federal programs; and Dr. Bruce Passman, deputy superintendent; assisted in answering questions and providing explanations and additional information regarding these requests. Two new ones—a revolving uniform fund and a supplemental assignment for bowling--were highlighted.

Several board members indicated that they would like to have more details regarding each request in order to have a better understanding of its background and complexity. Administration will provide this information to the entire board as soon as possible.

At 6:55 p.m., Board President Linda Robinson suggested a five-minute break in order to prepare for the regular board meeting.

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

At 7:03 p.m., Board President Linda Robinson called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education. She welcomed the audience including those who were watching on television.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mary Loveland, seconded by John Mitchell, the board voted, in a unanimous voice vote, to approve the agenda with the following amendment: From the **CONSENT AGENDA**, remove Board Policy JQKA – International Students to be voted upon separately.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present

Linda Robinson, president
Craig Grant, vice president
Mary Loveland
Marlene Merrill
Rich Minder
John Mitchell
Scott Morgan

SAT Members Present

Randy Weseman, superintendent
Bruce Passman, deputy superintendent
Kim Bodensteiner, chief academic officer
Mary Rodriguez, chief operations officer

Julie Boyle, director, communications
Janice Dunn, clerk

Others Present (Including Administration and Staff)

Joni Appleman	Dana Atwood-Blaine	Llara Baska	Tom Bracciano
Don Brents	Mistie Copan-Thomas	David Cunningham	George Diepenbrock
Shelby Doggett	Mike Eltschinger	Marilynn Fullerton	Kevin Harrell
Kathy Johnson	Paula Murrish	Rachel Myslivy	Steve Nilhas
Donna Patton-Bryant	Rebecca Perontaux	David Reber	Lindsay Slater
Adela Solis	Bill Stogsdill	Dian Stogsdill	Jim Stogsdill
Cliff Tisdale	Karen Vespestad	John Weldon	Ellen Willets
William Winkler	Kim Young		

Marlene Merrill entered the meeting room at 7:04 p.m.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

USD 497 Community Work Experience Partner, Shelby Doggett, Pizza Hut

Donna Patton-Bryant, assistant director, special education, introduced Work Experience Coordinators Llara Baska (Free State), Cliff Tisdale (Lawrence High) and Transition Social Worker Mistie Copan-Thomas (C-Tran) and acknowledged their support of the 100 students in the district's work experience program through finding opportunities for these students to learn job skills by providing job sites, feedback, encouragement and a shared belief in their potential.

Mr. Tisdale stated that the reasons for the success of the work experience program are the wonderfully supportive Lawrence community and the willingness of the many businesses and employers to give young people a job. He said the partnership is good not only for the students and the school district, but also for the community.

Ms. Copan-Thomas introduced second year C-Tran student, Bill Stogsdill, who assisted her in presenting the second annual partnership award to Shelby Doggett, manager, 6th Street Pizza Hut. Mistie stated that Ms. Doggett has worked with Bill for over four years, and the time, effort and dedication she has given to him and the program is appreciated. Ms. Copan-Thomas said Shelby's attributes include her flexibility and willingness to look at Bill's strengths and skills. She said at a recent transition meeting, Bill's talent for working with money and numbers was discussed, and Shelby suggested that he help her with inventory. She said he began doing inventory with her that same evening.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

President Robinson asked for public comment on any item not included on the agenda. There was none.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Craig Grant, seconded by Rich Minder, the board voted, in a 7-0 roll call vote, to adopt the items listed on the consent agenda as follow:

1. The minutes of the April 14, 2008, regular meeting and executive session
2. The financial reports
3. The April 28, 2008, personnel report

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Linda Robinson acknowledged and expressed sincere appreciation to the following retirees:

From the April 14, 2008, personnel report:

...*Sherry Banker* for her 22 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her early retirement effective June 9, 2008.

...*Eloise Bornheim* for her 21 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her early retirement effective July 31, 2008.

...*Sharon Hull* for her 24 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her early retirement effective May 23, 2008.

...*Harry Morgan* for his 25 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon his early retirement effective July 1, 2008.

...*Kathy Erickson* for her 13 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective June 23, 2008.

Approval of Consent Agenda ~ Personnel (Continued)

...*Blossom Kellum* for her 11 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective May 22, 2008.

...*Larry Walker* for his 14 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon his retirement effective June 30, 2008.

From the April 28, 2008, personnel report:

...*Michael Eltschinger* for his 29 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon his early retirement effective June 30, 2008.

...*Indira Lien* for her 6 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective May 23, 2008.

...*Harold Nelson* for his 18 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon his retirement effective May 23, 2008.

...*Shelley Thull* for her 1 year of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective May 23, 2008.

4. Motions and Resolutions in Regard to Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Certified Staff

5. The monthly vouchers in the following account totals:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	\$343,994.31
Local Option	112.80
Vocational Education	2,855.73
Special Education	8,653.94
Drivers Training	1,224.21
Capital Outlay	128,963.93
Adult Basic Education	241.51
Textbook Rental	420.48
Inservice Education	2,364.77
Student Materials Revolving	1,033.12
2005 Bond-Capital Projects	97,387.54
Social Service League	61.87
Title I Yr X8	1,159.06
Title I Carryover YrX8	1,237.37
Indian Education YrX8	1,822.02
Johnson O'Malley YrX8	150.92
Math Science Title II YrX7	5,452.39
Math Science Title II YrX8	2,831.47
Drug Free School YrX7	146.21
City Drug & Alcohol 2007	607.25
ASP-Hop'N-DG County Ext- 2stYR	2,152.80
Carl Perkins Yr X8	987.60
21 st Century WD/KN/PK	272.00
21 st Century WD/KN/PK	690.35
Reading 1 st Grant Hillcrest	1,954.51
Title II – D	181.02
Title III – ESL	139.59
Title III – ESL	414.00
21 st Century Central 2 nd Year	1,224.50
21 Century-New York (Yr 2)	29.94

Approval of Consent Agenda ~ Monthly Vouchers (Continued)

Spectra Medicaid Reimb	16,978.59
Title VIB Alt Assess 08	166.32
Lawrence High School	3,533.90
Lawrence Free State HS	500.97
West Junior High School	540.07
Southwest Junior High School	100.00
Broken Arrow	530.59
Cordley Elementary	111.52
Deerfield Elementary	79.37
Prairie Park Elementary	47.96
New York Elementary	56.22
LEAP	305.00
Kansas Beef Council LHS	19.20
Kansas Beef Council CJHS	68.18
CJHS-Student Scholarships	53.97
Food Service Fund	150,643.50
TOTAL	\$782,502.57

6. The procurement card register in the following account totals:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	\$ 4,813.04
Vocational Education	13.86
Special Education	733.14
Capital Outlay	287.65
Inservice Education	398.56
Bilingual Education	1,300.00
2005 Bond-Capital Projects	308.27
Math Science Title II YrX7	2,346.30
Math Science Title II YrX8	603.50
Carl Perkins Yr X8	84.79
21 st Century WD/KN/PK	787.59
Reading 1 st Grant Hillcrest	43.72
21 st Century Central 2 nd Year	545.90
Lawrence High School	230.15
TOTAL	\$12,496.47

7. Approvals of the following:

- D. C. Abel Settlement Agreement for \$2,008.80
- District-Wide Copy Machine Contract
- Change Order – 2005 Bond Program – Package 2 – Broken Arrow/South
Revision and Correction of Storm Sewer Inlets at South
- Change Order – 2005 Bond Program – Package 2 – Broken Arrow/South
Adjustment of South Angle Walls of South Auditorium
- Change Order – 2005 Bond Program – Package 2 – Broken Arrow/South
Removal and Disposal of Existing Water Main Pit at South
- Change Order – 2005 Bond Program – Package 2 – Broken Arrow/South
Installation of BiAmp Volume 8 Digital Controller at Sound Rack at South

Approval of Consent Agenda (Continued)

8. Purchase contracts for the following:
 - Handwriting Textbook Adoption
 - Computer Workstation/Laptop Replacements

9. Board policies, first reading, as follow:
 - BBBF — District Payment for Board Professional Development and Business Travel
 - JGEC — Discrimination and Harassment
 - JGFG — Student Accidents

Board Policy JQKA – International Students, First Reading

Scott Morgan said that his request to have Board Policy JQKA removed for a separate vote was in order to acknowledge the great amount of time and work devoted by Kim Bodensteiner, chief academic officer, Kim Young, specialist, federal programs, and the high school principals on both the policy and the administrative regulations. He said there was a good, healthy review and a much better policy than the previous one is in place. He (Scott Morgan) made a motion, seconded by Mary Loveland, to approve on first reading, Board Policy JGKA – International Students. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF BOARD PRESIDENT LINDA ROBINSON

- President Linda Robinson reported that on April 17th she attended a meeting of the Public Incentives Review Committee to discuss adoption of a formal policy in regard to establishing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts and Transportation Development Districts (TDDs). She said board members will be forwarded a copy of the letter received from the City of Lawrence asking them to review the draft policy and submit by May 8th any questions, comments or suggestions.
- Ms. Robinson extended congratulations to the Lawrence Schools Foundation, as well as district staff who participated, for another successful Foundation Follies on April 18th. She said the evening was not only fun, but it benefited teachers and students.
- She reported that from April 21-23, she and Dr. Bruce Passman, deputy superintendent, traveled to Washington, D.C., with a delegation representing the Lawrence City Commission, Douglas County Commission, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and Kansas University to meet with our representatives to try to focus their attention on pressing needs and important school issues. She said, most notably, Dr. Passman spoke about the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, IDEA, and the increasing mandates that have imposed issues with decreasing resources. She said the representatives seem to be pretty focused on restructuring the NCLB Act, but offered little hope of anything happening during this legislative session.
- She said she had the pleasure of attending Lawrence High's "Showtime" last Thursday evening and extended congratulations to Choral Director Cathy Crispino on a great event. Ms. Robinson said these events are not only entertaining, but they give the community an opportunity to see the wonderful and talented students we have in our district.
- President Robinson announced recent and upcoming events as follow:
 - * Lawrence Free State Prom, Saturday, April 26
 - * Lawrence High Prom, Saturday, May 10
 - * Various retirement receptions over the next few weeks
 - * Free State (1 p.m.) and Lawrence High (4 p.m.) graduations, Sunday, May 25th

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT RANDY WESEMAN

- Superintendent Randy Weseman extended sympathy to the family of West Junior High eighth-grader Keenen Brooks who died last Friday after a lengthy battle with cancer.
- Mr. Weseman thanked the Free State students, parents and staff who served on advisory committees during the principal interview process. He said they asked great questions and were dedicated to the task of finding the best person to lead their school, and he thinks they did that by selecting Mr. Ed West. He said Mr. West will be introduced at a board meeting in the near future.
- He reported that the majority of the district's school principals and administrators participated in SchoolMessenger training last week. He stated that this is a great vehicle for getting out information.
- Superintendent Weseman said the district has been notified that Free State High School's Kate Falkenstien has been named a semifinalist in the 2008 Presidential Scholars competition. He said the finalists should be named in the next few weeks.
- He noted that this week the school district will kick off "LPS on the Move," a district-wide wellness event involving all staff and students in 20 minutes of continuous physical activity. He said schools have been very creative in coming up with ideas for these activities which will include dancing, neighborhood walks and obstacle courses.
- Superintendent Weseman thanked KU's Athletics and Facilities staffs for working with the district to secure Allen Fieldhouse for its high school graduations.

BOARD COMMENTARY

Marlene Merrill

...attended on April 22nd the KASB spring regional meeting in Atchison. She said the participants were updated on what is happening in the Legislature and a session was held on extended learning time and the ways schools are attempting to provide services for students that have not met the standards for reading and math. She said they received some interesting facts regarding student activities, including one that shows that 54% of high school students participate in some form of athletics or activities.

...announced that she was asked to serve on the legislative committee for the KASB and said she hopes to represent the board well.

Mary Loveland

...stated that she appreciated the efforts of the performers at the recent Foundation Follies, saying they are not only talented educators, but also talented and entertaining performers.

Rich Minder

...reported that he attended on April 18th the evening performance of "Number the Stars" at South Junior High School. He recalled that this is a story of the Holocaust and the courage of the people of Denmark who saved a lot of Jews from being sent away. He said the students did a great job and he was really glad to see them learning something that is historically true about the people of Denmark. He said sometimes we focus so much on academic achievement that we forget that the minds we are going to need in the future are ethical and compassionate ones.

Board Commentary (Continued)

Scott Morgan

...said he heard reports that the delegation traveling to Washington, D.C., did a very nice job of articulating its message. He said the success may be minimal, but more than if it had not been done at all.

Craig Grant

...reported that he attended on April 26th the Eggs and Issues Breakfast sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce where at least five local legislators talked about what they think the legislative wrap-up session will be. He said he does not anticipate knowing anything this week or next and the session will probably end with nothing dramatic as far as school finance is concerned.

NEW BUSINESS

Purchase Contract for John Deere Wide Area Riding Mower

Tom Bracciano, division director, facilities and operations, reported that during the recent servicing of the district's existing eight-year-old Jacobsen wide area mower, numerous stress cracks and worn and broken fittings were found in its deck and support structure. He said the mower has broken down a number of times resulting in a significant loss of productivity. To remedy the problems would require an expensive replacement of the frame and deck or replacement of the mower. He said because of the age of the mower, administration has determined that replacement of the mower would be the most financially prudent.

Following discussion, Mary Loveland made a motion, seconded by Craig Grant, to approve the (attached) purchase contract with Heritage Tractor, Inc., for the amount of \$36,483 for the purchase of a new John Deere wide area riding mower equipped as specified. The motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Purchase Contract for Drainage and Re-grading Projects – Hillcrest and Kennedy

Tom Bracciano, division director, facilities and operations, reported that both Hillcrest and Kennedy Elementary Schools have issues with surface water not being directed away from the buildings, which could result in environmental and structural problems. He recalled that these two projects were approved for summer completion, and noted that \$300,000 had been budgeted for the work.

Following a brief discussion, Mary Loveland made a motion, seconded by Rich Minder, to approve the (attached) purchase contract with R. D. Johnson Excavating Company in the amount of \$101,200 for drainage and grading improvements at Hillcrest and Kennedy as specified. The motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Purchase Contract for Roofing Projects – Centennial and Kennedy

Tom Bracciano, division director, facilities and operations, reported that as part of the five year facility improvement plan, leaking roofs at Centennial and Kennedy Elementary Schools were scheduled to be replaced. He reported further that a bid package was assembled by Bryan Hunter, supervisor, maintenance, with responses from four vendors.

New Business ~ Roofing Projects (Continued)

Following a brief discussion, John Mitchell made a motion, seconded by Marlene Merrill, to approve the (attached) purchase contract with Diamond Everley Roofing, Lawrence, Kansas, in the amount of \$100,350 (\$92,210.03 from remaining 1998 bond issue funds and \$8,139.97 from capital outlay funds) for roof replacement at Centennial and Kennedy. The motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Bracciano noted that the funds from the 1998 bond issue which were set aside for roofing projects will close out that account.

Mary Loveland left the meeting room at 7:44 p.m., and did not return.

REPORTS

Title I Changes

Ellen Willets, specialist, federal programs, reported that each year the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) sends out a preliminary report of federal fund allocations (determined by the United States Department of Education) for the following school year. She said the report recently received shows a reduction in all federal funds for 2008-2009, noting that Title I funds will be reduced over 7% from the 2007-2008 funding year. Each year the department recalculates the census in every district for families living at the federal poverty level. This year's census count shows Lawrence Public Schools with a decrease of 108 students aged 5 to 17 living in families at the federal poverty level. Ms. Willets said the final allocations will be determined and a letter forwarded from the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) by mid to late July. She said the final allocations will probably not vary much from the preliminary ones.

Ms. Willets noted that in Lawrence Public Schools, Title I eligibility for each elementary building is determined by poverty percentages using the free and reduced lunch counts. She reported that starting with the 2008-2009 school year, the district will consider poverty percentages based on where students attend school rather than in their home attendance areas. She said this will not dramatically change the percentages for schools, but will place the Title I funds where the students are attending and being supported by those funds.

According to the federal legislation, school districts are required by Title I regulations to support schools with poverty levels of 75% or greater. Ms. Willets said, however, that districts can choose to support schools with poverty levels as low as 35%, and Lawrence Public Schools has in the past selected to support elementary schools with 35% poverty and above. She reported that beginning in 2008-2009, the district will change the minimum level of poverty for Title I to 45% with the result that Cordley Elementary School will no longer receive funding. For this reason, support staff will need to be subsidized through at-risk funds as are the other non-Title I buildings. She said a budget request for this has been made.

Transfers, Reassignments and Placements in Lawrence Public Schools

Dr. Bruce Passman, deputy superintendent, reported that according to Board Policy JBCA, transfers at the elementary and junior high level are considered on the basis of 1) preference, 2) relocation and 3) medical/legal and/or emergency reasons.

Report ~ Transfers (Continued)

He said at the high school level, in order to protect the 15th Street boundary, these requests are considered “reassignments” from one high school attendance area to another and are only considered because of 1) relocation and 2) extenuating circumstances of a medical/legal and/or emergency nature.

In considering transfers, reassignments and placements the district takes into account class size, a school’s enrollment, the student’s record of attendance, his/her discipline record, sibling attendance and class composition. Dr. Passman noted that transfers are considered permanent for each educational level, but can be revoked by the building principal any time prior to the first day of school due to class size or at the end of a trimester/quarter for code of conduct issues. In the case of conduct, the student and family must be given notice and/or the opportunity to correct behavior problems.

Dr. Passman noted that appeals can be made informally to a committee consisting of two board members and two district office staff, but very few have taken place.

In 2007-2008, there were 850 transfers, placements and reassignments district-wide as follow:

Reason	# of Students	% of Students
Relocation	263	31%
English Language Learners	252	30%
Preference	211	25%
Non-Resident	54	6%
Educational Placement	51	6%
Special Education Placement	19	2%
Elementary Total – 592		
Junior High Total – 159		
High School Total – 99		

He also noted that since 2003-2004, when the total number was 965 and at a high of 995 in 2004-2005, it has consistently lowered to this year’s total.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:25 p.m., Scott Morgan made a motion, seconded by John Mitchell, to recess to executive session *to discuss negotiations in order to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract*, with Randy Weseman, superintendent; Dr. Bruce Passman, deputy superintendent; David Cunningham, division director, human resources, certified; Mary Rodriguez, chief operations officer; Kim Bodensteiner, chief academic officer; Kathy Johnson, division director, finance; Frank Harwood, chief board negotiator; and Joni Appleman, negotiations team member; invited to be present, and with the board to return to open session in this room at 9 p.m., with no action to follow. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO EXTEND EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9 p.m., the board returned to open session where a motion was made by Craig Grant, seconded by Rich Minder, to extend executive session to 9:15 p.m. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 p.m., the board returned to open session where a motion was made by John Mitchell, seconded by Rich Minder, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Janice E. Dunn
Clerk, Board of Education