

**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**

**February 26, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 5:32 p.m., Board President Shannon Kimball called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Melissa Johnson, seconded by Jessica Beeson, the board voted, in a unanimous voice vote, to approve the agenda as printed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION- Negotiations**

At 5:33 pm upon a motion by Shannon Kimball, seconded by Jessica Beeson, the Board of Education voted in a unanimous voice vote, to recess to executive session to protect the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract to discuss negotiations, pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, with Anna Stubblefield, Jerri Kemble, David Cunningham, Kathy Johnson, Samrie Devin, and Matt Brungardt, invited to be present; and with the board to return to open session in this room at 6:00 pm with possible action to follow

*Rick Ingram arrived and joined the executive session at 5:42 pm.*

At 6:00 pm the board returned and indicated there was no action to take at this time.

**WORK SESSION- High School Start Times**

The board discussed member Rick Ingram's proposal to move high school start times from 8:05 to 8:30 a.m. to promote health and academic benefits for students associated with getting additional sleep.

Ingram proposed the change due to recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association that high school start times be no earlier than 8:30 a.m. to enable students to get more sleep and perform better at school. The board hired a consultant to conduct a scientific survey of a cross-section of the community in November. Results of questions about a change in the high school start times showed that 78% of respondents felt the change should continue to be evaluated or be a priority for the board. Results from additional online surveys promoted to parents and staff showed that 69% of parents and 63% of staff respondents agreed.

Superintendent Anna Stubblefield shared that the administration recommends a year of planning and implementation of the change, so the district could more fully engage students, parents, and staff through surveys, meetings, and focus groups. "If we were to make the change, we would want it to roll out smoothly," said Stubblefield, adding that high school students have already completed course enrollment for the 2018-19 school year.

**WORK SESSION (cont.)**

In addition to having the LPS employee voice/opinion, board members cited that the change not only affects the start of school, but also after-school jobs, childcare, staffing assignments, student activities, busing, and student course enrollment.

The majority of board members indicated that they support the administration beginning to work on a timeline of study for the possible change of high school start times for the 2019-2020 school year.

**AGENDA AMENDMENT**

Upon a motion by Shannon Kimball, seconded by Jessica Beeson, the board voted, in a unanimous voice vote, to amend the meeting agenda to add another executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION- Personnel**

At 6:43 pm upon a motion by Shannon Kimball, seconded by G.R. Gordon-Ross, the Board of Education voted in a unanimous voice vote, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed; with Anna Stubblefield, David Cunningham, Samrie Devin and Jerri Kemble, invited to be present; and with the board to return to open session in this room at 7:00 pm with possible action to follow.”

At 6:57 pm the board returned and indicated there was no action to take at this time. President Kimball declared a break until 7pm.

**ROLL CALL**

| <b><u>Board Members Present</u></b> | <b><u>ELT Members Present</u></b>   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Shannon Kimball, president          | Anna Stubblefield, interim superintendent                                     |
| Jessica Beeson, vice president      | David Cunningham, executive director, human resources/ chief legal counsel    |
| Jill Fincher                        | Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, leading, learning & technology        |
| G.R. Gordon-Ross                    | Tony Barron, executive director, facilities & operations                      |
| Rick Ingram                         | Julie Boyle, executive director, communications                               |
| Melissa Johnson                     | Kevin Harrell, executive director, student services & special education       |
| Kelly Jones                         | Kathy Johnson, executive director, finance                                    |
|                                     | Paula Murrish, executive director, nutrition & wellness/printing & purchasing |
|                                     | Dawn Downing, deputy clerk  |

| <b><u>Others Present (Including Administration and Staff)</u></b> |                         |                  |                   |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Winona A.   | Will Averill            | Dennis Blackwood | Shelly Bointy     |
| Richard Borton  | Boys & Girls Club Staff | Andy Bricker     | Matthew Brungardt |
| Joel C.   | Michelle Cadue          | Steve Cadue      | Cynthia Courtney  |
| Annette Dabney  | Samrie Devin            | Laurie Folsom    | Larry Fry         |

| <b>Others Present (Including Administration and Staff) cont.</b> |               |                |                |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| F. Gipp  | Judith Gipp   | Myron Graber   | A. Harris      |
| Stanley Hayden   | Shane Heiman  | Bobbi Henson   | Alan Hollinger |
| Elvyn Jones,<br>LJ World   | Keith Jones   | Patrick Kelly  | Bernie Kish    |
| Shade Little   | Matthew M.    | N. Marshall    | Ron May        |
| Karen Middleton  | Zach N        | Shannon Reid   | Stan Roth      |
| James Saunders   | Lynn Saunders | Sarah Saunders | Gary Schmidt   |
| Isaac Schmitz  | J. Scotten    | Njeri Shomari  | Paula Smith    |
| Dustin<br>StumblingBear  | Elyse Towey   | Austin Turney  | Sandra Walker  |

At 7pm, the meeting resumed.

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

#### Ruth Gathunguri- Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year

Laura Wagner, Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence

Ms. Wagner recognized Ruth Gathunguri for being named the 2018 Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence Youth of the Year. She explained that those who earn the Youth of the Year title embody the values of leadership service, academic excellence and healthy lifestyles. They also exemplify the powerful impact that the Boys & Girls Club has on kids in Lawrence.

Ms. Gathunguri shared that “At the Boys & Girls Club, I found my inner beauty, and it began to shine on the outside.” “Now, my role (at the club) has shifted from club member being influenced to that of a mentor doing the influencing.”

Ms. Gathunguri won a college scholarship as part of the award, and will represent Lawrence at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kansas Alliance Youth of the Year state event in Topeka on March 8.

### **REPORT OF PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**

- President Shannon Kimball asked for a moment of silence for victims of the mass shooting at Parkland, FL’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.
- She shared the following statement on School Safety-  
“Five years ago, I sat in my car driving home to Lawrence and listening to the heartbreaking news of mass murder at Newton’s Sandy Hook Elementary School. In the time that followed, I thought surely that tragedy was so horrific that our state and national leaders couldn’t possibly ignore taking reasonable steps to prevent such tragedies in the future. Yet, here we are again, in the same place as we were then, with more lost lives of students and teachers. I am profoundly saddened for the victims, families, and school communities affected by the Parkland tragedy. Moreover, I am appalled at the lack of leadership, compassion, and common sense, particularly from Congress, the President, and now our new Governor, around the real issues that must be addressed to prevent these tragedies in the future. Our schools should not have to become armed fortresses in order to keep our students safe. And we should never, ever, expect our classroom teachers to take on the additional responsibility of defending our students with firearms. There HAS to be

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT.)**

another solution. Suggesting that arming teachers will prevent school shootings is naive, simplistic, and flies in the face data and of what trained security professionals know about such crisis situations. We MUST take a stand for a multi-faceted public policy solution that HAS to include a discussion about our gun laws.”

- Since the Parkland tragedy, President Kimball informed that board officers have worked with our district administration to ensure that we are supporting our students and teachers who are moved to protest the current state of our nation on this issue. She shared that we have also revisited our own security plans, and that Dr. Stubblefield would speak further to that in a moment. She shared that she was grateful that our community has supported our capital plans since 2013, allowing us to have secured entries at all of our schools. She reiterated that we will continue to discuss how we can support efforts to make our schools the safe and welcoming learning environments that our students and staff deserve.
- Activities-  
President Kimball was pleased to attend the board lunch at Woodlawn on February 13. She extended “Thanks” to Principal Jeanne Fridell and her staff for sharing the great things going on at Woodlawn. She shared that it was especially fun to hear the 5th grade students sing and play ukulele, as well as to hear from Horizon award winning kindergarten teacher Brandon Daley.
- Vice President Jessica Beeson and President Kimball continue to communicate with Dr. Anthony Lewis regarding transition planning. They are currently working on plans to schedule a board retreat with Dr. Lewis and will update the board as they progress in those discussions.
- President Kimball shared that she enjoyed attending KU Law School’s Education Policy Symposium on February 16. She deferred to Kelly Jones to provide further details of that event.
- The board’s Policy Committee met on February 19 to review the feedback they received from school leaders, PTOs, and the community on the draft fundraising policy. Based on that feedback, they are working on redrafting and will provide the redraft to the board and the community for additional feedback. At this point, President Kimball anticipates that the redrafted policy will come to the board for first reading of the first April meeting.
- Lastly, President Kimball shared that the Policy Committee met today and they had a lengthy discussion about a set of policies related to gifts and donations. These policies have not been reviewed or updated since before 2010, so we seeking advice from KASB on model policies in this area and then looking to redraft our existing policies for best practices and also consistency.

## **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Superintendent Stubblefield shared that she understood that school safety has been at the forefront of everyone’s mind with the events of February 14th in Parkland, Florida. She reiterated that our hearts go out to the entire school community of Broward County, Florida.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (cont.)**

She stressed that student and staff safety is our primary focus every day. She mentioned some of the safety and security measures that we currently have in place:

- Lawrence Public Schools employ nearly 2,000 well-trained, professional, and caring employees. They build positive relationships with students by getting to know them and understanding their individual needs. We know that relationships are a key to preventing safety issues.
- Our staff also builds strong relationships and maintains open communication with school families. We encourage our students and their families to share any safety concerns with school staff, so we may immediately follow-up with an investigation.
- We have district and school crisis plans in place, including specific procedures for lock-out and lockdown responses to unsafe activity near or inside our buildings. We are reviewing these plans with all staff and will work with local law enforcement to strengthen our procedures, according to current best practices.
- Our schools conduct safety drills, during which students and staff practice and refine these procedures.
- We have an automated notification system for emergency communication. Just as we do for snow days, we notify parents in the event of other school emergencies and safety concerns.
- Our Board of Education policy manual and student handbooks identify our expectations for student behavior, as well as consequences for violations of school rules and board policies.
- Our district has a strong partnership with local law enforcement and fire/medical services, including the involvement of representatives from each organization in our crisis planning.
- We are thankful for the Lawrence Police Department assigning School Resource Officers to each of the high schools. They also provide support at the elementary and middle schools on an as-needed basis.
- Our high schools also employ their own security staff.
- As a result of the recent bond improvements, all of our schools have secure main entries with visitor sign-in procedures and badges. We do have challenges at Lawrence High due to multiple buildings on that campus. Those issues will be addressed in the upcoming bond improvements.
- Our staff wear badges to identify themselves.
- Our buildings have internal and external surveillance cameras.
- Local law enforcement uses our facilities for trainings, and we are working with the Lawrence Police Department on a plan for some joint trainings.
- There are also two hotlines in place for anonymous reporting of safety concerns: The Lawrence/Douglas County Crime Stoppers (843-T-I-P-S) and the Kansas School Safety Hotline (1-877-626-8203)

She explained that this is not an exhaustive list, and she understands that no matter how much we plan, we cannot prepare for every scenario. We do rely on every member of our school community being aware of what's going on around them, looking out for one another, and reporting anything that seems suspicious or concerning.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (cont.)**

Superintendent Stubblefield shared that a student and a parent brought to our attention last week the threatening Snapchat post that led to a police investigation of a Free State High School student. Police have forwarded their report from that investigation to the District Attorney's Office for possible charges. Free State High School also has taken all available steps to ensure student and staff safety, including working closely with the family of the student involved and disciplinary action.

Superintendent Stubblefield thanked our Lawrence school community for its continued assistance and support. We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to maintain safe schools.

About 500 of our high school students, small groups of middle schoolers and a few teachers participated in the national 17-minute school walk-out last week in support of the victims and survivors of the Parkland, Florida school shooting and to protest gun violence. Superintendent Stubblefield stated that "The district supports students and staff exercising their rights to free speech and peaceful assembly. Any absences associated with participation in these events will be excused."

Last week was also challenging with two inclement weather days due to the ice storm Tuesday and forecasted freezing rain on Thursday. With two previous inclement weather days used on January 11 and 16, our elementary and middle schools are still meeting the state requirements for instructional minutes. Our high schools are about 20 minutes short. School will be in session on the April 20 inclement weather make-up day that the board approved as part of the school calendar. The state will then "forgive" us a second day. We will wait to see if there is additional winter weather in the coming weeks before bringing the board a plan to make up the shortfall at the high-school level.

Superintendent Stubblefield asked for patience and flexibility as our elementary teachers do their best to reschedule any parent-teacher conferences missed last week.

Superintendent Stubblefield announced that the district is planning a new format for kindergarten roundup this year. All of our elementary schools will host Parent Enrollment Nights in March to assist families with completing online registration forms and providing all of the necessary paperwork for enrollment. The elementary schools will then host the traditional Kindergarten Orientations (formerly called roundups) in April and May. We invite families of children who will turn five on or before August 31 to contact their neighborhood school for more information.

Superintendent Stubblefield extended "Congratulations" to all 14 of our National Merit Semifinalists for advancing to the Finalists level of the scholarship competition; the Sunflower Elementary School choir for its selection to perform at the Kansas Music Educators Association Conference this past weekend; all of our student musicians picked to perform with honor bands and choirs; and all of our student-athletes competing at the state level. She also made people aware that two of our wrestlers – one from each high school, placed third at state this past weekend.

We have three weeks remaining until Spring Break and she stressed that a lot of teaching and learning to still accomplish in the days ahead.

Lastly, Superintendent Stubblefield shared that Dr. Anthony Lewis spent the day with district admin/staff today and plans to be in the district on a number of occasions in the coming months, including meeting with LEA Building Representatives, the Equity Advisory Council, and DELTA; attending the board's second community conversation on April 3rd, speaking at a Chamber Luncheon on April 10th, and attending our Ci3T/School Improvement Plan training in May.

### **PATRON COMMENTARY**

President Kimball asked for patron comment on any item not included on the agenda. Several public comments were regarding an agenda item and were moved to later in the meeting.

*Laurie Folsom, LEA President, issued a statement about school safety. She discussed that due to students witnessing yet another incident of murder on a school campus at the hands of a gunman, across the country, students have organized a movement to bring the issue into sharp focus calling for leaders to enact laws to protect them against further gun violence.*

“As a union of professional educators, we encourage all students to become engaged in civic activities and to participate fully in a free democratic society. We call on all school districts to ensure that this kind of organized student activity is permitted, respected, and treated as an exercise in civic responsibility. This is- in the most genuine sense- a teachable moment.”

Ms. Folsom continued by saying, “We commend our school board, district administration and building administration's support of educators and students on this issue and to recognize that students are no longer willing to be the victims of violence. Throughout America, students are leading on an issue where the adults have failed. We must empower them and honor their commitment to civic engagement on a critical issue.”

### **BOARD COMMENTARY**

Several board members provided an update on any committees or meetings they had recently attended.

*Jessica Beeson...*

...On behalf of the Board of Education, Board Vice President Jessica Beeson acknowledged and expressed sincere appreciation to the following:

...Cheryl Keslar for her 18 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective June 11, 2018.

...Sherlyn Isbell for her 8 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective May 24, 2018.

...Carolyn McGruder for her 23 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective May 24, 2018.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Following a motion by Jessica Beeson, seconded by Kelly Jones, the board voted, in a 7-0 roll call vote, to adopt the items listed on the consent agenda.

The consent agenda included the following:

- The minutes of the February 12, 2018 regular meeting
- The February 26, 2018 personnel report
- The monthly vouchers in the following account totals:

| <b>FUND</b> | <b>FUND DESCRIPTION</b> | <b>AMOUNT</b>       |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 001         | GENERAL                 | 374,559.20          |
| 003         | FOOD SERVICE            | 134,342.72          |
| 004         | VOCATIONAL EDUCATION    | 6,635.15            |
| 005         | SPECIAL EDUCATION       | 17,169.02           |
| 009         | CAPITAL OUTLAY          | 872,290.98          |
| 018         | VIRTUAL SCHOOL          | 6,426.89            |
| 020         | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOP    | 100.00              |
| 021         | BILINGUAL FUND          | 1,051.00            |
| 024         | STUDENTS MATLS REVOLVE  | 4,549.44            |
| 030         | WORK COMP RESERVE       | 1,006.00            |
| 036         | 2017 BONDS              | 30,500.00           |
| 040 18      | TITLE 1 2018            | 468.35              |
| 044 17      | JOHNSON O'MALLEY 2017   | 692.29              |
| 046 18      | TITLE IIA 2018          | 80.00               |
| 091         | SALES TAX               | 16,160.57           |
| 095         | PAYROLL FUND            | 2,728,363.54        |
| 275         | SPECTRA-MEDICAID        | 22,237.72           |
| 800         | LOC/DON/GRA             | 60,292.39           |
|             |                         |                     |
|             | <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>      | <b>4,276,925.26</b> |

- Approvals of the following:
  - Amendment to Owner-Architect Agreement with Clark Huesemann
  - Amendment to Construction Management Contract- KBS Constructors
  - Roof Repairs-LMCMS
  - Roof Repairs- Outdoor Athletic Fields, FSHS
  - E-Rate Equipment, AOS-Meraki

### **South Middle School Name Change**

About a dozen patrons spoke passionately about the opportunity for the community to learn and grow from the pending name change. Jennifer Attocknie, the district's Native American Student Services coordinator chaired the community working group that made the final recommendation. The recommendations were Billy Mills South Middle School and Billy Mills Middle School. Ms. Attocknie shared that the group felt that having only Billy Mills in the school's name strengthened the honor of Indigenous people.

President Kimball stated "We need to be mindful that this is more than just changing a sign on the building. It has to be more than that for this to be successful," referring to the board's desire for intentional efforts to educate the community about Mills, Haskell's original gift of the land for the school's campus, and the past and present contributions of Native Americans to Lawrence history.

President Kimball opened the floor for public comment. Several individuals voiced their support in favor of the school name change-  
*Will Averill, Shelly Bointy, Steve Cadue, Cynthia Courtney, Annette Dabney, Larry Fry, Stanley Hayden, Bernie Kish, Shannon Reid, Dustin Stumbling Bear and Austin Turney.*

Upon a motion by Jill Fincher, seconded by G.R. Gordon-Ross, the board voted, in a 7-0 roll call vote, to approve the name change of South Middle School to Billy Mills Middle School, beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

The name Billy Mills Middle School was chosen in honor of the Haskell and KU graduate who won a gold medal setting a world record in the 10,000-meter race in the 1964 Olympic Games. Mills (Oglala Lakota Sioux) served in the U.S. Marines and founded and still serves as the national spokesperson for Running Strong, a nonprofit organization supporting Native youth and communities.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:43 p.m., a motion was made by Jessica Beeson, seconded by G.R. Gordon-Ross, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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Dawn Downing  
Deputy Clerk, Board of Education