

**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**

August 27, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Board President Jessica Beeson called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL

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

<u>Others Present (Including Administration and Staff)</u>			
Shane Heiman	Samrie Devin	Rick Henry	Darcy Kraus
Elvyn Jones, LJWorld	Lea Roselyn	Stephen O'Neill	Lori Johns
Linda Brandley	Barb Williams	Paula Smith	Jeff Harkin
Shirley Sheppard	S. Rott		

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by GR Gordon-Ross, seconded by Shannon Kimball, the board voted in a unanimous voice vote, to approve the agenda, as published.

REPORT OF PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Beeson

President Jessica Beeson shared prepared remarks to address some rumors circulating about budget issues. Beeson shared that the \$10,000 recently budgeted for the superintendent salary was not a raise. It was budgeting funds in 2018-19 to address the original contract negotiated with the incoming superintendent. Additionally, Beeson clarified that the deputy superintendent position was created in 2016-17, but the board selected Dr. Anna Stubblefield to fill the role of interim superintendent instead during the 2017-18 school year. The board added \$20,000 to Stubblefield's contract as part of a retention package. She assumed the duties of deputy superintendent in July of 2018.

Beeson shared that certified teacher salaries were not included in some of the early budget documents the board used when discussing priorities because teacher salary decisions occur as a result of the negotiations process. The board meets in executive session to discuss all aspects of the issues being negotiated. Some of the later budget documents reviewed by the board included a line item for teacher salaries, but the amount was left blank pending negotiations.

"The early documents were not meant to suggest teachers' salaries were not a priority, it was not included in deference to the negotiations process. The board shares salary information during the negotiations, not the budget process," Beeson said. "While I understand surrounding districts are offering larger increases this year, we offered a 6.1% increase last year, which was more than surrounding districts. This is not to say we don't wish we could offer increases of that size every year, because we do wish we could."

Deficit spending was another topic Beeson addressed. "Our credit card, so to speak, is maxed out," she said, "and we do not have a choice but to make a payment toward our debt. This isn't what anyone on the board wants to spend money on, but we are at a critical point where the amount of deficit spending we have been doing is a major concern. Our reserve funds are spent down."

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT LEWIS

Superintendent Lewis

We've completed the first full week of school for all students with a lot of positive staff-student connections and engaging lessons.

There is a Negotiations session schedule for 5:00 on Wednesday.

Our Nutrition and Wellness Department received 4,300 pounds of watermelon, cantaloupe, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, snack peppers, and some apples from five local farms last week. Our school salad bars are very colorful with lots of fresh, healthy choices.

The Nutrition and Wellness Department also is providing the evening meal at the new Boys and Girls Club Teen Center until they are able to hire a manager/cook.

I have several invitations for Board members:
Please stop by the All-Staff Mixer from 4:30-6:30 p.m. this Thursday at Lawrence Beer Co. if your schedules permit.

The Chamber's Taste of Lawrence "Salute to Education" Mixer is 4-7 p.m. on September 6. Please notify Alyse if you would like tickets.

Darryl Monroe, a 1990 Lawrence High graduate and current New York Yankees scout, will be the keynote speaker of the 17th annual Lawrence Schools Foundation Community Education Breakfast on Friday, September 7, from 7:30-9 a.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel. We will also highlight some of our students' talents and accomplishments at this event. You may contact the Foundation at 330-1941 about tickets.

You all should have also received from the Foundation an invitation to a private Meet-and-Greet with Mr. Monroe on September 6 from 5:30-7 p.m. at The Eldridge.

The Boys and Girls Club's ribbon cutting at the Don and Beverly Gardner Center for Great Futures will be held from 4-6 p.m. September 6.

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Club for their successful "Over the Edge" fundraiser this weekend. Dr. Anna Stubblefield led a team of administrators and teachers that rappelled off the 888 Lofts building downtown on Saturday.

I would remind the public that all of our schools and district offices will be closed Monday for the Labor Day holiday.

PATRON COMMENTARY

President Beeson asked for public comment on any item not included on the agenda.

There was no patron commentary.

BOARD COMMENTARY

Shannon Kimball attended the National School Board Association Summer Leadership Seminar in Chicago in which NSBA released a new safety guide that she asked to be shared with board members. The district is able to submit feedback to them regarding school safety issues. Also reminded board members the Annual Convention for KASB this year is Friday, November 30 - Sunday, December 3 in Overland Park, KS.

Melissa Johnson gave kudos to the staff at Lawrence High School. She attended open house and was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the teachers and loved their genuine positivity.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

There was no consent agenda.

REPORTS

Board Document Management Systems - BoardPaq and BoardDocs

Two vendors of board document management systems: BoardDocs and BoardPaq, presented information to the board. Both offer online access to board agendas, minutes, policies, archives, and other documents. Board member Kelly Jones said that she felt the expense of a new system would be worth it in terms of improving transparency with the public, especially with user-friendly access to board policies. The board did not take action on the item, but plans to forward any questions to the representatives of the two vendors.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:32 p.m., a motion was made by Shannon Kimball, seconded by Rick Ingram, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Alyse Donnell
Board Clerk, Board of Education