

**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**

December 18, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

At 5:01 p.m., Board President Shannon Kimball called to order the special meeting of the Board of Education.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Marcel Harmon, seconded by Jessica Beeson, the board voted, in a unanimous voice vote, to approve the agenda, as published.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:02 pm, upon a motion by Shannon Kimball, seconded by Jessica Beeson, the board voted, in a unanimous voice vote, to recess to executive session to discuss matters affecting a student in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed; with Anna Stubblefield and David Cunningham, invited to be present; and with the board to return to open session in this room at 5:30 p.m. with possible action to follow.

Melissa Johnson arrived at 5:24 pm and joined the Executive Session.

At 5:34 pm, Dr. Stubblefield exited from the meeting and left the building.

At 5:35 p.m., the board returned and indicated there was no further action that needed to be taken at this time.

ROLL CALL

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>ELT Members Present</u>
Shannon Kimball, president	Dr. Anna Stubblefield, interim superintendent
Jessica Beeson, vice president	Julie Boyle, executive director, communications
Jill Fincher	David Cunningham, executive director, human resources/chief legal counsel
Marcel Harmon	Dawn Downing, deputy clerk
Rick Ingram	
Melissa Johnson	
Vanessa Sanburn	
<u>Others Present (Including Administration and Staff)</u>	
Elvyn Jones, LJWorld	Shane Heiman

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

2018 Legislative Priorities- The board reviewed the prepared document regarding the 2018 legislative priorities. Included among the school board's priorities for the upcoming Kansas Legislative Session are full and fair funding of public schools, nonpartisan, spring school board elections and local control of school governance, curriculum and the evaluation of school personnel.

The board supports the Kansas State Board of Education's Kansans Can vision and Kansas College and Career Readiness Standards, as part of its mission to support student achievement and success.

The board backs long-term and sustained funding for the KPERs system and revisions to the Student Data Privacy Act to enable districts to administer surveys to assess the health and wellbeing of students and student perceptions of their personal safety while at school.

Board members see maintaining an independent judiciary as necessary to enforcing the provisions of the Kansas Constitution. Following the sunset of the block-grant funding system, the Kansas Legislature during its 2017 session, adopted a new school finance framework. The Kansas Supreme Court then ruled in October that the new funding system is unconstitutional. The ruling in the Gannon v. Kansas school finance case found that the state failed to meet the Kansas Constitution's requirements to fund education adequately. The Court did not specify a dollar amount needed to reach a constitutional level of funding. The ruling also ordered a fair distribution of state funding to ensure that students in poor districts have the same educational opportunities as their peers in wealthier communities. The Lawrence school board advocates that ample funding be applied to the state's formula in order to meet the constitutional requirements of equity and adequacy.

Board members support tax policy based on a balanced and sustainable mix of sales, income and property tax revenues and funding increases to support special education, behavioral health and early learning services. "Don't rob Peter to pay Paul if it means more kids are going to be hungry, more kids are going to be homeless, and we are not going to be able to do our jobs to meet the needs of all students," said Vanessa Sanburn, board member. "A robust social safety net is vital in our state in order for our district to do the best it can to serve students." The board added this admonition to the document.

The Lawrence school board also opposes attempts by legislators to change the selection process for judges or limit the ability of the courts to enforce constitutional provisions. Board members oppose any amendments to Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution that would alter or lessen the Legislature's duty to provide suitable funding for public schools.

Board members included in their legislative agenda the stipulation that whenever costs incurred by local school districts that are attributed to actions of any agency acting under state authority, those costs should be reimbursed to the school district by the state. It states that new curriculum and program requirements should not be imposed unless the change has received an independent cost study and the state provides additional funding.

Upon a motion by Vanessa Sanburn, seconded by Jessica Beeson, the board voted, in a unanimous voice vote, to approve the 2018 legislative priorities with only minor additions and changes to the original draft (Attachment 1- also found online at www.usd497.org/schoolboard).

Kimball will share a summary of these top concerns during an annual legislative event hosted by the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, on January 5, 2018.

Rick Ingram arrived at 5:49.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

President Kimball shared the proposed agenda for the January 8, 2018 board meeting to ensure that the board members were available at the proposed times-

- 5pm Individual & Group Photos
- 5:45 pm Oath for new and recurring board members
- 6pm Bond Work Session
- 7pm Regular Board Meeting

RAY & ASSOCIATES PRESENTATION

The Lawrence Board of Education met with consultants, Gloria Davis and Ryan Ray with the executive search firm Ray & Associates to discuss the status of the superintendent search. Mr. Ray shared that his organization contacted 934 individuals, in 48 states, about the superintendent vacancy. Of those contacted, sixty (60) people applied for the position.

The firm evaluated the 60 applications based on the candidates' administrative experiences and academic backgrounds. They then screened the applicants based on the candidate profile determined by the school board from community input gathered through focus groups and surveys.

The criteria state that the successful candidate will be a leader who:

- Possesses the leadership skills required to respond to the challenges presented by an ethnically and culturally diverse community.
- Inspires trust, has high levels of self-confidence and optimism, and models high standards of integrity and personal performance.
- Is a strong communicator; speaking, listening and writing.
- Listens to input, build consensus and commitment among individuals and groups with emphasis on parental involvement, and is a decision maker.
- Delegates authority appropriately while maintaining accountability.
- Possesses excellent people skills, can present a positive image of the district, and is committed to community visibility.
- Is strongly committed to a "student first" philosophy in all decisions.
- Develops and communicate a vision of quality education for the future to the Board, staff and community.
- Possesses the ability to enhance student performance, especially in identifying and closing or narrowing the gaps in student achievement.

- Promotes a positive and professional environment for district employees and the board.
- Has experience recruiting and maintaining exceptional staff for the district and schools.

After considering the local criteria, Ray and Associates interviewed and investigated candidates through references, state officials, other school administrators and individuals who knew the candidates' abilities and strengths. The firm then determined there were eleven (11) applicants whom they felt met the requirements and possessed the desired specified characteristics. These individuals are from the following states- Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

"All 11 top candidates were contacted and are still interested in the position," Ryan Ray said.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:56 pm, upon a motion by Vanessa Sanburn, seconded by Jessica Beeson, the board 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 Gloria Davis and Ryan Ray from Ray & Associates, and David Cunningham, invited to be present; and with the board to return to open session in this room at 8:30 p.m. with possible action to follow.

At 8:30 p.m., the board returned and made another motion by Vanessa Sanburn, seconded by Marcel Harmon, to recess back to executive session to continue to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed; with Gloria Davis and Ryan Ray from Ray & Associates, and David Cunningham, invited to be present; and with the board to return to open session in this room at 9:30 p.m. with possible action to follow. The board agreed in a unanimous voice vote.

At 9:30 p.m., the board returned and indicated that no further action was needed at this time.

During executive session, the board was able to review the applications and choose top candidates for initial interviews the week of January 15. This will allow for the newly elected board members who are being sworn in on January 8 to participate in this process. Following the initial interviews, the new board will select finalists for second interviews and public meet-and-greets during the week of January 22. The board plans to name the next district leader by February.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:32 p.m., a motion was made by Melissa Johnson, seconded by Jill Fincher, to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Dawn Downing
Deputy Clerk, Board of Education



Lawrence Public Schools - USD 497 2018 Legislative Priorities

Universal public education, a foundation of our democracy, is a fundamental right that does and should provide for each child the opportunity to reach his/her potential. Lawrence USD 497 is committed to policies that promote continuous academic growth for students of all races and backgrounds.

Kansas public education is governed by locally elected, non-partisan boards of education, citizens from varied backgrounds serving school districts without pay and with accountability to district voters. USD 497 supports this system of local control by school boards.

Kansas Constitution

- Lawrence USD 497 opposes amending Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution to alter or lessen the legislature's constitutional duty to provide suitable funding to public schools.

School Finance/Tax Reform

- Lawrence USD 497 advocates for full and fair funding of the school finance framework adopted in 2017 that meets the constitutional requirements of equity and adequacy, and tax policy based on a balanced and sustainable mix of sales, income, and property tax revenues.
- Lawrence USD 497 supports special education services and funding at the required 92% of excess cost.
- Lawrence USD 497 supports increased funding and increased access to behavioral health services.
- Lawrence USD 497 supports expanding funding for early learning programs to recognize and address academic and social needs as quickly as possible for all kids, particularly children at-risk.
- Lawrence USD 497 recognizes that a robust social safety net is vital to ensuring that students arrive at school ready to learn each day. Therefore, Lawrence USD 497 opposes further reducing funding of social services in an effort to meet the state's constitutional duty to adequately and equitably fund public schools.

Governance

- As the constitutional authority charged with the management of local schools, the school board is accountable to district patrons through the electoral process, and must be the final authority on local management decisions for expenditures, personnel, and programs.
- School districts and interlocals should be authorized to provide virtual schools and programs meeting the same accountability requirements as traditional schools.

Elections

- School board members should be elected as part of non-partisan elections held in the spring.
- Lawrence USD 497 opposes legislation that limits qualified individuals from serving on local school boards. Existing conflict of interest policies suffice to ensure accountability.

Curriculum

- A district's curriculum should be established by the local board of education, not by state statute, as long as the district meets state accreditation requirements.
- Whenever costs are incurred by local school districts that can be attributed to actions of any agency acting under state authority, those costs should be reimbursed to the school district by the state. New curriculum and program requirements should not be imposed unless the change has received an independent cost study and additional funding is provided by the state.

Personnel

- Lawrence USD 497 supports evaluation of personnel as a local responsibility, focused on improving instruction and student achievement and based on multiple measures of performance.

Standards and Accountability

- Lawrence USD 497 supports the implementation of the State Board of Education's Kansas Can vision, and the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards, with continued emphasis on career and technical education, an outcomes-based accreditation system for Kansas school districts, and meaningful support for districts not meeting accreditation standards.
- High school graduation proficiencies should be established by local boards of education. The establishment of "proficiency" standards by the State Board should be guidelines not requirements.

KPERS

- Lawrence USD 497 supports a long-term, sustained commitment to state funding for KPERS.
- Lawrence USD 497 opposes making KPERS a non-contributory system. The Legislature should consider changes in the KPERS system to reduce the need for state general fund support, providing that benefits remain appropriate to attract and retain qualified employees.
- Lawrence USD 497 supports reinstating the previous working after retirement laws to allow KPERS retired staff to continue working without penalty.

Independent Judiciary

- Lawrence USD 497 supports the role of an independent judiciary in enforcing constitutional provisions and opposes either changing the selection process for judges or limiting the ability of the courts to enforce these provisions, which would weaken the separation of powers in Kansas.

Student Data

- Lawrence USD 497 supports revising the Student Data Privacy Act to allow districts to administer surveys such as the Youth Behavior Risk Survey to assess health and wellbeing and to monitor student perceptions of safety in schools.