

**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**

January 8, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

At 5:45 p.m., Board President Shannon Kimball called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ADMINISTERING OF OATH

Jamie Shew, County Clerk of Douglas County administered the oath of office to G.R. Gordon-Ross, Melissa Johnson and Kelly Jones.

BOARD WORK SESSION

Chief Operations Officer Kyle Hayden reviewed the bond project timeline and the schematic designs for renovations at South and Southwest Middle Schools and The Collee and Career Center. The improvements are the result of the successful \$87 million bond election approved by voters last May.

Clark and Huesemann, the architects shared that they have met with staff and parents at each school, and are planning to meet with students to discuss the improvements. The goals for the middle school projects include providing spaces that are shared, flexible, active, visible, transparent and diverse, and that enable student choice and anywhere learning.

Library space redesign shows up as a key design component of both projects. The new library spaces will accommodate diverse study and collaborative work spaces, book stacks, a genius bar, maker space and quiet study alcoves. Both school projects also include roofing and lighting upgrades and renovations to restrooms and locker rooms to improve student privacy. Construction at South and Southwest Middle Schools will begin in May, while work on Liberty Memorial Central and West Middle Schools will begin in May of 2019.

ROLL CALL

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

<u>Others Present (Including Administration and Staff)</u>			
Laura Basham	Jennifer Fessenden	Rick Henry	Denise Johnson
Leah Wisdom	Kirsten Wondra	Ellen Willets	Laurie Folsom
Elvyn Jones, LJWorld	Diane Weber	Lois Orth-Lopes	Erica Boos
Chloe McNair	Caleb McNair	Jane Huesemann	Steve Clark
Kathleen Gordon-Ross	Art & Mary Sue Wittmer	Luke Deers	Mitch Reib
Dr. Stan Roth	Stan Meyers	Ryan Edwards	Rich Minder
Tammy Wallin	Heather Staab	Erin Smith-Bird	Gary Schmidt
Marie Taylor	Shelley Dougherty	Jamie Gabriel	Aria Williams
Jessica Dameron	Kristin Schneller	Shane Heiman	Rusty Shelton
Lori Michel	Katie Pursm	Erica Hunter	Suzy Green
Jody Meyer	Kirsten Evans		

REPORT OF PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Kimball shared the following:

“Welcome back from the holidays, and Welcome to our new board members, G.R. Gordon-Ross and Kelly Jones. They, along with Melissa Johnson, were sworn in earlier this evening. Thank you for your willingness to serve and I look forward to working with you.

Since our December 11 regular meeting, the board has had a special meeting on December 18 to review applications for the superintendent’s position. We selected 6 applicants to bring in for the first round of interviews, which will take place next week. The finalists will then be determined and asked back for final interviews the week of January 22. We anticipate having a public meet and greet session with each of the final candidates on the day of the candidate’s interview. More details will be available once we are further along in the process, but tentatively we have scheduled the public sessions for 5 to 6 pm at Lawrence High on the evenings of the finalist interviews. I am very pleased with the number of applications our search firm received for the position, and in the quality of the applicants that were considered for interviews.

Thank you to board members who were able to attend the board lunch at Quail Run Elementary on December 12. We heard from a number of 4th grade students about their STEM learning projects, as well as from student leaders participating in student council.

Thank you to all the community members who attended the board’s community forum on December 14 at the Lawrence Public Library. We had the opportunity to engage in substantive conversations in smaller groups around issues of equity, mental health, special education, teaching and learning, and the achievement gap. The feedback gathered from those conversations is being compiled and will be shared with the community soon.

I had the pleasure of attending the open house held by Native American Student Services on December 19. I learned about current happenings in their program appreciated the opportunity to visit their space at Centennial.

Last Thursday, we had our first Facilities Committee meeting of the new year. Thank you to G.R. for stepping up to serve on that committee. We received updates on the items discussed during tonight’s work session, as well as the capital outlay plan that we will hearing about later this evening.

Earlier today, we also had our first Policy Committee meeting of the new year. Thank you to Kelly for taking on a position with that committee.

Last Friday, I spoke about our legislative priorities at the annual Chamber breakfast with our legislative delegation. We also had the opportunity to sit down with most of them Friday afternoon to talk about those priorities in greater detail. Thank you to Jill, Jessica, and all the district staff who attended to provide information to our delegation. The biggest issue we face this year is how the legislature will craft a response to the Supreme Court’s order in Gannon. I am confident that our delegation understands our legislative position on amending the constitution and other issues related to that potential response.

REPORT OF PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION (continued)

Superintendent Evaluation—you each have a copy of the evaluation tool we have adopted. We are using the tool as is, as the work to revise our superintendent's job description and align the tool with the revised job description is still in process.

Our evaluation of Dr. Stubblefield will be completed during the Feb. 12 board meeting. Please fill out the tool and return it to David Cunningham by February 5. David and I will use the evaluation tool's process to compile the final evaluation that we will discuss as a board and then with Dr. Stubblefield on the 12th. Note that if you include comments, those comments will be provided to Dr. Stubblefield but they will not be provided anonymously."

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT STUBBLEFIELD

Superintendent Stubblefield shared that Kansas Commissioner of Education Randy Watson called both of our Horizon Award nominees today at their schools to inform them they were selected as Kansas Horizon Award winners. They are Brandon Daley, Woodlawn fifth-grade teacher, and Berenice Weisel, Southwest Middle School secondary therapeutic classroom teacher. They will join the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network, which offers statewide networking and professional development opportunities.

She expressed her congratulations to Lawrence High senior, Belle Ray, who was named a National YoungArts Foundation Merit winner in Photography. She will receive a cash prize of up to \$10,000 and participate in YoungArts Los Angeles in March.

Superintendent Stubblefield shared that Free State's Debate Team continues to earn honors. Coach Kelly Thompson was named the Kansas Debate Coaches' Invitational Coach of the Year this past weekend, and the Novice Squad's performance at the Sunflower Novice State Championships earned them the Number 2 ranking among Novice Squads in Kansas.

She reminded the public that our schools and district offices will be closed on Monday due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Superintendent Stubblefield invited the community to join us for our annual ONE DREAM MLK Celebration on Thursday, January 18, at Free State High School. The gallery opens at 5:30 p.m. in the commons area. The program, featuring the annual MLK Awards and cultural tributes and performances, follows at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

She also shared that the Lawrence Schools Foundation invites the public to purchase tickets at the Lied Center Box Office or on its website to Ovation!, the second annual districtwide talent show. Our talented middle and high school students will perform at 7:30 p.m. on January 21, on the Lied Center stage.

Lastly, Superintendent Stubblefield notified the public that The Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence will honor its Youth of the Year on January 25 at 7 p.m. at Liberty Hall. This is a free, public event. She extended congratulations to this year's Youth of the Year candidates: Lawrence High junior Hasiya Asuku and Free State junior Ruth Gathunguri and senior Christian LaPointe.

PATRON COMMENTARY

None at this time

BOARD COMMENTARY

Jessica Beeson

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

Valerie Petersen-Beard ... for her 4 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/24/2018.

Mark Robinson... for his 25 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon his retirement effective 5/24/2018.

Douglas Romary... for his 28 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon his retirement effective 5/24/2018.

Michel Bower... for his 25 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon his retirement effective 1/31/2018.

Melissa Johnson

She welcomed G.R. and Kelly.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Jessica Beeson, seconded by Melissa Johnson, the board voted, in a 7-0 roll call vote, to adopt the items listed on the Consent Agenda with the removal of the memorandum of understanding, to be discussed in more detail later in this meeting.

The Consent Agenda included the following:

- The minutes of the December 11, 2017, regular board meeting and December 18, 2017 special board meeting
- The financial reports including school activity funds
- The monthly vouchers in the following account totals:

FUND	FUND DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
001	GENERAL	538,699.26
002	LOCAL OPTION BUDGET	1,425.00
003	FOOD SERVICE	186,640.64
004	VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	5,451.16
005	SPECIAL EDUCATION	35,405.02
009	CAPITAL OUTLAY	216,983.63

011	SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	6,466.50
015	ADULT BASIC EDUCATION	12.52
018	VIRTUAL SCHOOL	103,482.37
020	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOP	15,838.28
021	BILINGUAL FUND	932.47
022	PARENTS AS TEACHERS	310.24
024	STUDENTS MATLS REVOLVE	8,492.99
026	AR RISK 4 YEAR OLD	228.00
035	2013 BONDS	442,481.31
036	2017 BONDS	406,288.62
037	LEASE PROJ 23 RD ST	482,852.00
040 18	TITLE 1 2018	6,659.85
043 18	INDIAN EDUC TITLE 2018	305.50
044 17	JOHNSON O'MALLEY 2017	308.63
046 17	TITLE IIA 2017	31,410.00
046 18	TITLE IIA 2018	26,347.75
047 17	TITLE III ESL 2017	1,011.50
048 18	CARL PERKINS 2018	285.60
049 18	PERKINS RESERVE 2018	238.00
050 18	TITLE VIBDIS 2018	3,546.20
053 18	KMSG MIDDLE SCHOOL 2018	1,324.84
054 18	KS DEAF/BLIND 2018	378.00
095	PAYROLL FUND	3,257,839.78
275	SPECTRA-MEDICAID	31,155.81
800	LOC/DON/GRA	19,390.53
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 5,832,192.00

- Approvals of the following:
 - 2017-18 Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Renewal
 - Asbestos Services Agreement w/ Terracon
 - Gould Evans Agreement - East Heights Renovation
 - Classroom Furniture Mockup-Free State High School/Lawrence High School
 - Mar Lan Contract GMP - Lawrence College & Career Center
 - LVS Computer Purchase

Following a motion by Shannon Kimball, seconded by Jill Fincher, the board voted, in a unanimous voice vote, to amend the order of reports so that the Capital Improvement Plan was presented first instead of last.

REPORTS~

Capital Improvement Plan

Kyle Hayden, chief executive officer, -- Tony Barron, executive director, maintenance & operations, and Kathy Johnson, executive director, finance, provided an overview of school facility maintenance and renovation, along with the purchase of equipment and furniture. These are items not included in bond issues. Planning for capital expenditures occurs in tandem with bond construction planning, though, to ensure cost-effective use of available resources.

Facilities and Operations staff develop the Capital Plan after visiting with principals about building needs. Capital project costs are balanced with availability of resources with priority given to improvements related to safety and security, educational effectiveness, operational efficiency and equity.

The Capital Plan is a four-year plan funded by an annual maximum property tax levy of 8 mills, generating approximately \$10 million. The school board in recent years has moved the salaries of some classified support staff who work in trades to the Capital Outlay Fund in order to relieve pressure on the General Fund.

The Capital Plan also includes leases of equipment related to the high school outdoor athletic facilities and technology for teachers and students, which require repairs and/or replacement on a regular cycle. For example, this is the tenth season of Free State baseball on the synthetic turf; therefore, there are plans for high school athletic field turf replacement.

Patron Insight Survey Results

Ken DeSieghardt, CEO of Patron Insight, Inc., presented a formal report detailing the results of a scientific telephone survey administered in November and December, as part of the school board's engagement goal to gather feedback from staff, parents and community members. There was a total of 400 completed interviews.

Respondents gave eight of 16 different people, program, facility and district/patron relationship factors a grade of 'B' or better (or the statistical equivalent of 'B') on the traditional A-F grading scale. The four highest scores were for 'Performance of district teachers,' 'Quality of education,' 'Performance of school principals' and 'How the district uses technology to enhance student learning.'

DeSieghardt went on to share that the four lowest marks were for "The district's record on making and fulfilling promises," "Efforts of the district to involve citizens in decision-making," "Class sizes, meaning the number of students in each classroom," and "The balance of spending among academics, athletics and the arts."

He added that the district received strong scores on six different factors related to environmental and student development issues, such as "Providing the necessary services to students qualifying for Special Education services" and "Providing a school environment that supports students, regardless of their race or ethnicity."

REPORTS (CONTINUED)~

Evaluating opportunities available to students, survey participants were also positive about statements asking whether students had equal opportunities for leadership positions, for advanced-level courses, etc., regardless of their background and personal characteristics. The lowest score on that list related to whether discipline is applied fairly. On that measure, 57% answered "Strongly Agree/Agree."

Survey participants supported the possibility of moving high school start times 25 minutes later, maintaining Wednesday early-dismissal time at the elementary and middle levels to provide teachers collaboration time, and sticking with the current school calendar.

Read the full report, as well as results of employee, parent and community online surveys at www.usd497.org/communityengagement. The online surveys were completed by over 1500 participants- 978 parents, 571 staff and 43 community members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:46 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 personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed; with Dr. Brenda Dietrich (via phone) and David Cunningham, executive director of human resources/chief legal counsel, invited to be present; and with the board to return to open session in this room at 8:16 p.m. with possible action to follow.

At 8:19 pm, the board returned and indicated that they there was no further action to be taken at this time.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

David Cunningham, executive director, human resources/chief legal counsel explained that the MOU is between the School District, the Lawrence Police Department, the 7th Judicial District Court of Douglas County, and the Douglas County District Attorney's Office, pursuant to K.S.A. 72-89b03(i) as amended by Senate Bill 367.

The purpose of the MOU is to establish understanding between the above listed community agencies and School District involved in the referral of school-based behaviors to law enforcement or the juvenile justice system. The goal of the MOU is to reduce such referrals by collaborating on best practices to refer school based behaviors to the proper authority with consideration to the impact on the student, school community, and public safety.

Upon a motion by Jessica Beeson, seconded by Jill Fincher, the board voted in a unanimous voice vote to enter into the MOU in order to comply with the provisions of Kansas Statutes Annotated 72-89b03(i) as amended by Senate Bill 367."

REPORT (continued)

Tiny K

The Board of Directors of Tiny-k Early Intervention Services of Douglas County requested that USD497 become the lead/fiscal agency responsible for its services to children from birth to age three with development disabilities, beginning in August of 2018.

District administrators told the board the merger would grow the district's reach to qualifying students in need of services at an earlier age and create a continuous support system as developmental needs change throughout a child's school experience.

"With Tiny-k becoming part of the district, it brings the opportunity to blend funding streams and program resources to effectively support all early learning programs offered by Lawrence Public Schools," said Kevin Harrell, executive director of student support services and special education. "Opportunities to restructure our current early childhood programs would also be a benefit to effectively supporting and strengthening our programs and early learning services in the community."

The Tiny-k Board of Directors, Success by Six Coalition of Douglas County and the Kansas State Department of Education have expressed support for the proposal.

Board members asked that a breakdown of expected expenses and a list of potential advantages to the merger be shared when the proposal is brought back for consideration of approval at the January 22 school board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:01 p.m., a motion was made by Jill Fincher, seconded by Rick Ingram, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Dawn Downing
Deputy Clerk, Board of Education