

**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**

**October 9, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 6 p.m., Board President Shannon Kimball called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion by Shannon Kimball, seconded by Vanessa Sanburn, 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 David Cunningham and Anna Stubblefield, invited to be present; and with the board to return to open session in this room at 6:45 p.m. with possible action to follow.

At 6:45 p.m. the board returned and indicated there was no action to take at this time and declared a break until 7pm.

**RETURN**

At 7pm, Shannon Kimball reconvened the board meeting.

**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.

**ROLL CALL**

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>SLT Members Present</u>
Shannon Kimball, president	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	Kevin Harrell, executive director, student support services/special education
Rick Ingram	Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, leading, learning & technology
Melissa Johnson	Dawn Downing, deputy clerk
Vanessa Sanburn	

<u>Others Present (Including Administration and Staff)</u>			
Brianna Alexander	Jennifer Bessolo	Jose Cornejo	Britt Crum-Cano
Laurie L. Folsom	Janet Hare	Rick Henry	Alan Hollinger

Chester Hubbard	Elvyn Jones, LJWorld	Kelly Jones	Darcy Kraus
Amber R.	Bob Schmidt	Bob Schummer	Njeri Shomari
Karli Wahpat	Ellen Willets	Kirsten Wondra	

**REPORT OF PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President Kimball asked that we take a moment of silence for local and national victims of gun violence this past week.

President Kimball read the response letter that she sent to Tom Markus, City Manager, on the fee waiver request that Lawrence Public Schools submitted-

*“In an effort to be good stewards of our bond dollars, we approached the City of Lawrence requesting that the city waive 50% of the building permit fees to be charged for our upcoming bond projects from our bond issue approved in May 2017. The amount requested to be waived is \$90,000.*

*We made the same request as to our 2013 bond projects, which was GRANTED by the city.*

*Let me be clear about three things. First, this was NOT a request to waive any of the requirements related to city inspections of our construction projects. We have been fully involved in working with the city on site inspections since September 2015 and have made no request and have no intention to request any variance to that process. Our request did not mention this at all, and I am especially disappointed that the media has made an assumption that it did, without taking the time to call myself or Dr. Stubblefield to clarify the issue before running both an article and an editorial making that unsubstantiated assumption.*

*Second, we DID fully budget for permit fees in the \$87.5 million bond budget. Absent the City’s approval of our request, we will and are fully able to pay the total estimated permit fee amount of \$180,000.*

*Third, this type of request is common in public projects and in the past was granted. I want to point out that the City waives fees and provides millions of dollars in incentives to corporations and developers —case in point, the NRA request before this board tonight was approved by the City Commission last week, and it represents a property tax abatement and sales tax savings of approximately \$1.3 million to a private developer and former City Commission member. The school district, in making our waiver request, was*

*simply seeking to have the same consideration for the district and for local taxpayers in treatment for a substantial economic investment in our community that is allowed for businesses and developers in our community. Moreover, if the city were to grant our request, the permit fees saved would be put right back into the school upgrade projects, allowing us to spend more money to directly benefit our students.*

### **REPORT OF PRESIDENT (continued)**

*Given the City's initial response to our request, the district has decided not to pursue the matter further. We hope that we can work together on these issues in the future in a more positive spirit of cooperation."*

President Kimball attended the September 26<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting at Peaslee Tech for the new automotive education space. She shared many thanks to our community partners and the auto dealerships who pledged the funds necessary to make that space a reality.

President Kimball also attended the KASB Fall Regional Meeting for region 1 on October 2nd. She heard informative presentations from Leavenworth district on their communications strategies, particularly their student internship program and production of a student run district podcast this year. She also heard from Basehor Linwood on development of their CTE building and programming. Thy received an extensive update from KASB staff on the Gannon decision, which was released that afternoon.

President Kimball was in attendance for the KOMA and KORA training by the Kansas Attorney General's office on October 6<sup>th</sup>. She reported that she received great information on how to act in compliance with open meetings and open records requirements under state statute. The slides from the training are publicly available. She indicated that if any board member was interested to let her know and that she would email the link.

### **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT STUBBLEFIELD**

Superintendent Stubblefield thanked the staff, students, parents and community members who completed surveys and/or attended a focus group or public forum last week as part of the Superintendent Search. The search firm will compile all of that input for sharing with the board during a special meeting a week from Thursday, on October 19th.

Superintendent Stubblefield encouraged families to walk to school together on Wednesday. All of our Walk to School Day activities were rescheduled for Wednesday due to rain in the forecast last Wednesday.

Superintendent Stubblefield shared that the district is fortunate to be partnering with Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence, which has received one of 40 Kansas Leadership Center Leadership Transformation Grants. The grant provides 40 slots (20 for us and 20 for the Club), at a value of \$25,000, to attend Kansas Leadership Center core leadership training programs in 2018.

Superintendent Stubblefield also shared that Lawrence Public Schools has formalized a Memorandum of Understanding for our partnership with the Midwest & Plains Equity Assistance Center. This agreement outlines goals, objectives and deliverables related to receiving their guidance, assistance and resources toward accomplishing our equity goals.

Superintendent Stubblefield notified the public to a major road closure north of the former Wakarusa Valley School. East 1000 Road will be closed for construction for the next 3-4 weeks, weather permitting. There is a 30-50 minute detour for anyone trying to access the Lawrence Virtual School. Superintendent Stubblefield expressed her

## **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT STUBBLEFIELD (continued)**

appreciation to the LVS staff for being flexible and creative in planning alternate locations for face-to-face meetings with students and families for the next month or so.

Superintendent Stubblefield reminded us that there is no school this Friday for all students PreK through grade 12 due to an Elementary Teacher Plan Day, Middle and High School Building Professional Development and Recording and Reporting of Student Progress; and Middle and High School Classified Staff District Professional Development Day. Additionally, middle and high school parent/teacher conferences are next week.

Lastly, Superintendent Stubblefield reminded the board that there is a scheduled board Lunch next week at Quail Run at noon.

## **PATRON COMMENTARY**

No comments.

## **BOARD COMMENTARY**

*All board members shared information regarding meetings and/or events they had been involved.*

*Jessica Beeson*

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

*...Linn Aligo for her 28 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Leslie Ballard for his 31 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon his retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Janet Bates for her 26 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Victoria Beals for her 31 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Kay Becker for her 32 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Joyce Bell for her 22 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Janice Fullerton for her 26 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

**BOARD COMMENTARY (continued)**

*...Marcia Hershiser for her 32 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Michelle Jacobsen for her 18 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Margaret Maczuga for her 21 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Pamela Mitchell for her 23 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Rhonda Morrison for her 23 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 12/21/2017*

*...Alison Nye for her 38 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Kathleen Scollon for her 20 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Leellyn Tuel for her 32 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Erin Vancil for her 8 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Dirk Wedd for his 28 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon his retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Linda Wedge for her 30 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Martha Wenzel for her 26 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Shannon Wilson for her 23 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 5/4/2018*

*...Anna Dillehay for her 25 years of service and devotion to this community and its schools upon her retirement effective 9/29/2017*

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Following a motion by Jessica Beeson, seconded by Marcel Harmon, the board voted, in a 7-0 roll call vote, to adopt the items listed on the Consent Agenda, with the removal of the Neighborhood Revitalization Act. The NRA will be discussed specifically later in the agenda before the night's reports.

The Consent Agenda included the following:

- The minutes of the September 20, 2017, special meeting
- The minutes of the September 25, 2017 regular meeting
  
- The financial reports including school activity funds, cash summary reports and budget to actual reports
  
- The monthly vouchers in the following account totals:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>FUND DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
001	GENERAL	\$594,355.68
003	FOOD SERVICE	\$119,065.26
004	VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	\$3,322.29
005	SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$20,368.23
009	CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$101,128.17
018	VIRTUAL SCHOOL	\$11,617.46
020	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOP	\$17,519.74
021	BILINGUAL FUND	\$231.83
022	PARENTS AS TEACHERS	\$338.59
024	STUDENTS MATLS REVOLVE	\$29,012.03
025	AT RISK (K-12)	\$90.52
035	2013 BONDS	\$112,387.61
036	2017 BONDS	\$102,500.00
037	LEASE PROJ 23 <sup>RD</sup> ST	\$112,980.00
040 17	TITLE 1 2017	\$51.94
040 18	TITLE 1 2018	\$5,233.87
043 18	INDIAN EDUC TITLE 2018	\$294.64
044 17	JOHNSON O'MALLEY 2017	\$845.35
050 18	TITLE VIBDIS 2018	\$1,025.00
091	SALES TAX	\$2,377.32
095	PAYROLL FUND	\$445,314.53
275	SPECTRA-MEDICAID	\$9,611.15
450	WELLNESS FARM TO SCHOOL LOCAL	\$32.45
800	LOC/DON/GRA	\$19,152.12
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,708,855.78</b>

- Approvals of the following:
  - Contract with Gould Evans for Furniture Designs & Procurement Services
  - Contract with Supplemental Health Care
  - 2017-18 Board Goal
  - Fuel Education Curriculum and Outreach
  - GenY Reinstatement for one year
  - Legal Service Fee related to 2017 Bond Sale

### **New Business-Discussion & Approval~**

--Neighborhood Revitalization Area for Vermont Street

Brit Crum-Cano, the City's economic development coordinator, shared information on the request by Vermont LLC for the establishment of a Neighborhood Revitalization Area (NRA) for the Vermont Place project (800-815 Vermont Street).

The Lawrence City Commission has supported a 10-year, 75% NRA rebate and Industrial Revenue Bonds sales tax exemption on construction materials to support the development of two vacant parcels, located at approximately 800-815 Vermont Street in the Downtown Lawrence business district, into a mixed-use, commercial and residential project.

In general, an NRA rebate has little impact on school district revenue. Crum-Cano shared that the value of the NRA to the governing bodies involved comes from the higher taxes collected long term on the previously undeveloped property.

After hearing from Jill Fincher, who represents the school board on the city of Lawrence Public Incentive Review Committee, and Mrs. Crum-Cano, the school board approved participation at the same level as the city of Lawrence in the NRA for Vermont Street with a passing motion by Vanessa Sanburn, seconded by Marcel Harmon, in which the board voted, 6-1 in a roll call vote.

### **Reports ~**

#### **Learning Forward, Future Ready Update**

Assistant Superintendent of Learning, Learning and Technology Jerri Kemble along with Darcy Kraus- Director, Elementary School Support, Jennifer Bessolo-Director, Middle School Support, Ellen Willets- Assistant Director, Learning & Instructional Resources, and Kirsten Wondra- Assistant Director, Learning & Technology, updated the board about the district's Learning Forward, Future Ready (LFFR) initiative, which strives to prepare students with 21st-century skills and strategies so they can compete globally. LFFR encompasses multiple components, including curricular, technology and infrastructure updates as well as enhanced professional development opportunities for teachers.

In order to address equitable access to technology, the district provided iPads to all middle school students in 2016-17, and MacBooks to all high school students this fall. Elementary students have access to both devices as part of technology equipped classrooms. The district also provides internet hotspots for checkout from the secondary school library media centers for students who lack connectivity outside of school hours.

Mrs. Kemble shared that Apple Vanguard training focuses on assisting teachers in integrating technology with the curriculum. Trainers work one-on-one with teachers and learning coaches to assist their peers with effectively incorporating technology in their classrooms. The district also hired a technology integration specialist who works with both high schools to provide technology and curricular support to all teachers. Student Tech Teams at the middle and high schools assist peers and school staff with troubleshooting and basic technology guidance. Thanks to the community's support of a \$92.5 million bond issue in 2013, and an \$87 million bond issue in 2017, school facility improvements, including flexible learning spaces, mobile furniture, maker spaces and robust technology infrastructure provide a foundation for 21st-century learning. Rick

### **Reports (continued) ~**

Henry, director of high school support, observes that he has seen students more engaged as a result of the 1:1 laptop deployment. "There are groups of students working together in common areas of the school and teachers using technology in ways they have not used it before," he said.

The board commissioned ALTEC, a division of KU's Center for Research on Learning, to observe classrooms, conduct surveys and meet with focus groups of students, parents and teachers as a way to evaluate the initiative. The researchers reported in their findings from last spring at the four middle schools that the potential exists for iPads to transform the learning environment. They shared that there is a high use of the iPads by students, a high percentage of teacher engagement with the technology and evidence that key components of a personalized learning environment exist. Of those surveyed, 90% of teachers described the iPads as either an essential or useful tool for teaching and learning. While teachers report spending as much or more time preparing for class, they find students collaborating more, completing assignments in class and practicing and accessing content on the devices. The district has already made efforts to address some of the concerns shared by focus group participants. Teachers report needing more support and professional training. Students shared technical concerns and parents questioned the restrictive nature of the internet filtering system used by the district on the iPads.

*\*Board member Jessica Beeson departed the board meeting at 8:05 pm*

### **Reports & Approvals~**

#### **LGBTQ+ Advisory**

Jose Cornejo, Facilitator Mental Health, Mark Preut, Assistant Principal at Lawrence High School, and David Cunningham, executive director of human resources/chief legal counsel shared a LGBTQ+ update. Upon a recommendation from the former LGBTQ+ Task Force, the district created an LGBTQ+ Advisory Group. This group met during the 2016-17 school year to discuss issues and make recommendations to enhance support for the needs of students who identify as LGBTQ+.

The advisory group drafted guidelines that include consistently and equitably addressing all forms of bullying and harassment; addressing students by their preferred names and pronouns; providing students access to locker rooms that correspond with their gender identity; and allowing students to participate in groups/activities that correspond with their gender identity by avoiding using gender as a characteristic in classroom/school activities and ensuring that activities and events are inclusive of students and families of diverse backgrounds. In addition, brochures will be made available in all schools and the district Enrollment Center to create a greater awareness of the resources and support available to students.

Upon a motion by Vanessa Sanburn, seconded by Jessica Beeson, the board voted, in a unanimous voice vote to adopt the group's recommendation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:25 p.m., a motion was made by Rick Ingram, seconded by Marcel Harmon, 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