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**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #407  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 21, 2011**

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The December regular meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2011. Due to weather conditions, the meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, December 21, 2011.

**45-103 Call to Order**

President Jerry Brown called the USD 407 Board of Education regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Administration Office. Additional Board members in attendance were Jim Cross, John Fletcher, Tonya Murphy, Katy Nuss, Kevin Ochs and Jon Quinday.

Administrators present included Superintendent David Couch, Kathy Cook, Larry Bernard, Kent Michel and Gaylon Walter. Guests in the audience signed an attendance roster.

**45-104 Consent Calendar**

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes
  - November 21, 2011 – Regular Meeting
- C. Examination and Payment of Bills
- D. Donations & Grants
  - Special Education / Early Childhood Connections
    - \$40 from Mary Murphy for Classroom Supplies
  - Bickerdyke Elementary School
    - \$100 PTO Grant to Gaylene Spears for Classroom Supplies
  - Elementary Art Program
    - \$150 from Christmas Wonderland
  - Russell County USD 407
    - \$500 Contribution from Insurance Planning, Inc.
  - Ruppenthal Middle School
    - \$1,100+ Value in Donations from Multiple Patrons for the Bronco Pride Program

Jerry Brown moved and Jim Cross seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried 7 – 0.

**45-105 Reports**

- A. President of the Board – No report was given.
- B. Administrators – Gaylon Walter reported Ruppenthal Middle School has been awarded the *Certificate of Recognition* by the Confidence in Kansas Public Task Force as one of sixty schools who met the Challenge Award criteria. This award recognizes schools for outstanding achievement and uncommon accomplishment based on Kansas Assessment results from 2011 and other qualifying factors.

Larry Bernard, Russell High School Principal, highlighted the following staff and students achievements:

- Congratulations were extended to Jesse Cockrell, Christopher Hilger, Nathan Hilger, Justus Schremmer, and Taylor Weinhold for being selected to the Kansas All-State Choir. Alternates selected include Ethan Kaufman, Miranda Rainey, and Isaiah Stierlen.
- Jordan Hecker and Madison Beagley were named to the All-Tournament-Team in the Ammos Morris-George Stevens Basketball Tournament.
- Jane Wagner, Yearbook Advisor, and students were commended for earning *All Kansas Honors* for the 2011 yearbook in the 4A division. Students involved with the production include Amber Zvolanek, Taylor Stroebel, Miranda Clark, Ashley Fowler, Kelli Gudenkauf, Megan Hendrich, Nathan Hilger, Liz Miller, Roxy Ochs, Brooklyn Pitcock, Jenifer Lopez, Scott Schwein, Randi Steinle, Sheldon Weigel and Taylor Weinhold.
- Alex Underwood and Renetta Dawson along with the band and vocal students were recognized for their performance at the Winter Wonderland concert.

Kathy Cook, Special Education Director, thanked Mary Murphy for her contribution to the early childhood special education program.

**45-106 Public Forum**

No one addressed the Board under this agenda item.

**45-107 Acceptance of White Energy Grants**

Regis Weiss and Mike Ernst, representatives from White Energy, presented \$20,000 in grant funds to Simpson and Bickerdyke Elementary Schools. Each school has been awarded \$10,000 for academic after school programs.

Jim Cross moved and Jon Quinday seconded a motion to accept the grant. Motion carried 7 – 0.

**45-108 Request for Approval of German Trip – Patrick Barney**

Patrick Barney, RHS German teacher, requested permission to continue the German academic exchange program. A high school in Duisburg sends a group of students and sponsors here to spend time in our high school and community. In return, a group of students and sponsors will go to Germany. This program allows students to become fully immersed in the German culture and build lifetime relationships. Out-of-pocket expenses for each student total approximately \$960.

Jerry Brown moved and Kevin Ochs seconded a motion approve continuation of the German exchange program. Motion carried 7 – 0.

**45-109 Discussion of the Governor's Finance Plan**

Superintendent Couch reviewed the Governor's proposed finance plan and the impact it could have on USD 407.

**45-110 Discussion of the "Affordable Health Care Act"**

Mr. Couch discussed the new health care law that will go into effect in 2014 unless the legislature determines the requirements to be unconstitutional. Requirements outlined in the

Health Care Act will have an impact on future negotiations. No action was taken.

**45-111 Discussion of Administrators' Visit with Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) Staff**

Superintendent Couch reported the administrative team traveled to Topeka to visit with Dr. Doug Moeckel and Dr. Mike Pomerico about facility restructuring and program options being considered. Mr. Couch reported KASB representatives will be making 3 onsite visits to the district with the first visit scheduled for January 11, 2012. KASB representatives will be putting together enrollment projections to aid in future planning. No action was taken.

**45-112 Facility Planning**

No discussion was held under this agenda item, but Tonya Murphy inquired whether a cost was involved to work with KASB on this project. Mr. Couch reported KASB charges for their service, but at a reduced cost compared to a privately owned business.

**45-113 Community Survey**

A copy of the community survey was shared with the Board. Mr. Walter shared feedback from the Ruppenthal Middle School Site Council indicating the survey was too lengthy, should be directed more toward the immediate needs of the district, and should be distributed following a public forum. Board members were in agreement to distribute the surveys following public forums.

Discussion was held to establish the agenda and timeline for the public forums. General consensus of the Board was to be completely transparent on facility restructuring options being considered and run the public forms concurrently with the KASB study.

Jerry Brown moved and Jim Cross seconded a motion to schedule a public forum on January 16, 2012, for 7:00 p.m. at the RMS auditorium following the regular monthly meeting scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office and a second public forum on January 30, 2012, for 7:00 p.m. at the RMS auditorium. Motion carried 7 – 0.

**45-114 2012 – 2013 District Calendar**

Discussion was held on the two calendars presented for consideration and the concern in meeting the minimum State attendance requirements. Mr. Ochs suggested changing the January inservice day to a parent-teacher conference day to increase time on Calendar B. Mr. Bernard served as the calendar committee's chairman and reported Calendar B as it was presented is the recommendation of the committee.

Calendar B-2 incorporates a second parent-teacher conference day in the spring generating an additional 7-hour cushion in meeting the State minimum requirements. Superintendent Couch recommended the Board adopt Calendar B-2.

Tonya Murphy moved and Jim Cross seconded a motion to adopt Calendar B-2 which includes the additional parent-teacher conference day. Motion carried 5 – 2. Kevin Ochs and John Fletcher cast the opposing votes.

**45-115 Discussion of Putting Railing on the RHS Stadium and Gymnasium Bleachers**

Mr. Couch reported P-rails have been ordered for the gymnasium bleachers to address ongoing safety issues and will be installed as soon as possible. Bids for the stadium bleachers will be solicited in January with bids due in February since this is likely to be a spring or summer project.

**45-116 Superintendent Evaluation**

Consensus of the Board was to use the discussion method rather than a subjective rating scale for Mr. Couch's evaluation. An executive session will be scheduled during the January meeting to perform the evaluation.

**45-117 Teacher Negotiations 2012 - 2013**

Jerry Brown moved and Jim Cross seconded a motion to enter executive session for a period of 10 minutes for matters relating to employer/employee negotiations. Motion carried 7 – 0. Superintendent Couch was invited into executive session.

Start Time: 6:37 p.m.

End Time: 6:47 p.m.

Open session resumed. No action was taken.

**45-118 Retirements, Resignations, and New Contracts**

Mr. Couch requested the Board validate the termination of Deborah Nuss (RMS Head Cook) and approve the following resignation and new contracts:

**Resignation:**

- Sandra Thompson – Special Education Paraeducator @ Ruppenthal Middle School

**New Contracts:**

- Sandy Daugherty – Special Education Paraeducator @ Buttons & Bows Preschool – Para 3 / Level 11 - \$10.65 per hour
- David King – Asst. Wrestling @ Ruppenthal Middle School – Class 1/Step 1 - \$1,267
- Christianna Pruden - Special Education Paraeducator @ Ruppenthal Middle School – Para 1 / Level 1 - \$8.95 per hour

Jim Cross moved and Jon Quinday seconded a motion to approve the termination, resignation and new contracts as presented. Motion carried 7 – 0.

**45-119 Board Forum**

No discussion was held under this agenda item. Jon Quinday apologized to Mr. Bernard for not being able to attend the calendar committee meeting.

**45-120 Adjournment**

Jerry Brown moved and Jon Quinday seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Time: 7:21 p.m.

*Jane M. Cline*

Jane M. Cline, Board Clerk

*01/16/2012*

Date Approved