
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #407
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2012

45-135 Call to Order

President Jerry Brown called the USD 407 Board of Education special meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Ruppenthal Middle School Auditorium. 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. Approximately 120 patrons, students and staff were in the audience.

45-136 Facility Planning Discussion

Superintendent Couch outlined the rules to be followed during the Public Forum portion of the meeting. He also presented information to the public outlining financial challenges facing the district due to declining enrollment and reductions in state aid. Mr. Couch reviewed district reductions made through the years to combat financial losses and shared facility alignment scenarios being discussed between the Board and the administrative team.

Superintendent Couch shared how the Governor's proposed plan and the Democratic Minority Plan SF12-051 would impact the district. He encouraged those in attendance to be a voice for education and contact their legislators for support of SF12-051.

45-137 Public Forum

Several people addressed the public and Board regarding the various facility alignment scenarios being considered. Individuals addressing the Board include:

David Crawford (RHS Student) – spoke out against housing grades 7-12 at RHS and stated he has the support of 100+ students who signed the petition.

Nathaneal Holland (RHS Student) – opposed the 7-12 scenario at RHS and cuts to core classes and offered the scenario of K-5, 6-8, 9-12 for consideration.

Holly Decker (mother of 3) – proposed the Board study the option of a 4-day school week and volunteered to serve on the committee.

Jessica Nichols (mother of 3) – opposed the 7-12 environment with concerns noted in bullying and the maturity range of students.

Daniel Gulick (father of 2 & substitute teacher) – opposed 7-12 environment, discussed bullying concerns and the physical make-up of the students. He encouraged the Board not to reduce the quality of education and to visit with the staff involved with the transition.

Melody Boltin (mother of 3) – supportive of the Board and the need to make changes. However, she would rather see a 7-12 environment as opposed to moving grades 4 & 5 to

Ruppenthal Middle School. Melody felt bullying would be a greater concern for the younger population.

Patrick Barney (teacher) – reminded everyone the children need to be the focal point of the system and the center of discussions. Mr. Barney also asked for consideration to move kindergarten to Russell High School, grades 1 & 2 to Bickerdyke Elementary and grades 4 & 5 to Ruppenthal Middle School.

Andrea Krauss – requested detailed operating cost information of each building and activity, costs involved with relocation of classes to make the environments functional, and transportation costs in order to make an informed decision.

Dalton Davis (RHS student) – opposed the 7-12 environment due to social factors with the younger students.

45-138 Superintendent’s Comments

Mr. Couch thanked everyone for their attendance and professionalism while attending the meeting. He also assured those in attendance that the Board and administrative team are listening to their concerns and suggestions. An invitation was extended to stop by his office to discuss concerns and explore options being considered to address the financial shortfalls.

45-139 Adjournment

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

Time: 9:04 p.m.

<i>Jane M. Cline</i>	<i>02/13/2012</i>
Jane M. Cline, Board Clerk	Date Approved