

Minutes (DRAFT – Pending BOE Approval)
Regular - Board of Education Meeting
Unified School District No. 473, Chapman, KS 67431

August 9, 2021



Brenda Edleston, Board President, convened the *Regular* meeting of the Board of Education of USD 473, Chapman, KS on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 7:04 pm at the Education Center, Chapman, KS 67431

Other Board Members Present: Vice-President Brian Rock, Bob Haynes, Todd Frieze, Kelly Kuntz and Jerry Wright (Mike Rutz was on via ZOOM)

Also Present: Jerry Hodson – Superintendent, Michele Sutter – Board Clerk
Kyle Cook, Jennifer Tiller, Clint Merritt, Afton Diehl, Cheri Simpson, Kate Thornton, Stacy Smiley, Kevin Suther, Judd and Amy Liebau, Rita Hinck, Bari Stalder, Dwyne Riegel, Jessica and Brandon Clements and John Hultgren

Brenda Edleston announced that although she called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm, there were a couple technical difficulties resulting in a slight delay.

Also, under the Consent Agenda, letter E. was being added as “Special Meeting on August 23rd at 7:30 am for the RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate) and a Special Meeting August 23rd at 7:45 am for the approval of the Budget.

Under Item #7, we added (6) cars along with the surplus tech equipment.

And lastly, she asked that the (2) Executive Sessions be switched around. Items #12 and #13 became Items #14 and #15 and Items #14 and #15 became Items #12 and #13.

Jerry Wright made the motion to adopt the amended agenda. Bob Haynes seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Jerry Wright made the motion to adopt the consent agenda. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Consent Agenda -

- A. Approve the minutes from the Regular July 19, 2021 Meeting
- B. Financial reports
 - Treasurer's Reports
 - Food Service Report
 - Petty Cash Reports
- C. Payment of bills
 - Regular Bills - \$ 613,196.03
 - Bills Paid Early - \$ 595,838.11
 - TOTAL - \$1,209,034.14
- D. Revision of adult meal prices
- E. Special Meeting on August 23rd at 7:30 am for RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate); Special Meeting August 23rd at 7:45 am for approval of Budget

Brian Rock made the motion to approve the Out-of-District students as presented to the Board. Kelly Kuntz seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

1. Joel Myers – CHS 9th Grade
2. Tessa Leon – CHS 10th Grade (NEW)
3. Jackson Daymude – CMS 7th Grade (NEW)
4. Colton Weeks – CHS 11th Grade
5. Raleigh Lusk – CHS 9th Grade
6. Augustus Johns – CHS 10th Grade
7. Brooklyn Dreher – CHS 10th Grade
8. Joseph Alonzo – CHS 11th Grade
9. Gregory Howell – CHS 10th Grade
10. Amanda Remily – CHS 12th Grade
- 11.
12. Jax Pickerill – BR 4th Grade
13. Riot Pickerill – BR 2nd Grade
14. Valynn Picking – RC Wee Clovers Pre-School (NEW)
15. Aaralyn Pickerill – BR 5th Grade
16. Alyson Hinck – CES 5th Grade
17. Camden Lusk – BR 3rd Grade (NEW)
18. Sawyer DeFer – BR 1st Grade (NEW)
19. Augusta Swenson – CES 3rd Grade
20. Lullaby Swenson – CES 1st Grade

Brian Rock made the motion to approve the In-District Transfers as presented to the Board. Bob Haynes seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

1. Abigale Beck – 3rd Grade; BR to CES
2. Eric Beck – 3rd Grade; BR to CES
3. William Snider – Kindergarten; BR to CES
4. Addy Snider – 3rd Grade; BR to CES
5. Cade Snider – 5th Grade; BR to CES
6. Hunter Fong – 3rd Grade; BR to CES

The Principals shared information about their enrollments that have taken place so far. All were very pleased with their numbers to date.

Kelly Kuntz made the motion to approve the disposal of old surplus technology equipment, along with (6) old cars. The cars will go directly to Hess Salvage per Randy Heller. Kyle Cook explained that Mr. Dibben works directly with Cindy Zumbrunn and all surplus they receive from the technology equipment goes directly to the High School Cross Country Team. Jerry Wright seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Bob Haynes made the motion to adopt the Destruction of Records Resolution which allows the Board Office to destroy records prior to and including 2013-14 pursuant to K.S.A. 72-1629 and K.S.A. 72-1630. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Brian Rock made the motion to reschedule the March 2022 BOE meeting from March 14th to March 7th due to Spring Break. Jerry Wright seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Return to school planning:

John Hultgren was invited to the meeting to brief the Board on the current COVID situation in Dickinson County and answer any questions they might have.

He spoke on the Delta Variant and the wave that came into Kansas. The Delta Variant is more transmittable than the Alpha Variant, meaning it's easier to transmit person to person.

John said that back in June, things were looking good and he hoped to begin the school year how we ended the last, maybe even better. Then, the Variant came along and he really doesn't know where it's going to go. The officials think we will peak the 1st part of September, he hopes that's the case. He explained that 40% of the cases they've seen so far locally can be brought back to family units. More than likely if someone in the house gets it, everyone's gonna get it. If you're in close contact, the chance you're gonna get it is pretty high.

Is it the right thing to mask for a period of time? Masking is important, social distance is important, cleaning is important. None of those things go away. Masking is just a part of the attempt to keep the virus under control. It is inevitable that we will see increases because it is so transmissible. We will see an increase from the fall whether you choose to mask or not. We will see an increase with the start of school.

They were pretty hesitant about sending out the school guidelines that they worked on and they waited as long as they could but they had to get something put out because Abilene was getting ready to start school. The guidance is pretty lenient. They are trying to get the kids in school but do so safely.

John said there has been an uptake in the last couple of weeks of 18 and younger getting vaccinated. This is the virus of the unvaccinated. It is hitting the unvaccinated much harder. He would encourage everyone who has not gotten the vaccine to take it.

Dr. Frieze spoke about his experiences he's seeing as a physician. He noted that the younger children do really well with COVID and we might be surprised if we randomly tested Pre-School and Kindergarten children how many would be positive.

He said when they sent out the guideline around July 27th, at the end of the day, we can all agree kids have got to be in school. He said he doesn't care what it takes, they have to be in school. For their social, mental, safety and nutrition aspect, for their learning aspect. There is a big difference between being at home on-line and being in the classroom. Kids have to be in school. We've gotta avoid any type of school closure.

The quarantine is where you get burned. One of his patients was quarantined (5) times for (10) days each and that's (50) days at home. He said they must have an unbelievable immune system because they never did test positive and there were all kinds of exposures.

He thinks the goal has to be we keep kids in school at all costs. Now how do you do that? There are multiple layers.

With the respect to masks, what we did last year seemed to be effective. He said he could give all kinds of statistics and could try to convince you but at the end of the day, there is a strain that is more contagious and more easily spread than we had last year. When they've looked at it, the old one could spread to 2 or 3 people and this one to 8 or 9, somewhere in the chicken pox or measles range and they are highly contagious.

COVID is with us forever. Don't let anybody fool you that this is gonna go away anytime soon. The chance of that is gone. Until we get people around the world vaccinated or until we develop some more immunity, this will cycle. The way out of it is taking all these precautions and vaccines.

He said he doesn't see any way of avoiding some significant quarantine issues if we don't mask the kids. It's not gonna be a mask thing forever, but he thinks we're looking for trouble if we don't now.

Dr. Frieze's opinion is we are gonna have a situation with significant quarantine if we just go optional masks.

He said based on current recommendations from the CDC, Kansas State Department of Health and Environment and the AAP, in conjunction with a highly contagious coronavirus variant that is increasing in numbers locally and nationally, with consideration that none of our students under the age of 12 are eligible for vaccination at the time, and considering our hospital systems locally and nationally are currently overwhelmed, and in an effort to avoid significant quarantines, all in an effort to keep our kids safe, he recommends universal masking of all students until our next Board meeting on September 13, 2021 with the plan to re-evaluate the situation at that time.

Dr. Frieze made a motion to do K-12 universal masking and re-visit at the September 13th BOE meeting. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion failed 3-4 with Jerry Wright, Kelly Kuntz, Bob Haynes and Mike Rutz voting no.

Bob Haynes made a motion to follow the suggested COVID Guidelines that were presented with masks being optional and to revisit the matter as warranted later. Kelly Kuntz seconded the motion; motion carried 4-3 with Dr. Frieze, Brian Rock and Brenda Edleston voting no.

Brian Rock made a motion to take a (5) minute break. Jerry Wright seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0. The break was from 8:59 to 9:04 pm.

The Board returned to open session at 9:04 pm.

Kelly Kuntz made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for (5) minutes in order to discuss negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and the open meeting will resume in the board room at 9:15 pm. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0. Jerry was invited into the session.

The Board returned to open session at 9:15 pm.

Brian Rock made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for (5) minutes in order to discuss negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and the open meeting will resume in the board room at 9:20 pm. Kelly Kuntz seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0. Jerry was invited into the session.

The Board returned to open session at 9:20 pm.

Kelly Kuntz made the motion to approve the 2021-22 Negotiated Package. Jerry Wright seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Brian Rock made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for (20) minutes in order to discuss personnel items pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and the open meeting will resume in the board room at 9:43 pm. Kelly Kuntz seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0. Jerry was invited into the session.

Jerry exited the session at 9:40 pm.

The Board returned to open session at 9:43 pm.

Bob Haynes made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for (5) minutes in order to discuss personnel items pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and the open meeting will resume in the board room at 9:48 pm. Brenda Edleston seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:48 pm.

Brian Rock made the motion to approve the personnel items that were presented. Jerry Wright seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Personnel -

- a. Resignations & Retirements**
 - 1. None
- b. New Hires**
 - 1. Wyatt Rutherford – JV Ass't Softball Coach
- c. Transfers**
 - 1. John Gladden – Transferring from CMS Custodian to CES Head Custodian
 - 2. JL Craig – Transferring from CES Head Custodian to RC Custodian
 - 3. Matt Ballay – Transferring from part-time District Custodian/part-time CMS Kitchen Staff to full-time CMS Day Custodian

Bob Haynes made the motion to adjourn. Kelly Kuntz seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm.



Next up:

August 23rd: Special Meeting on August 23rd at 7:30 am for the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate Hearing and a Special Meeting at 7:45 am for the approval of the budget. These meetings will be at the Education Center, 822 N Marshall St.

September 13th: Regular Meeting @ 7:00 pm at the Education Center.