

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Unified School District No. 473, Chapman, KS

December 11, 2023

Brenda Edleston, School Board President, called the Regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 pm at the Education Center located at 822 N. Marshall, Chapman, KS.

Board Members Present: Brenda Edleston, President, Betsy Edwards, Vice-President, Jerry Wright, Kelly Kuntz, Todd Frieze, Mike Rutz and Brian Rock

Also Present: Kevin Suther - Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk Mary Wright, Jessica Murphy, Cheri Simpson, Afton Diehl, Jake Rutledge, Dana Obermeyer, Jessica Bobbett, Travis Leasure, Dale Shelar, Sam Peck, Clara Gfeller, Lawson Jones, Jim Weller, Josie Strauss, Caleb Strauss, Jenny Elliott, Stacy Smiley, Ashley Stearns, Kate Thornton, Elizabeth Sturgis, Cynthia Aramowicz, Jerry Aramowicz and Jamie Bonneman (*guests introduced themselves*)

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

Brian Rock made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Todd Frieze seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

- 3.01 Approve the Minutes from the Special & Regular November 13th, 2023 BOE Meetings
- 3.02 Financial Reports: Treasurer, Food Service, Petty Cash
- 3.03 Payment of Bills
- 3.04 Public Participation

FFA PRESENTS TO THE BOARD:

FFA presented about the national convention successes which was highlighted by Ag mechanics and the growing leaders project. Mr. Jim Weller and Mr. Jake Rutledge are the sponsors and the following students presented: Lawson Jones, Sam Peck and Travis Leasure along with Josie Strauss and Clara Gfeller.

Travis Leasure began by giving an overview of their contest. Some of the areas consisted of the following:

- Machinery & Equipment
- Electrical
- Compact Equipment
- Environmental
- Team Activity: Diagnosed an electrical issue with a skid loader

Each member on the team finished in the silver division. They also placed in the top 10 welding teams and won a brand new welder for the Ag shop. In order to go to nationals, they had to win the state competition which took place in May. Lawson Jones was a senior at the time and he is actually attending Hutchinson Community College so he had to take some time out in order to attend convention.

Clara Gfeller and Josie Strauss shared an overview of their project involving the chapter award for growing leaders. The theme revolved around encouraging students to do away with energy drinks. Clara shared that they had medical professionals come in to their group to speak on the health hazards these drinks cause. Healthy alternative solutions were shared by demonstrating to other students at CHS how to make batches of energy balls in the food labs.

One of the components of the competition involved going through an extensive interview process on ZOOM. They learned first hand how the effects of their subject matter had on the chapter members. By bringing awareness to fellow members, many have chosen not to partake in the consumption of energy drinks.

All the participants truly enjoyed being part of a national contest. It can be a nerve wracking experience but one that is well worth it.

Finally, Ms. Elizabeth Sturgis who is currently a student at K-State, will be student teaching at CHS in the Ag Department 2nd semester and was able to attend convention with the team this year. She spoke about really appreciating the opportunity to get to know the students better and being part of the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

CMS Presents to the Board:

Mary Wright, Chapman Middle School Principal, wanted to share what has been taking place over the last couple years revolving around community, parent and student support. This started with feedback from the Family Engagement Survey and Kansas Communities that Care Survey by students. This is Ms. Wright's 5th year in the District and her 1st year was the COVID year. She said things are really beginning to progress in the area of culture and parental involvement. CMS teachers and parents on

the Site Council have studied the surveys and pulled out everything that was under a 3 and began focusing on ways for improvement. Some examples included changing "Student of Week" to have more information about the student beyond the name and picture. There was input on the dress code in the handbook and post cards were sent home to parents sharing about positive happenings taking place.

A new organization called CMS Connections has been formed. This is a Parent Support Group that was developed this year and meets monthly. They plan activities and events to support the students and staff. One of the first activities was the 1st ever Color Run which was held this past October and then a Harvest Moon Watch in the evening was provided by Mrs. Lamb. She was able to get some telescopes on loan from local libraries. Some of the food options have been providing a staff lunch monthly and organizing "Cookies with Buddy the Elf" which was a huge hit for students. The next adventure is working on putting together a Family Trivia Night in January.

It is exciting to see the new additional student opportunities taking place at CMS such as student leadership, science olympiad, scholar's bowl and National Junior Honors Society.

For student recognition celebrations, teachers put in every kids' locker a motivational saying to start the year. Many of the students still have those quotes half way through the year and even put them on the outside so people could see them as they walk by. Ms. Wright hand writes every student a birthday card to help them know that she's thinking of them. Just some of the activities are having kindness recognitions, student success recognitions, a renaissance program, dances and pep assemblies.

For student support, a tradition has started for the 1st day of school to only bring in 6th grade students. This allows them to discover middle school with just their class so it is not so intimidating. Students get to meet all of the teachers, learn how to open lockers and are able to find all their classes before they are mixed in with the 7th and 8th graders. A few additional supports are a new math hub tutoring for students to get extra help during advisory, a program where they send home food on the weekends and holiday events like food drives to help stock the local food bank.

MUSIC TEACHER AWARD:

Mrs. Cynthia Aramowicz was announced as the 2023-24 KMEA elementary level outstanding music teacher of the year.

2023-24 NCKMEA Outstanding Elementary Teacher
Cynthia Aramowicz
Chapman Schools



"While I was still in high school I started giving my younger sister piano lessons. She survived the experience and is now a music teacher and composer. Every year or so the college choir from our church denominational college would visit our town on their tour, and I set my goal to sing in that choir. I attended Bartlesville Wesleyan College (now Oklahoma Wesleyan University) even though the music ed program was just getting off the ground. The college administration built the program year by year as I attended, and in 1979 I was among the first students to graduate with a degree in music education. I started teaching elementary music that next fall and over the years have also taught middle school and high school choir and general music, beginning band, and guitar. My private students keep me sane from the rigors of public school education, or maybe it's the other way around. For years I have helped with high school and community stage productions, and incorporate drama into my elementary concerts whenever possible. My most recent musical endeavor is a ukulele jam group for adults. Recently one of my fourth grade students asked me why I became a music teacher. My answer reflects one of my aspirations in life: I enjoy music and I want to help other people enjoy it too. I am honored to be selected as the 2023-24 North Central KMEA Elementary Level Outstanding Music Educator."

OLD BUSINESS:

Adopt the KASB Policy and Remove the USD 473 Statement of Understanding under JBC

1. Approve new JBCC Policy for Non-Resident Students
2. Remove JBC Elementary Student Transfer Request Regulations portion labeled "USD 473 Statement of Understanding - Out of District Status" currently on page 664 to 666 which is for non-resident students now covered by the JBCC policy.

Superintendent Suther shared that the USD 473 Board of Education had the open public hearing last month. The district has to officially approve the policy required by a bill from the State Legislation by January 2024. The recommendation for approval for student capacity numbers will need to be completed by May 1, 2024. Non-Resident students can apply the entire month of June 2024.

Currently, every building has compiled a list of all their non-resident students. The goal will be to collect information by April of all the students returning and leaving the district so there is an early enrollment estimate. The high school starts the process early by working on individual class schedules in February/March.

Jerry Wright made the motion to adopt the JBCC policy and remove the USD 473 Statement of Understanding located under JBC. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Smoky Hill Education Service Center Interlocal Agreement:

Superintendent Suther shared that the service center agreement will expire by the end of June 2024 and the new interlocal agreement continues our partnership with Smoky Hill Education Center for an

additional 5 years. USD 473 is an original member of the service center and there are currently 50 schools total. Many of our programs are administered through Smoky Hill like Perkins, Professional Development Plan, KESA, a portion of the bus training, CPR and defensive driving along with credit recovery classes online for CHS students. Since this is the last meeting for Brian Rock as a USD 473 board member, a different representative from the board will need to be nominated and voted on in January to be on the Executive Smoky Hill Center Board which meets monthly. The district is billed annually and it's approximately \$4,000 to \$6000 depending on the services chosen to use. This term runs from July of 2024 to July of 2029. Todd Frieze shared that with (3) new school board members, it would be good to have the director from Smoky Hill come and share with the board about their services. Superintendent Suther will check with them to come present in the spring.

Todd Frieze made the motion to enter into the Interlocal Agreement for another 5 years. Jerry Wright seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Donations:

Astra Bank donated \$500 to help with food service needs for USD 473 students. Brian Rock made a motion to accept the Astra Bank donation and Todd Frieze seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

December 2023 KASB Policy Updates:

USD 473 receives semi-annual policy updates in June and December for adoption. There were (3) pages of Table of Contents which included several revisions related to the following topics: evacuations & emergency situations, food service management, parenting employees rights, uniform service, releasing of students, and medication regulations for self administration plus misuse.

Kelly Kuntz made a motion to approve all the board policy updates as presented. Jerry Wright seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Calendar options for 2024-25:

Kate Thornton, Chapman High School principal, who leads the calendar committee for our district was present to talk about the options the committee came up with for adoption for the 2024-25 school year. The calendar has become very streamlined so very few changes are needed. The committee developed two choices which will be voted on by the teachers and brought back to the board at the January meeting for adoption.

The 1st option corresponds to this year's calendar with Parent/Teacher conferences during the third week of October with that Friday being a NO SCHOOL day. The 2nd option is moving conferences to the final week of

October with Parent/Teacher conferences and NO SCHOOL on Friday, November 1st, which is the day after Halloween.

Approve January Early Graduates:

The Board was given a list of (12) names who are requesting early graduation; pending all USD 473 graduation requirements are met.

Mike Rutz made the motion to approve them as long as all graduation requirements are met. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Board Honorees:

This was the final meeting for three Board members:

Jerry Wright - Served 4 years for District 2; Position 2

Brian Rock - Served 8 1/2 years for District 3; Position 3

Todd Frieze - Served 8 1/2 years for the At Large Position

Superintendent Suther presented the Board members with plaques from KASB, as well as lifetime athletic passes for themselves and one guest to all regular season home games. He thanked them all for their years of service and contribution to USD 473.

Executive Sessions:

Kelly Kuntz made a 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 8:33 pm. Mike Rutz seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Suther was invited into the session.

The Board returned to open session at 8:33 pm.

Jerry Wright made the motion to approve all personnel changes presented to the Board. Todd Frieze seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Retirements:

Tammy Scheidt - Enterprise 3rd Grade Teacher

Cynthia Aramowicz - Chapman Elementary Music Teacher

Resignations:

Michelle Roberts - Chapman Elementary 1st Grade Teacher

Becky Lefert - Enterprise Teacher Aide

Jeff Stanley - Chapman Elementary Custodian

New Hires:

Lindsey Olson - Chapman Elementary 1st Grade Teacher

Brenda Edleston made the motion 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 8:57 pm. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

The Board returned to open session at 8:57 pm.

Brenda Edleston made a motion to extend the Executive Session for (10) 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 9:08 pm. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:08 pm.

Brenda Edleston made a motion to go into Executive Session for (10) 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 9:20 pm. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Suther was invited into the session.

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

Todd Frieze made the motion to extend Superintendent Suther's contract for an additional year until June 30, 2026 and a percentage pay increase as discussed in Executive Session. Jerry Wright seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Mike Rutz made the motion to adjourn. Brian Rock seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Brenda Edleston; Board President

Michele Sutter; Board Clerk

