

Minutes

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

February 12, 2024

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.

Other Board Members Present: Betsy Edwards, Vice-President, Kelly Kuntz, Mike Rutz, Dana Obermeyer, Jessica Murphy and Jennifer Elliott

Also Present: Kevin Suther - Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk Afton Diehl, Becky Rufener, Megan Keller, Maria Nuss, Clint Merritt, Kate Thornton, Cheri Simpson, Stacy Smiley, Ashley Stearns, Jamie Bonnema and Mary Wright (*guests introduced themselves*)

Mike Rutz made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Kelly Kuntz made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

3.01 Approve the minutes from Regular January 15th, 2024 meeting

3.02 Financial reports: Treasurer, Food Service, Petty Cash

3.03 Payment of Bills

3.04 Public Participation

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

BLUE RIDGE PRESENTS TO THE BOARD

Afton Diehl, Principal, introduced Kara Wilkins, Blue Ridge 2nd grade teacher and Maria Nuss to the USD 473 Board of Education. They presented an example of the Little Ike's Story Time Program involving all the hats of Dwight D. Eisenhower to describe his different stages of life experiences. This is a partnership with the Eisenhower Foundation and completely donor funded. Maria Nuss and other teachers from the

program go to Blue Ridge Elementary once a month and sees all K-3 students. They offer a program each time with different activities that teach about President Eisenhower and what occurred in history during those years. The organization also visits Enterprise Elementary and one of the kindergarten classes at Chapman Elementary.

NEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Kate Thornton, Chapman High School Principal, presented to the USD 473 Board of Education the new graduation requirements from the Kansas State Board of Education beginning with the Class of 2028. She explained how CHS will make changes to add areas like a communications class, financial literacy, separate PE & Health, and a STEM credit. The other additions involve the requirement of each student having a minimum of two Post-Secondary Assets which mainly occur outside the classroom time.

OLD BUSINESS:

ELA SECONDARY CURRICULUM ADOPTION

Stacy Smiley, MTSS Coordinator and Rebecca Rufener, Chapman High School English teacher, were on hand to present their recommendation for a new curriculum for English Language Arts. The final choice for the ELA Secondary Curriculum beginning 2024-25 is *Into Literature* published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publisher; 2022 copyright. This will include teacher editions, consumable student text, writable platform and digital access for 6 years.

The overall process for the Secondary ELA Curriculum adoption was introduced last month at the January 15th Board Meeting. The money will come from ESSER III which is the federal grant money stemming from Covid. It must be spent by September 2024 which is the end of of the three year cycle. This purchase was pre-approved through the Kansas State Board of Education. The remaining ESSER III amount goes towards salaries, service center fees, substitute pay and hopefully be able to extend some of our other curriculum years of access.

Mike Rutz made the motion to approve the adoption of the new curriculum. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

BOARD VISITATIONS

The Board decided on the following dates for School Board visitations to all (6) schools:

On February 22nd, they will begin the morning with the FFA breakfast at the Chapman High School Ag Shop. They will then tour Chapman High School, Chapman Elementary School, and Chapman Middle School from 8am to 10:30am.

On March 21st, the Board members will visit Blue Ridge, Enterprise Elementary and Rural Center from 8am to 10:30am.

NEW BUSINESS:

DONATIONS

Several donations came in since the last Board meeting. They were:

USD 473 has received (2) anonymous donations. The 1st one is in the amount of \$250 to help pay lunch balances at **CMS**.

The 2nd one is for \$1,252.05 to help pay lunch balances at **CHS**.

We also received a donation from the David Kanode Memorial in the amount of \$120.00 for the HS Choir Program.

The final donation received was another anonymous donation in the amount of \$1,000 for food service.

The Board thanked the donors for their generosity.

Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve all donations. Betsy Edwards seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN

Superintendent Suther shared that in cooperation with the City of Chapman and the Dickinson County Commissioners, USD 473 has been part of the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for the past 10 years. This expired in 2022 and the USD 473 School District has been asked to be a part of allowing for a tax rebate for new improvements or construction of properties and businesses that have a minimum investment which must have a 5% increased assessed evaluation on the property approved by the appraiser. The new agreement has been approved and signed by the City of Chapman and Dickinson County Commissioners. The tax rebate will be 100% for businesses over the 10 year period while resident properties will have a gradual decreasing scale from 100% to 20% over that period of time.

Betsy Edwards made the motion to adopt this plan. Mike seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

MAY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Superintendent Suther explained that normally our regular Board meeting would be May 13th. That happens to be the day of the

Middle School promotion which will have (2) Board members as well as the Superintendent in attendance. He asked that the May BOE meeting be moved to Monday, May 20th at 7pm.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to move the May BOE meeting to the 20th. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SERVICE AWARDS

It's time again for the annual Board of Education Service Awards.

- Outstanding Service to Students**
- Outstanding Service to the District**

Michele Sutter, Board Clerk, will send out a Google form to the staff for nominations. The winners will be recognized at the April 10th Employee Recognition Dinner at Chapman High School.

It has become a tradition now to award the Outstanding Service to the District and Outstanding Service to Students award in the spring. Nominees will be submitted by district employees in any position for a fellow district employee. It is someone who embodies the sentiments of each award. The procedure is to collect all the nominations to be evaluated by the Board of Education and discuss during executive session on who the final candidate will be in March. A plaque is given out at the Employee Recognition dinner in April.

The past winners are:

Outstanding Service to Students:

Year 1 - James Bell

Year 2 - Jake Rutledge

Outstanding Service to the District:

Year 1 - Tony Frieze and Tara Tiernan

Year 2 - Randy Heller

Executive Session:

Kelly Kuntz made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for (30) 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 8:47 pm. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Suther was invited into the session.

The Board returned to open session at 8:47 pm.

Brenda Edleston made the motion to go back into Executive Session for (15) 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 9:02 pm. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Suther was still in the session.

The Board returned to open session at 9:02 pm.

Brenda Edleston made the motion to go back 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 9:12 pm. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0. Superintendent Suther was still in the session.

The Board returned to open session at 9:12 pm.

Brenda Edleston made the motion to go back into Executive Session for no more than (1) hour 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 10:15 pm. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Suther was still in the session.

The Board returned to open session at 10:15 pm.

Mike Rutz made a motion to approve all Personnel changes given to the Board. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Retirements:

Randy Heller - USD 473 Transportation Director

Resignations:

Kurt Webster - Chapman High School Weights Teacher & Head Football Coach

Transfers:

Megan Keller - Blue Ridge Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Kara Wilkins - Rural Center Principal / At Risk Teacher

Afton Diehl - Blue Ridge Principal / Preschool Teacher

New Hires:

Deann Hunt - Enterprise Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher

Jason Grider - Chapman High School Weights Teacher/Head Football Coach/Summer Weights

Sawyer Havenstein - Chapman Middle School Physical Education Teacher

Cris Kerston - Chapman High School Assistant Baseball Coach

Johnny Gibson - Chapman High School Assistant Baseball Coach

Kelly Kuntz made the motion to extend the following Administrator's contracts for one year:

Clint Merritt - Chapman High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director

Ashley Stearns - Chapman Elementary Principal

Kate Thornton - Chapman High School Principal

Mary Wright - Chapman Middle School Principal

Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Kelly Kuntz made the motion to adjourn. Mike Rutz seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 10:20 pm

Brenda Edleston; Board President

Michele Sutter; Board Clerk