

Minutes

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

April 8, 2024

Brenda Edleston, School Board President, called the Regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 pm at the Education Center located at 822 N. Marshall, Chapman, KS.

Other Board Members Present: Mike Rutz, Dana Obermeyer, Betsy Edwards, Jessica Murphy and Jennifer Elliott. (Not in attendance Kelly Kuntz)

Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Andrea Koster, Deputy Board Clerk, Keven Ward, Clint Merritt, Afton Diehl, Kate Thornton, Cheri Simpson, Nicole Barnes, Ashley Stearns, Mary Wright, Shelby Banks, Rylee Schlesener, Kara Wilkins

Jessica Murphy made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- 3.01 Approve the minutes from Regular March 18th, 2024 BOE meeting
- 3.02 Financial reports: Treasurer, Food Service, Petty Cash
- 3.03 Payment of Bills
- 3.04 Public Participation

School Presentations

Rylee Schlesener and Shelby Banks presented about the PreSchool at Chapman Elementary School by showing a video explaining the philosophy of the program along with lots of pictures of activities with students. Mrs. Schlesener spoke about how they are focusing on intentional learning and visible learning with "I can" statements.

There are currently 24 students in the half day three and four year old programs. These programs have requirements to address students with IEP needs along with having other students as peer mentors. The full day five day a week four year old program with Ms. Banks is at 13 students. There is room in the future to handle more students and hope that more take advantage of the program. There is support in both classrooms with a para-professional and a full-time teacher's aide. Some of

the topics covered involve how they utilize a family style breakfast and lunch to help students interact while eating, adopted the new FrogStreet curriculum which is comprehensive, and instilled a play-based station style of learning. The other preschool programs in the district include a halftime three and four year old group at Rural Center, HeadStart at Enterprise, and next year a NEW three and four year old combined program that will be full day four days a week at Blue Ridge. Ms. Banks talked about it being her first year and absolutely loves it. Mrs. Schlesener said thank you to the district and board of education for allowing them to take advantage of a lot of Professional Development opportunities and they even got the privilege of demonstrating about the USD 473 successes at the MTSS annual conference in Wichita this year.

Mental Health Liaison

Nicole Barnes spoke about how her role is to help parents coordinate mental health services for their students at the USD 473 schools and Herington. Nicole said that the program has been very beneficial and currently supports Chapman Elementary, Chapman Middle School, Chapman High School, and Enterprise Elementary. She said that the program is called the Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT) which is a partnership with the Salina Central Kansas Mental Health Center. The biggest success of the program is the ability for students to get services directly from a professional therapist during the school day without parents having to travel or take off work. This is the 6th year servicing USD 473 and currently a total of 46 students are in the program with others still being processed. The weekly schedule involves on Monday therapy at CES, Tuesday at CMS and Friday at CHS. There is also an office in Abilene which helps to provide for same day services if needed.

Mrs. Barnes explained that they provide case management throughout the week because anxiety and depression levels are at an all-time high. So, they are providing preventive services to help students develop skills needed to prevent symptoms. She explained that the services work with insurance and helps parents tremendously. The therapists also work with the teachers to promote proper coping skills. Statistics show that one out of eight students have anxiety. With the needs and success of the program, they are advocating for a second therapist.

House Bill 2669 grant currently funds this program and they are trying to make it permanent.

New Business

Band Uniforms

Superintendent Suther talked about band uniforms being a priority that the board has been talking about for a couple years in their work sessions. The current uniforms are over 25 years old with many of them needing repair. They are also made of heavy material that is hard to wear at events like parades when it is hot outside. The new uniforms would be much lighter and the plan is to start with 70 uniforms to allow for extra with new members joining or when students are needing different sizes (current numbers in band are around 50 students). The quote is from the Stanbury Company which is listed on the cooperative purchasing program through Omnia Partners and the total amount is \$46,129.90 which would come out of the 2023-24 Capital Outlay budget.

Dana Obermeyer made the motion to approve the band uniform quote for the 2023-24 capital outlay budget year. Betsy Edwards seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

DCS Roof Evaluation

Superintendent Suther said that he worked with DCS Company out of Wichita to have all USD 473 roofs evaluated. Pictures and evaluations of the condition of each roof was shared with the board of education with a plan for priorities. The current roof on all the newer Chapman Schools rebuilt from the tornado is still under a 20-year warranty. The highest priority was determined to be the flat roof of Blue Ridge Elementary because it is over 30 years old and has multiple areas that leak. The next highest priority will be Enterprise Elementary to be replaced because of being over 30 years old also but not showing the signs of leaking as much. DCS along with USD 473 held a prebid meeting with three different roofing companies that chose to attend. After the final bids were evaluated the low amount came out to be J.B. Turner and Sons Commercial Roofing at \$139,489.25 for the roof replacement, \$6159 for the alternate #1 gutters, and \$4975 for the alternate #2 skylights. The new roof will have a 20-year warranty and a 2-year warranty for the craftsmanship. The work would take place this summer before the students are back in session.

Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve the Blue Ridge Roof replacement project from the 2024-25 budget year from capital outlay which includes the roof replacement, gutters, and skylights with the low bid from J.B. Turner & Sons Commercial Roofing Company. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

TRANE HVAC Controls

Representative from TRANE, Keven Ward, recapped the HVAC Phase 1 which involved replacement of roof top units, furnaces, thermostats and much more for Enterprise, Rural Center and Blue Ridge. Phase 1 was able to be accomplished in two years which now leads to Phase 2 for HVAC controls involving CHS, CMS, and CES.

The priority has been determined to be Chapman High School because the ability to control the units to change temperature, get readings and other functions has not been possible for a while. The current HVAC controls and software is out of date in which the company is no longer in business and they are no longer serviceable. The plan would be to have all of the controls installed this summer before students are back in session. This new system would tie in all of the outlying schools and CHS onto the same software to make sure everything like chillers, boilers, fresh air intake and much more is working properly and efficiently. The bid is through the cooperative purchasing of Omnia Partners and the quote is for \$485,572.00. The outlook is for the new program to work for up to 20 years when it comes for future planning.

Mike Rutz made the motion to approve the HVAC controls with TRANE for the 2024-25 capital outlay budget year. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Nonresident Capacity

Superintendent Mr. Suther explained the deadlines again for the nonresident student approvals with the capacity levels published on May 1st and then applications will be accepted between June 1st to June 30th. Then, priorities will be considered before using the lottery system which involves areas like staff children, student siblings, military, and homeless. If there are still open slots in a grade level then a random lottery will take place with parents and guardians notified by July 15th.

A chart was shared with the board of education with current student enrollment by grade, historical student enrollment over the last five years, projected enrollment numbers to set by class size for K-8 and overall numbers for 9-12th grade. Nonresident students can make a request for which building but USD 473 can determine which building a student must attend. Transportation is not required unless determined directly by the IEP team.

Board Members did request to keep the K-2nd grade consistent for the capacity numbers at Chapman Elementary which would be at 15 while the 3rd through 5th could go up to 18 by class. Of course this number can be higher when the school year starts because any new student who lives in the district is accepted beyond any capacity numbers. The superintendent will add in the openings for each kindergarten after round ups take place in each building during the month of April. **The approved chart for patrons to know the capacity numbers will be published on May 1st to the usd473.net website.**

Betsy Edwards made the motion to approve the USD 473 student enrollment projections and the nonresident enrollment capacity as recommended and presented by the superintendent with the change of grades 1 and 2 for Chapman Elementary to 15 students. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Opaa! 24-25 Contract Renewal

Superintendent Mr. Suther explained the board of education has already approved through the bid process to use Opaa! for the next five years. This is for the 2024-25 contract for setting the price by Opaa! and KSDE which is a 4.5% Opaa! increase for student and adult meal prices charged to USD 473 and a 7.2% Meal Equivalent Factor increase by KSDE. We will determine the meals prices for USD 473 students and adults at the July board meeting to see if a change needs to be approved.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve the 2024-25 Opaa! contract. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Donations

Superintendent Suther explained that the United Methodist Church collects funds each year to donate to our district, to assist with medical needs at Chapman Elementary School and for the School Nurse to provide what is needed. They provided a donation of \$380. Astra Bank has a donation for USD 473 from the School Spirit Card donation of \$1,514 which comes from those who choose to get a Chappy debit card.

Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve donations as presented. Betsy Edwards seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Approve May Graduates

There are currently 91 seniors scheduled to graduate on May 12, 2024. They must still meet all the final requirements set by USD 473 and the Kansas State Board of Education over this last month of school.

Betsy Edwards made the motion to approve all Chapman High School seniors to graduate who meet the USD 473 and the Kansas State Board of Education requirements. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Graduation and Promotion Certificates

Brenda Edleston said that the board already has an eager volunteer for the CHS board representative, Kelly Kuntz, at graduation with having a senior graduating this year. The ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 2:30PM and the CMS promotion will be on Monday, May 13, 2024. Dana Obermeyer stated she has an eighth grader and will represent the board at the CMS promotion but is also willing to attend the CHS graduation. Finally, Jessica Murphy will round out the second representative at CMS.

KASB Summer Institute

Board President, Brenda Edleston, put in a plug for some board training offered by KASB this summer. The flyer was shared with all board members with the agenda on July 14th and 15th. They will have keynotes speakers and breakout sessions with sharing opportunities along with the first day revolving around school law. Board members need to let the board clerk, Michele Sutter, know if they wish to attend.

Personnel

Retirement:

Dwynne Riegal - Chapman Middle School Math Teacher

Resignations:

Ethan Shippy - Chapman Middle School Science Teacher

Nanette Lamb - Chapman Middle School Science Teacher

Transfer:

Daniel Klukas - Chapman Elementary Full Time Custodian

New Hires:

Mike Spohn - Chapman High School Social Studies Teacher

Lindsey Ascher - Chapman Middle School Science Teacher

David Hertzog - Bus Mechanic

Dana Obermeyer made the motion to approve all personnel as presented. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

New Board Member Procedures

Board Member Mike Rutz addressed the board about his future resignation. Mr. Rutz expressed his appreciation for all the support throughout the years and was letting everyone know he will be moving to Michigan this summer so his last meeting will be May 20, 2024. He stated that USD 473 has a great staff, a great person in charge and it has been a great ride.

Mr. Suther expressed his appreciation for Mr. Rutz's service for over six years and how he is an educator who always helped to gain perspective on issues to make our district better. Brenda Edleston added her thank you for his words of wisdom, calm level headed guidance and valuable input. One of the biggest accomplishments he is leaving us with is how diligent the district has been to approve new curriculum that will truly help students.

Mr. Suther then explained that an official posting in the Dickinson County News-Times newspaper will take place for one week for the open position for District 3, Position 6. Since Mr. Rutz serviced the second term for over two years and is resigning after May 1st, the next board member chosen will fill the term until 2026 (finishing the term). The announcement needs to be circulated for 15 days after posting it and will also be put on the usd473.net website.

The plan is to post in the May 16th edition. We will take letters of interest until June 5 at 4PM. The format will be up to a 5 minute presentation by each candidate and then 5-10 questions during the regular open forum session. The agenda item will be at the end of the June 10th board meeting so after the board votes for the person to fill the position, they will officially start at the July 15th board meeting.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to adjourn. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned: 8:38 pm

Brenda Edleston, School Board President

Andrea Koster, Deputy Clerk