

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT # 368
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIAMI COUNTY

Regular Meeting
JANUARY 9, 2012
7:00 P.M. – BOARD OF EDUCATION ROOM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Members Absent:

Stacy Bledsoe
Jim Fisher
Kelly Franke, Vice-President
Kevin Schasteen
Shelly Schierman
Tom Vohs
Mike Yocam, President

Judy Welter, Superintendent of Schools
Matt Meek, Asst. Superintendent of Schools
Jimmy Hay, Business Manager, /Clerk

Staff: Staci Wokutch, Mark Bloustine, Janis Grandon, Jeff Hines, Abby Burnett

Visitors: Doug Conwell, Wendy Miller, Amy Kelley, Mandy Wiseman, Ben Chapman

AGENDA

Mr. Vohs moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an information item. Mr. Schasteen seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Schierman moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

BOARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Judy Welter introduced Doug Conwell, retired superintendent from Wamego, who is part of KELI (Kansas Education Leadership Institute). KELI is a K-State program for new superintendents. Judy stated the Technology Professional Development in-service that was led by district teachers was outstanding. Teachers know first-hand about using technology in the classroom. Duane Lintz received the second Diamond Coach Award, which is earned by students earning 30,000 cumulative points over several years. Duane will receive this award at a presentation at the National Forensics League conference later this year in Indianapolis. The legislative dinner and meal prepared by USD #368 Food Service held at PHS on January 4th were outstanding. The feedback given to legislators was great in comparison to past discussions where the audience listens to the legislators speak. Community thank-you letters are being signed by Mr. Yocam and will be sent to express appreciation to community partners who support USD #368. Stacy Bledsoe commented that January is school board appreciation month and thanked Board of Education members for their support throughout the years. Phil Bressler reported that the PHS Drama Club was State Champ in Technical Events,

qualifying for the International Thespian Event. Hannah McFarland won one of ten Kansas Thespian scholarships in the amount of \$1,000. Jeff Hines congratulated Leslie Wilson for being named the Class 4-A cross-country coach of the year at a coaches meeting in Junction City. Matt Meek commented a recent presentation he attended where the FFA speaker was from Paola and represented the community well. Board President Yocam reminded everyone of the need to stay in contact with legislators during the upcoming legislative session. He also heard positive reactions to the return of the school resource officer last week and the recent drug dog visit.

PHS STUDENT PRESENTATION

Zach Trigg, PHS junior, described his acceptance into the United States Senate Page Program. He heard about the program and contacted Senator Jerry Moran's office to inquire about the program. After completing the enrollment process which consisted of submitting a resume, transcript, and 300-word essay describing what he expected to gain from the experience, Zach received a personal phone call from Senator Moran with the news of his acceptance. Zach will leave January 27th and will return June 8th. During that time, he will serve as a page for the Republican Party with Senator Moran being his sponsor. He will assist with the legislative session by running errands for legislators and preparing the chamber for the session. He will attend school in Washington DC in the mornings, beginning at 6:30 am and ending 2-3 hours later when the Senate session starts. He described the standard three-piece Navy blue page uniform suit and tie that is worn. Pages have weekends free to explore the nation's capitol and also page "field trips" to area cities and attractions. He will also enjoy the legislative break in April. He will be allowed to fly home every other weekend if he chooses with parent approval. They will reside in Daniel Webster Hall which is a dorm for pages located two blocks from the Senate. There are only 30 Senate pages selected (14 Republicans and 16 Democrats). Senator Moran's office has advised that this is the first time in over 50 years that Kansas has had a Senate page. Senator Moran will be at PHS next Wednesday at 10 am for a photograph with Zach. Zach plans to become involved in politics after college.

CURRICULUM PRESENTATION

Abby Burnett (7th Grade Math & Pre-Algebra teacher), Mandy Wiseman (parent), Wendy Miller (parent and Cottonwood para), and Amy Kelley (parent) were introduced by PMS Principal Mark Bloustone. Their presentation covered communication efforts to keep parents and patrons alike informed and also focused on career emphasis and pathways, both of which are USD #368 Board of Education goals. The opening slide of their presentation was made up of words that staff used to describe PMS in a recent survey. Words such as friendly, supportive, caring, welcoming, dedicated, positive, safe, helpful, and fun were just a few staff used to describe their feelings about PMS. The responses received most often appeared larger than the other words and was arranged in a unique presentation. The finished product has been framed and is on display in the PMS hallways.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mrs. Welter reminded the Board of Education members of the upcoming work session on January 23 and held at PMS at 7:30am.

Jeff Hines discussed the Frontier League. He indicated there are currently seven (7) teams in the league, down from 13 teams a few years back. The league is "stuck between the haves and have nots" meaning that schools to the North are experiencing growth and schools to the South are not. Currently being discussed is the possible expansion of the Frontier League. Mill Valley is looking to leave the Kaw Valley league, leaving only 7 schools in that league. The remaining schools are interested in moving to the Frontier League. Currently four schools have expressed interest in joining the Frontier League and have applied for membership. They are Tonganoxie, Basehor-Linwood, Bonner Springs, and Piper. Those districts will be presenting at the Frontier League meeting this week. Their application for membership, if approved, would be effective with the 2014-15 school year. A vote on the matter may occur in either February or March 2012. To be approved, five of the

seven Frontier League member schools would need to vote to approve, which may be difficult to achieve.

Mr. Hines explained that there is a long history with current Frontier League members. The group is also comprised of close, area schools which reduces travel time and transportation expense. It is tougher to play all schools in a schedule if additional schools are added. An option would be to set up a division if all four schools were accepted, possibly a North/South or an East/West split. He favors a North/South split putting Paola in the South division due to history and close locations for travel. Mr. Hines favors remaining at seven teams at this point in time, unless there are compelling reasons to change presented at the meeting this week. Taking one or two new schools may cause the Kaw Valley league to collapse at which point the KSHSAA could rule that the Frontier League has to accept the schools if they are turned down by other leagues and have nowhere else to go. When asked by Board Member Tom Vohs, Mark Bloustine replied that any changes made should not impact the middle school league formation.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Vohs moved to approve the 2010-2011 district audit as performed by Agler & Gaeddert. Mr. Schasteen seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Supt Welter discussed the request by Lakemary Center to replace Larry Durbin, school psychologist with an Assistant Principal position. Mr. Durbin provided duties consistent with those of an assistant principal. Amanda Martell, Lakemary Principal, indicated that a psychologist on the Lakemary side could provide services for this position and expressed her preference to hire an assistant principal in lieu of a school psychologist. Stacy Bledsoe asked for confirmation that the position would be eligible for categorical aid reimbursement, which Mrs. Welter responded that according to Dr. Michael Hughes, Special Education Coop Director, the position would be eligible. Tom Vohs inquired if the position would provide direct student support and instruction. Stacy Bledsoe moved to approve adding a new administrative Lakemary Assistant Principal position. Jim Fisher seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Kelly Franke moved that the board enter into Executive Session with Mrs. Welter, Mr. Meek, and Mr. Hay to discuss negotiations and personnel until 8:25 pm. Stacy Bledsoe seconded. Motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Welter, Mr. Meek, and Mr. Hay left executive session at 8:19 pm. The board adjourned from executive session at 8:25 pm.

No further action was taken. The Board of Education adjourned at 8:25 pm.

President _____

Clerk _____

Date Approved: