

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools
Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2006**

Opening

A meeting of the Board of Education of Ashland-Greenwood Public School was convened in open and public session at 7:30 p.m. on October 16, 2006 by President David Lutton.

Present

The roll was called and the following Board members were present: Randy Beranek, Melvin Cerny, David Lutton, and David Nygren, Suzanne Sapp, and Cindy Vest.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Ashland Gazette on September 28, 2006. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

Call to Order

The meeting was duly called to order.

Announcement of Open Meetings Act Posting

At the beginning of this meeting, David Lutton announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the north wall of the meeting room, behind the board members.

Agenda Change

President Lutton announced an addition to the agenda to include the discussion of a vehicle with a snow blade.

Motion by Beranek with second by Sapp to approve the agenda. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Nygren with second by Cerny to approve all items on the consent agenda as provided, including four contract renewals, Stacy Nelsen, Mary Robinson, Nebraska Department of Education for Iowa School of the Deaf and Fremont Public Schools for Reading Recovery Continuing Contact. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Visitors and Communication from the Public

There were no visitors or communication from the public.

Administrative and Practitioners Reports

Mrs. Heusman reported on the in-service day held October 13. The staff worked hard scoring the fall writing, they also worked on data sessions, and goals for the school improvement team.

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Administrative and Practitioners Reports, continued.

Mrs. Heusman also reported that the State of School Report will be released next week and encouraged members to review this report.

Mrs. Heusman told board members that a survey was being mailed to parents and community members to gather information to be used for school improvement. She passed a survey to each board member and encouraged them to complete the survey.

Mr. Bentzen passed out a handout of guidelines for assignment of times and facilities for extracurricular activities. The guidelines were developed in effort to best serve the students involved in activities. All times and resources are available to all groups with the expectation that sponsors can work together to resolve the best times and use of facilities. Under this plan, coaches and sponsors can work out times to hold practices with the athletic director and principal overseeing the schedule. It could be possible for groups to practice simultaneously if facilities are available. Also under the guidelines coaches and sponsors could work out a solution for a student that may need to be at two activities by allowing the student to arrive at one practice at a later time.

Mr. Bentzen told board members that most schools have a system worked out between coaches and sponsors and he feels that this guideline will allow Ashland-Greenwood staff to better manage students, the use of facilities and time that will work out best for students.

Mr. Pease reported on the progress of the Smith property. The ground had been leveled and sod has been laid. A fence will be installed to the west of the property funded partially by the district and installed by the neighbor. The trees will be removed. The property should be usable this spring for elementary PE activities.

Mr. Pease reported that the auditors were out to the office for one day to work on the district's financial audit. An audit report will be provided to the board when it is returned.

The insurance audit will be held this week. Larry Bock will spend a half-day looking at safety and liability issues in the district. He will meet with the maintenance, custodial and food service departments. He will also meet with Mr. Pease and Mrs. Holz to discuss worker's compensation insurance issues.

Mr. Pease also told board members that the high school had a significant power surge and outage possibly caused by a squirrel. The repair damages may be covered by the district boiler coverage and perhaps the district will receive a claims payment for some of the damages.

Mr. Pease also reported that the breakfast program continues to do well. The program is consistently feeding 100 plus children each morning.

Mr. Pease reported that he had attended a meeting where the city of Ashland discussed tax increment financing and involved declaring parts of Ashland a blighted area to allow for property improvements. This program could also allow for street and sewer improvements. The improvements would not be subject to property taxes for 15 years. This would mean that district property taxes will not be collected. The additional

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Administrative and Practitioners Reports, continued.

property value will not be a resource for state aid so state aid will not be impacted.

Mrs. Bray told the board that Jessica Bentzen is leaving the district the end of the semester and Michelle Lindhorst will move into the position of secretary in the Elementary Office. She will be advertising for a para professional position to replacement Ms. Lindhorst.

OLD BUSINESS

Initiative 423

It was discussed that 423 could result in reduced state funding hereby increasing demand on property taxes.

Motion by Nygren with second by Sapp for the board to take a position opposed to the November ballot Initiative 423. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

High School Commons Remodel

Mr. Bentzen gave the board members a tour of the high school commons and reviewed the suggested remodeling ideas. The committee's purpose is to make a more inviting introduction to the school and display the honors and trophies in a more attractive manner with some consistency. Ideas for the remodel included: removing one trophy case and moving to the middle school wing, along with that case would be the moving of middle school awards; grouping plaques and determining which to display then displaying in order with oak frames; moving some plaques to a more appropriate location such as scholarship and outstanding student awards plaques to the library or counseling center; assigning every activity a ½ of a display case for prominent awards and possible rotation of existing awards; removing banners in the gym; removing alumni pictures and storing in a more secure manner, possibly in library; purchasing a display case for art; and also creating a wall of honors. Discussion was held.

Remodeling of the commons area is hoping to take place next summer. President Lutton asked board members to provide input to Mr. Bentzen or a member on the committee.

Middle School/High School Yearbook

Mr. Bentzen and Mr. Pease reviewed with the board a yearbook checklist of basic requirements for the yearbook. Discussion was held and members agreed with the list. It was suggested that the list include the school board. A suggestion was also made that a journalism class be held to work on yearbook and a school newspaper.

Community Resource Center

Supt. Pease presented the board members with a copy of the Community Resource Center Board Committee Report of February 23, 2006. These ideas were originally presented for consideration in a Community Resource Center. The committee is again asking for input to what the school is looking for in a community building. Discussion was held. Member Lutton told board members that the committee would be interviewing

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Community Resource Center, continued.

architects and they will want direction with ideas to proceed.

Superintendent Pease asked what type of issues would be deal breakers. Member Beranek suggested the facility should be connected to the school building and it should be appropriate for us and it should offer the school something. Member Cerny agreed that the buildings should be connected. Member Lutton felt that there could be no better time than now to move on this as enrollment is increasing.

Discussion was held regarding a pool and performing arts center. Member Cerny did not think a pool was a compatible idea for an education facility. Members have a lot of interest in a performing arts center.

The board agreed the priorities should listed as follows: Library, Administration Offices, Distance Learning, Head Start Facility, Meeting Room, Performing Arts Center and Before and After School Care. Members on the Joint Advisory Committee will take this information back to the next committee meeting and keep the board posted.

Vehicle Purchase

Supt. Pease told board members that the district had discussed the purchase of a truck with blade. This vehicle could assist in moving snow for the district. Discussion was held regarding such purchase and Member Beranek offered to assist in the purchase process.

Motion by Nygren with second by Vest to authorize Randy Beranek to work with the maintenance department to purchase a truck with blade and take all the necessary action to consummate such a purchase. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Surplus School Property

Superintendent presented the board with a list of proposed items and equipment to be sold at an auction on Friday, October 20 in the Elementary building's parking lot.

Motion by Sapp with second by Vest to declare the property surplus and offer the property for public sale per the prepared resolution. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

Personnel Appointments

Consideration and action to approve personnel appointments for the Abigail Eccleston for Assistant Middle School Girls Basketball Coach and Gwen Shevlin as Speech Team Aide.

Motion by Beranek with second by Sapp to approve the appointment of Abigail Eccleston for Assistant Middle School Girls Basketball Coach and Gwen Shevlin as Speech Team.

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Personnel Appointments, continued.

After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

Foundation Board Replacement

Supt. Pease told the board he had received Bob Simpson's resignation from the Foundation board prior his death. A foundation appointment will be recommended at next month's meeting.

Information Items

Supt. Pease provided the board an explanation of the 2006 Certified Adjusted Valuation Report.

Supt. Pease presented the 2006 Fall Membership Report and a comparison to previous years.

Supt. Pease provided the Certified Levies for County School Districts.

Any board members interested in the NASB New Board member workshop on December 5 and the NASB State Conference in Omaha on November 15-17 following Board Training Opportunities should contact the Superintendent's office:

Other business presented for future considerations.

No other items were presented for future consideration during this session.

Adjournment

President Lutton adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday October 16, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library of the High School at 1842 Furnas Street, Ashland, NE. An agenda for the meeting, kept current, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Superintendent's Office, 1225 Clay Street, Ashland, NE.

Minutes submitted by:

Suzanne Sapp, Secretary