

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools
Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2008**

Opening

A meeting of the Board of Education of the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools was convened in open at 7:30 p.m. on 21st day of April 2008 by President Suzanne Sapp.

Present

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

Notice of the meeting was posted in advance in the Superintendent's Office, 1225 Clay Street, Ashland, NE. 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, President Sapp 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

There was no change to the mailed agenda.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Nygren with second by Cerny to approve all of the items on the consent agenda. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Visitors and Communication from the Public

There were no visitors or communication from the public.

Administrative and Practitioners Reports

Jean Ann Watermeier and FBLA team members Hannah Luebbe, Georgia Lewin and Lindsey Watson reported on FBLA projects and state competition results. Hannah Luebbe and Georgia Lewin displayed to the board the website created by their team assisted by Hannah's father Bob Luebbe. The Web Site Development team of Hannah Luebbe, Georgia Lewin, and Brandon Nygren took third place at state competition.

Lindsey Watson presented her Electronic Career Portfolio which earned her 3rd place at the FBLA district competition and has earned her a place at the national convention contest by virtue of her third place finish in the Electronic Career Portfolio competition this summer. Watson also received Who's Who in the Nebraska FBLA recognition along with a \$500.00 Southeast Community College scholarship.

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Administrative and Practitioners Reports

Sponsor Jean Ann Watermeier presented to the board a list of the state FBLA competition results for the Ashland Greenwood FBLA team and thanked the board for their support. She also told board members that Ashland businessman Bob Luebbe was recognized with a Star Volunteer Award by the Nebraska FBLA for his work with the AGHS chapter.

Kevin Koopmann reported to the board on some of the events held this semester with music students and also provided video of some performances. Sixth grade students competed in their first vocal music contest at Wahoo Public Schools and earned a superior rating. The middle school choir received solid ones at their competition with a superior rating. Freshman and sophomores music students attended the Freshmore Clinic where they learned 8 tunes and performed a concert that evening.

Koopman reported that in preparing high school students for district competition he brought in judges to ready the students for competition. Koopman presented clips of the performance which included songs sung in English, Latin and Spanish. The choir received a superior rating at district competition. Solo performances at the district event earned Kimberly Morwitzer, Hope Taylor and Emily Judd Superior ratings. Mr. Koopmann thanked the board for their support during this semester.

Mrs. Heusman reported that due to resent legislation the state assessment and report schedule will be changing. She provided the board the new assessment and report schedule. STARS will fade out in the next few years. She reported that she was hopeful the district will continue with STARS using the formative assessments. The STARS program has had many benefits for the district providing the staff with valuable curriculum work and learning skills for student assessments.

Mrs. Bray reported that April is a busy month for Elementary students. Fourth grade students will travel to Pioneer School, first grade students will visit the Henry Doorly Zoo and third grade students will visit the Joslyn Art Museum. Track and Field Day is scheduled for April 29 for 3rd and 4th grade students and April 30 for 5th and 6th grade students. Primary students Track and Field days are scheduled in May.

Mr. Bentzen reported that tomorrow is the Rotary Club Track Invite. This week the track team will have three meets due to rescheduled events that were not held due to inclement weather.

Mr. Bentzen invited board members to attend the all school play with performances on Thursday and Friday night. The play is "A Murder is Announced" based on an Agatha Christie novel.

Supt. Pease reported that he and Carrie Holz had been reviewing vendors for administering the new regulations in the 403 (b) plans. Some of the companies offering service are Mid America, National School Insurance, Union Bank and Gatekeepers. The ESU's are also working on putting together a plan. A recommendation will be brought back to the board in May.

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Administrative and Practitioners Reports, continued.

Supt. Pease met with Craig Jones of D.A. Davidson, the fiscal agent for the district's bonds regarding the refunding of the bonds. Pease told board members that a savings of \$40,000 is projected. Pease told board members that in May there could be an additional drop in the interest rate and the savings could be increased. He also plans to review the bond fund surplus and possibly pay the principal down to achieve additional savings. Discussion was held. Board members were in agreement that it made sense to proceed with the refunding of the bonds.

Policy 1330/3515

Consideration and discussion of revisions in policy 1330/3515 relating to the use of school facilities, priorities, fee structures and other conditions and restrictions.

Member Garner asked who would be responsible to set the priorities of the groups. Pease responded that the Activities Director would set group priorities based off the guidelines with direction from the building principals and Superintendent.

Member Lutton questioned if there were any circumstances that would include classroom use. Pease stated all Elementary classrooms would be excluded and some high school classrooms would automatically be excluded due higher risks. Rooms at the high school with higher risks included the science labs, computer labs and weight room. Member Lutton stated he thought any room or hallway above the main level of the Elementary School should be off limits. He feels above the main level limits supervision. Member Cerny stated that the upper levels tend to increase the liability with the stairs. Member Nygren questioned how the security system in the elementary building worked and could it be programmed to exclude levels. Pease explained the current system when alarmed is a door and stairway system, it is not currently zoned.

Member Garner questioned the use of the facility for indoor practices. Member Sapp mentioned that the school teams have used the gyms and she felt that a school team should be allowed. Member Cerny felt gym use for practices needed to be limited to using indoor practice balls. Discussion was held. Pease suggested the wording to read "exclude the batting of outdoor baseballs, softballs".

Member Sapp brought to the discussion the moratorium over the holiday season. She felt that if a church was using the building that a Christmas service should be allowed. Pease told board members the moratorium is based on the NSAA closure and that district policy has added that all facilities be closed during the moratorium. Member Garner suggest to leave policy and to have the church request a waiver of policy for events. Member Cerny added that the board had just granted waiver of Sunday morning policy for post prom. A waiver of policy is a good solution for those types of situation. Members agreed a wavier of policy would be a reasonable solution.

Member Sapp questioned the no storage portion of the policy as she was aware that a church is using storage in the Elementary building. Mrs. Bray advised she had approved some storage use in an area that was not being used. Member Garner suggested that this would be another area that exceptions could be requested through wavier of policy.

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Discussion on facility usage during summer and holiday breaks possible problems for custodial projects. This will need to be addressed throughout the course of the year.

Discussion on length of usage. Member Lutton want the guidelines to clearly define the year limit. Member Cerny stated he felt there should be satisfactory evidence in play for an extension beyond the year limit. Member Beranek stated his recommendation would be to set a one year limit. Members were in agreement to not exceed one year period.

Member Garner asked regarding the fees of facilities. Supt. Pease will bring fees back to the next meeting. He wants to figure some actual costs to operate facilities. Pease told board members that the fees for facility usage are usually deposited into the Athletic Account.

Member Beranek stated that he would like to see the weight lifting facility continue to be opened to the public. Member Cerny disagreed that the area was a high risk area and there now is another exercise facility in the community. Member Sapp agreed the weight room should be excluded from facility use.

Discussion was held regarding the date this policy should go into effect. Board members agreed that it should go into effect June 1.

Supt. Pease will prepare the discussed revisions, prepare a new facility use request and a facility use fee schedule and bring to the board at the next board meeting for possible adoption.

2008-09 Furniture and Equipment Requests

Supt. Pease presented to the board a revised list of recommended furniture and equipment requests for 2008-09. Some of the item in the recommended list include sensor lab startup (five stations), 2 student microscopes, chairs, desks, stools, file cabinets, 10 desktop PCs for the administrative offices, cordless drill, air jack, thermometer, replacement of file server, football helmets, and whiteboards and/or student response system. Total price is estimated at \$69,767.00.

Motion by Beranek with second by Lutton to approve the recommended furniture and equipment requests for 2008-09. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel

Supt. Pease recommended to the board Jill Finkey for the position of Curriculum Supervisor. Discussion was held.

Motion by Lutton with second by Cerny to approve the hiring of Jill Finkey as Curriculum Supervisor. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

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Personnel, continued.

Principal Bentzen recommended to the board Dustin Foutch for the Industrial Technology position. Discussion was held.

Motion by Garner with second by Nygren to approve the hiring of Dustin Foutch as certified teacher. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Non Certified Committee Meeting

Consideration and action to establish a date for a non-certified committee meeting to see staff feedback and prepare a recommendation for wages and benefits for the non certified positions for 2008-09. Discussion was held. The non-certificated salary team committee will meet with staff on May 19, 2008 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Principals' Contract

This matter was moved to the end of the agenda to discuss for executive session discussion.

Information Items

Supt. Pease advised that the school law workshop for board members and administrators is on June 13, interested members should contact his office.

Executive Session

Motion by Lutton with second by Beranek to enter executive session at 9:17 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel and collective bargaining strategy. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, and Sapp. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

Reconvene

The board reconvened from executive session at 9:50 p.m.

Motion by Lutton with second by Cerny to approve 2008-09 contract for Teresa Bray for Elementary Principal and Raymond Bentzen for Middle School High School Principal. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, and Sapp. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

Other business presented for future considerations

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

Adjournment

President Sapp adjourned the meeting at 9:54 p.m. The next Regular Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2008 in the Library of the High School at 1842 Furnas Street, Ashland, NE. An Agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Superintendent's Office, 1225 Clay Street, Ashland, NE 68003.

Minutes submitted by:

Kevin Garner, Secretary