

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2005**

Notice of Regular Meeting published in the October 27, 2005 Ashland Gazette.

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools was called to order at 7:30 p.m. November 21, 2005 by President Randy Beranek.

**Present:**

Randy Beranek, Kevin Garner, Dave Lutton, David Nygren, Suzanne Sapp and Cindy Vest were present.

**1. Approval of Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda includes minutes of previous meeting, financial reports, current monthly claims.

Motion by Lutton with second by Nygren to approve the consent agenda. Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Motion carried.

**2. Visitors and Communication from the Public**

There was no communication from the public.

**3. Administrative and Practitioners Reports.**

Jim Mohrmann and Vicki Washburn reported to the board on the Angel online curriculum software. Staff was trained for this new software this summer. This software program allows for students to login and review assignments, class schedules, class syllabus, and communicate with other students and teachers. It has the ability to provide a paperless classroom.

Mrs. Washburn demonstrated how students can write a paper, save it then download it at home to work on it. She can review and grade papers online. Questions can be asked by students online and they may feel less resistant to speak up on the computer. Mr. Mohrmann demonstrated how he posts assignments and students can review assignments, grades and communicate with him. The software has the ability for online testing and Mr. Mohrmann is working on that feature.

Mr. Bentzen also spoke to the board advising them that about 80 percent of the secondary staff had been trained and additional training will take place this summer. He also showed the board how group discussion can take place with the software. Mr. Bentzen also demonstrated how Middle School and High School lesson plans were now posted on the computer for each teacher.

Questions were answered and discussion took place regarding the software and computer accessibility for students. Although not every student has a computer at home and access is sometimes limited at school the program will better prepare staff for this upcoming trend in technology.

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools Board of Education Meeting November 21, 2005  
Meeting Minutes, Page 2**

Mr. Brokaw presented to the board the Technology plan and proposal. It is a requirement of the E Rate funding that the technology plan be reviewed by the board. The money received from this plan supports 60% of the school's telephone costs. Mr. Brokaw also reviewed a survey that was given staff regarding technology.

**4. Laptop Computer Purchase**

This item was moved from later in the agenda to accommodate Mr. Brokaw. Mr. Brokaw presented to the board the quotes he had received for purchase of laptops. The purchase price includes an extended service plan warranty. Mr. Brokaw advised the board that he had been very pleased with the response time and service Gateway has provided onsite for their computers.

Motion by Sapp with second by Garner to approve the purchase of 32 laptop computers from Gateway for the cost of \$1049. Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Motion carried.

**5. Administrators Reports Continued**

Mr. Bentzen reported to the board that on Tuesday, November 29 the school would be hosting a pre-season NSAA benefit basketball game against Nebraska City. Nebraska City is not a team that the team currently has on their schedule. Officials have offered to donate their time. Proceeds from the game will be donated for relief for Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Bentzen also told that board that on Wednesday, November 30 an external visitation team will visit the school. The team will spend the entire day with the School Improvement Team and report their findings back to the District.

Mrs. Bray reported that First Grade classes will be holding their annual Thanksgiving Play inviting friends and family to attend on Tuesday, November 22. Mrs. Bebout was working with Kindergarten through Third grade classes to prepare for the Holiday Music Program to be held December 6.

Mr. Pease reported to the board on the Saf T Net program. This is a program where parents received an announcement through automated calling. It was tested on November 10 for the dismissal due to the volleyball team qualifying for the state tournament with favorable results.

Mr. Pease advised the board he had heard from the Natural Gas Interlocal Cooperative group advising him to try to lock in with Cornerstone pricing as it appeared Cornerstone will have the best natural gas pricing. Mr. Pease was able to secure a lock in with Cornerstone for a price of \$1.14 per therm. This rate compares to 89 cents per therm last year. The district will continue to participate in the natural gas interlocal.

Mr. Pease reported on the renovation project on the Armbrust house and advised the board that all electrical, heating and cooling work was complete. Also most of the outside work is complete. The maintenance staff will start indoor work.

Mr. Pease reported on LB126 and the current temporary injunction. He will keep the board updated on this issue.

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools Board of Education Meeting November 21, 2005  
Meeting Minutes, Page 3**

Mr. Pease also reported that the State Retirement System reports that projected shortfall of the system was lower than predicted. The system ended up 11 million short and an earlier prediction indicated a 15 million deficit. This year the retirement system raised employees rate to 7.98%; employers match that rate at 101%.

**Old Business**

**6. Policy 4020 Consumer Reports.**

Motion by Vest with second by Lutton to approve policy 4020 on Consumer Reports. Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Motion carried.

**7. Long range student and facility planning**

Supt. Pease told the Board he had contacted the DRL group an architectural company that Bennington, Blair, Elkhorn, Gretna and Waverly had used for facility planning. The company is interested in working with the district. The group offered to conduct the survey for no cost if the district would use their services in the future. Mr. Pease advised the company that the district would like to pay for information rather than lock in their architectural service. The DLR group would like to present to the board on December 5 regarding their services and answer any questions the board may have. Member Garner asked how we would get an unbiased opinion from a company that wanted to lock in for services. Supt. Pease suggested that the board ask that question on December 5.

Supt. Pease suggested to the board that it meet in a planning session meeting on December 5. He suggested to the board to couple the DLR presentation with some preliminary work on the Early Retirement Incentive program.

**New Business**

**1. 2004-2005 District**

Carrie Holz reported to the board on the 2004-2005 district audit that was completed by Dana F Cole & Company, LLP. The completed audit was previously mailed to board members.

Motion by Garner with second by Sapp to accept the 2004-05 District Audit. Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Motion carried.

**2. 2005-06 Proposed School Calendar**

Supt. Pease presented to the board a 2006-07 proposed school calendar for their review and input. The calendar is similar to the current year calendar. Member Sapp commented that she had heard from staff members that it was preferred to have a half-day as the last day of school. Supt. Pease advised board that in the past when school was dismissed early on the last day he had received unfavorable comments from the public and police department. The time between school dismissal and parents returning from work allowed time for some mischievous behavior by some students. Mr. Bentzen commented that last year the final day was a full day and the school day was calm and went well. Supt. Pease will present the proposed 2006-07 calendar to staff for comments and bring those comments back to the board.

**3. Hiring of Non Certified Personnel**

Supt. Pease recommended to the board Rod Kissel for the high school custodian position. Mr. Kissel will also complete the CDL training and serve as a substitute bus driver.

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools Board of Education Meeting November 21, 2005  
Meeting Minutes, Page 4**

**3. Hiring of Non Certified Personnel, continued.**

Motion by Lutton with second by Vest to hire Rod Kissel for the high school custodian position and substitute bus driver. Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Motion carried.

**4. 2005 Multicultural Report**

Mrs. Bray presented a report to the board from the Multicultural Committee. The Multicultural Education Committee met on November 1 as part of an annual review of the district's program. The committee included eight staff member and three parent members. Mrs. Bray reported that the committee determined the Multicultural Education Plan meets state requirement and that various materials and activities serve to promote multicultural education in our school system. Mrs. Bray told the board that she received very positive feedback from the parents that were on the committee.

Motion by Nygren with second by Garner to accept the 2005 multi-cultural report. Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Motion carried.

**Information Items**

Supt. Pease advised the board that it was a requirement for the E Rate plan that the technology plan Mr. Brokaw presented is made available to the board for review.

Supt. Pease presented the Cass County notice on the 2006 board election. February 15 is the deadline for filing for election. Members Randy Beranek, Dave Lutton, and Cindy Vest will be eligible for filing.

Mr. Garner reported to the board the date of the Foundation dinner this year is April 21 and will be held at the Ashland Country Club. He also reported that the Foundation will put on hold the high school parking lot light project and will provide some assistance the AYBA with their current ball field project.

**Adjournment:**

President Beranek adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m. President Beranek issued a call for a planning meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday December 5, 2005 in the Board Conference Room. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2005 in the Board Conference Room in the North Annex at the Elementary School, 1200 Boyd Street, Ashland, Nebraska.

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Minutes submitted by: Cindy Vest