

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools
Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2005**

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

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on February 7, 2005 by President Randy Beranek.

Present:

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

1. Visitors and Communication from the Public

There was no communication from the public.

2. Administrative and Practitioners Reports

Mr. Bentzen reported that the Baylor ACT prep course will be scheduled during the school day this spring. He feels there will be enough interest in the course for it to be held.

At the request of the Nebraska Department of Education some students in grades 9th-12th would be completing a youth risk survey. Because of the sensitivity of the survey a letter was sent to parents advising of the nature of the survey and allowing parents the option to remove students from the survey.

Today the 8th and 11th grade students started spring writing assessments.

Mrs. Bray reported the 4th grade students finished writing assessments, the assessments are allowed to be given to students during in a two-week period.

She told the board 45 elementary students were absent today primarily due to illness.

Mrs. Bray reported that on February 22 a kindergarten parent meeting was scheduled. The office sent out 66 letters to families with students that may be eligible for kindergarten in the 2005-06 school year. She will keep the board informed regarding incoming student numbers for the kindergarten classes.

Old Business

3. Policy 8210 and 8230

Motion by Lutton with second by Vest to approve the revisions to policy 8210 and 8230. Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp and Vest. Motion carried.

4. Board Retreat

Discussion was held regarding a Board retreat. It was decided to hold the meeting off site the school premises on March 7 at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served and a speaker will be scheduled to present to the Board. Members were encouraged to come to the retreat with ideas they may want to see accomplished for the district.

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5. Update of softball field project

Discussion was held with regarding the softball project. It was reported that the AYBA had visited with the City regarding funding however no figures were available. It was decided the building committee would meet with the AYBA to discuss the project. Issues to discuss would include funding as well as the timeline for the project. Mr. Pease would look into setting a meeting date.

New Business

6. Request for overnight travel

Consideration and discussion was held for a request of overnight travel from Jennifer Randall for the show choir on February 26. The show choir will travel to Grand Island for competition from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with finals and awards given following the competition. Both Supt. Pease and Principal Bentzen voiced concern regarding the travel request meeting the previously approved travel trip requirements.

Ray Bentzen outlined reasons overnight travel had been granted in the past. Some of the reasons included adverse weather, late competition with early start times the following day, length of travel time, and the ability to attend school the following day.

Member Garner asked what the policy was regarding overnight travel. Other members inquired regarding the funding of the travel and the musical account's balance. Member Beranek felt if the funding was available in the musical account travel should be allowed. Some concern was raised regarding the overnight stay involving Sunday.

Supt. Pease reviewed current policy 6153.1 that states: the Board shall approve all school sponsored student travel which will cause the student to travel more than 200 miles from Ashland or which will result in an over night stay. Board approval should be requested prior to any plans being made, fund raising (if necessary) taking place, or discussions with students being held.

Motion by Beranek to approve overnight travel for the show choir to Grand Island on February 26. The motion failed for lack of second.

7. State Aid certification and 2005 Revenue Projection

Supt. Pease presented to the Board on the preliminary projection of revenues for the 2005-06 year. The current state aid figures show the district's state aid up approximately \$450,000.00 from last year. Supt. Pease explained the current state aid formula.

Supt. Pease also told the Board of some rising expenditures expected in the 2005-06 year. Preliminary figures reflect a possible increase in health insurance of 12 to 13%. It is expected that the Nebraska Retirement System will also raise rates on the employees and employer's share.

8. 2003-04 Capital Outlay Plan

The board reviewed the 2003-04 capital outlay plan and projects completed. Supt. Pease asked for input regarding upcoming projects the board may like to see added to the list. Suggested items to be included were the softball field renovation project, expansion of the parking lot at the high school both north of the existing lot, as well as the gravel lot west of

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the building and property purchases. Member Lutton suggested looking into the purchase of the five acres of property west of the high school building and track. Board members are to inform Supt. Pease items they would like to be included on the list. A revised list will be presented to the Board in the future.

9. Wrestling Coop with Yutan

Supt. Pease presented to the board a letter from Dan Schnoes, principal of Yutan High School requesting to be released from the wrestling cooperative formed last year and a reduction in the funding provided by Yutan Public Schools. The participation of students from Yutan was not as expected. Currently no students are participating in the program and only three students began the program this winter. No students show an interest in the wrestling program for next year. Mr. Schnoes has contacted the NSAA regarding the steps to cancel the cooperative contract. Discussion was held

Motion by Sapp with second by Garner to terminate the wrestling cooperative with Yutan Public Schools and reduce the cost to 10% of cost of the program. Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp and Vest. Motion carried.

10. Superintendent's Evaluation

An evaluation was presented to the Board for the job performance of Superintendent Pease. Completed forms should be returned to member Lutton.

Information Items:

The ReMinder was included in this agenda from the Nebraska Association of School Boards.

Supt. Pease presented to each board member a copy of 2004 School Leadership Resource Manual.

Adjournment:

President Beranek adjourned meeting at 6:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board Conference Room in the North annex of the Elementary School building at 1200 Boyd Street.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy Vest