

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Meeting Minutes  
August 6, 2007**

**Opening**

A meeting of the Board of Education of Ashland-Greenwood Public School was convened in open and public session immediately following the public hearing at 8:02 p.m. on August 6, 2007 by President David Nygren.

**Present**

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

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Ashland Gazette on July 26, 2007. 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 convene 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 Nygren announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall behind the board members in the meeting room.

**Visitors and Communication from the Public**

There was no communication from the public.

**Administrative and Practitioners Reports**

Diane Starns, Matt Flynn, and Jerry Wendelin reported to the board on their trip to Minnetonka Minnesota to review that district's technology. The visit allowed the group to go and see new technology in action in classroom settings with teaching and students. A slide show was also presented highlighting their visit. This district added technology through a bond issue with a goal of a Smart board in every room. The group viewed technology in the classroom and explained to the board the use of Smartboards, Podcasting, Quizdom, Music Ace Mastro, and I Movie. This district uses technology to accelerate the learning process, the use of technology can engage and interest students with their lessons. The Minnesota staff was also very fluent in technology.

Discussion was held. Board members asked the group what they thought could be used for this district. The group has lots of ideas and thought it could be valuable to pilot a few ideas in some classrooms and expand from there. They reported how important it is to train and know how to use the new technology. This group had recently meet with the administration and were planning goal and action, they will present to staff next week.

Mrs. Bray reported to the board that her office was busy preparing for teachers, enrolling new students and getting ready for start of the new school year.

Mrs. Heusman reported to the board on pre service activities planned for the district. Susan Zimmerman will present on reading strategies to kindergarten through fourth grade teachers on Tuesday and on Wednesday she will present to fifth through twelfth grade teachers. Friday new staff will report and it is an optional day for all staff.

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**Administrative and Practitioners Reports, continued.**

Monday all staff report with a noon lunch planned for everyone. She invited board members to dine with staff. Tuesday the district will host the open house. Wednesday another workshop is planned for the morning.

Mrs. Heusman also told board members that on August 29, 30 or 31<sup>st</sup> a ten-minute radio contact is planned with Clayton Anderson at the space station. Some students will be allowed to ask questions and they are hoping to broadcast the interview. Other activities are planned for those days involving space studies. The media will be invited.

Supt. Pease reported on the progress of summer projects. He reported on the progress of the door project. He also told board members that not all of the Distance Learning equipment has been received and that equipment will still need to be installed. He reported that many technology changes were made over the summer for the district with changes made in the Internet line and upgrade on the web pages. The Elementary building corridor walls on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor have been painted and new wall covering has been installed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Applicable Allowable Growth Rate**

Motion by Cerny with second by Lutton to approve the resolution to access the Applicable Allowable Growth Rate plus 1% of 5.7821%. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, and Sapp. Voting no: none. Absent: Cindy Vest. Motion carried.

**Clear Creek Real & Personal Property**

Supt. Pease recommended to the board for approval Welton Auction to handle the sale of Clear Creek school district property and miscellaneous personal property. Welton Auction recently sold all for of Wahoo Public Schools Class I school buildings and properties. Two of those properties were sold with a contingent to allow the property to become real property. Supt. Pease told board members that he would try to do the same with the Clear Creek property. Supt. Pease told board members that he had not investigated the deed on the property, but would do that as well as have the property surveyed. Welton Auction Company charges 5% of the real property sale and 15% of the personal property sale. Supt. Pease hopes to schedule the auction this fall possible September or October.

Motion by Sapp with second by Cerny to approve Welton Auction to handle the sale of Clear Creek school district property and miscellaneous personal property. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, and Sapp. Voting no: none. Absent: Cindy Vest. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2007-08 Transportation Plan**

Supt. told board members that he surveyed the Greenwood bus students families this summer for their opinion from changing routes run in Greenwood to family routes. Currently the route runs with elementary students on one bus and middle/high school students on another bus. The four rural routes the district run are picked up by family. The returned survey slightly favored making a change to family pick up. One advantage to family pick-ups would allow older and younger students on a bus together this could be a valuable tool in the event of a safety issue. Some people stated that they needed to have their children ride with certain students for day care needs.

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**2007-08 Transportation Plan, continued.**

Supt. Pease told board members that some work would be done so be sure the switch was done right in meeting the needs of the students. A change in the Greenwood routes is planned for the 2008-09 school year.

Supt. Pease presented to the board the district 2007-08 transportation routes. The routes are similar to last year, two Greenwood routes, four rural routes and two special education routes with one to Omaha, one to Lincoln.

Motion by Lutton with second by Beranek to approve the 2007-08 transportation routes. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, and Sapp. Voting no: none. Absent: Cindy Vest. Motion carried.

**Policy Updates**

Supt. Pease presented five new policies recommended for adoption by the district's legal counsel. The policies presented addressed issues related to: federal funds, privacy of social security numbers, the archiving of electronic mail messages and homeless children. Supt. Pease will ask the board for action on these policies at the next board meeting.

**NJUMP Program**

Supt. Pease presented an update regarding the NJUMP program and pricing outlook. Member Lutton asked how the prices fared last year. Supt. Pease told board members that the pricing last year was around 15 cents lower than Cornerstone however the open market was a little better priced. Locking in the price does give the district ability to budget for natural gas costs. Discussion was held.

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance Changes**

Supt. Pease presented to the board correspondence received from Blue Cross and Blue Shield outlining approved changes in underwriting guidelines that will become effective in September of 2008. The changes will process the district's rate by applying information from the district's subgroup information regarding contribution toward the health insurance and participation in the program. Based on the district's current subgroup application the district would not be assessed a surcharge because of its participation level. However a discount would not be received because the school does have an in-lieu insurance alternate. Discussion was held.

**Information Items**

Supt Pease told board members of the Nebraska Association of School Board Area Members Meeting scheduled for September 28, 2007 at Fremont Middle School. Board members interested in attending should contact his office.

**Other Items Presented**

There were no other items presented for consideration.

**Adjournment**

President Nygren adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday August 20, 2007 at 8:00 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.