

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2009**

**Opening**

A meeting of the Board of Education of the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools was convened in open and public session at 7:30 p.m. on 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 2009 by President Kevin Garner.

**Present**

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

**Notice**

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.

**Public Participation**

No public requested participation in the agenda.

**Visitors and Communication from the Public**

No visitors or communication from the public were present.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was duly called to order.

**Announcement of Open Meetings Act Posting**

At the beginning of this meeting, President Garner 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**

Motion by Lutton with second by Sapp to move New Business 9 A. to the beginning of the agenda and move Old Business 8 C. to the end of the 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. No members were absent and not voting. Motion carried.

**Baseball**

Consideration and action to enter into formal discussions with the Yutan Public Schools and Mead Public schools for the possibility of offering baseball as a cooperative activity. Pease presented a draft of a resolution to explore the possibility of a baseball cooperative with Yutan and Mead Public Schools. The resolution would help to determine issues like number of students wishing to participate, mascot, coaches, transportation and costs. Pease stated that the resolution to explore the cooperative

**Baseball, continued.**

would provide good information to help make a decision. Pease told board members that each sports cooperative that exists is a little different and the success often hinges on how bad the schools want to work together. Pease told board members that all schools participating in the cooperative would need to seek board approval for this baseball cooperative. Discussion was held. Member Sapp asked if the district would contact Wahoo Public Schools for their input on the success of their program. Member Lutton asked if the district could provide information from other schools that have a baseball program. Member Cerny stated he felt that the athletic director should contact other athletic directors for that information.

Nine patron were in the audience for this topic. President Garner opened the floor to the public that signed to speak to the topic.

Rick Beranek spoke in favor of adding baseball. He told board members that the junior and senior boys had a game tonight but provided the board with two signed statements from some students and parents in support of a baseball program. Beranek told the board that one of the advantages of a high school program is that the boys will continue to practice through the season which will benefit the boys. Rick Beranek stated that it possible for the Legion ball club to reduce the amount of games in the summer. Discussion was held with regards to the exposure of high school ball and the possibility of scholarship opportunities.

Steve Novotny thanked the board for considering baseball as a high school sport. Novotny voiced concern of a cooperative program as he had heard that 22 to 23 boys were already out for the sport in Mead and Yutan and he feels the boys from our district may not get much playing time. Novotny is in favor of baseball but would like to see the district establish its own time. Novotny does not feel that a baseball program will hurt the high school track program. Discussion was held regarding whether the Ashland baseball facility could support a program on its own.

Ann Elliott Corey spoke to the board in favor of the high school baseball program. She told board members her son was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade but he loves baseball and she has even considered allowing him to attend another district that does have a baseball program. Corey told board members that she knew they had a big decision to make but know her sons would love to participate at the high school level.

Discussion was held. Pease noted that he will provide information to the board on students wishing to participate; option of own program; information from other districts that have a baseball program and what impact if any it has had on the track program. Pease will bring a cooperative resolution back to the board at the next meeting.

Motion by Nygren with second by Cerny for approval of a resolution for the exploration of a baseball cooperative to include consideration of the district's own program and additional information for other schools. 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 and not voting. Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Cerny with second by Lutton 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. No members were absent and not voting. Motion carried.

### **Administrative and Practitioners Reports**

Teresa Bray reported that the painters had just finished in the elementary school. She told board members that 13 classrooms and the gymnasium had been painted.

Ray Bentzen reported that the painters had moved to his building. Painting will begin in the Multi Purpose Room.

Bentzen also reported that he had over twenty applications for the middle school math teaching position. He plans to interview candidates this week.

Craig Pease reported to the board that an advertisement was placed for a custodian for the middle-high school. Pease also reported to the board that he will be attending the National Education Computing Conference in Washington D.C. with some other staff the end of June and will be out of the office through the 3rd of July.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Extra Duty Assignments**

Consideration and action to approve the 2009-10 extra duty assignments.

Motion by Lutton with second by Beranek to approve the 2009-10 extra duty assignments. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Cerny, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Beranek abstained from voting. Voting no: none. No members were absent and not voting. Motion carried.

#### **Boiler Replacement**

Supt. Pease presented to the board the proposals for the boiler replacement at the elementary school. Pease reported that the boiler bids were higher than originally projected. Pease told board members that some of the higher costs are from demolition and removal of existing boiler materials. Another cost increase resulted from current codes which would require exhaust to be vented through a liner in the chimney and another liner will have to be added for hot water. Pease told board members that the plan to put three boilers in place allowing two to work at one time and one boiler to be a back up is a good plan and he feels it is necessary to move forward to allow for enough time for the boilers to be in place by the time heat is needed this fall. Pease advised he will continue to work on cost savings with the project possible by changing the method of demolition.

Motion by Beranek with second by Sapp to waive any irregularities in the bid process and accept the bid for boiler replacement with Control Services. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Garner, Lutton,

### **Boiler Replacement, continued**

Nygren and Sapp. Voting no: none. No members were absent and not voting. Motion carried.

### **Bond and Building Project Review**

Supt. Pease told board members that 17% of the public voted at the special election. He had not heard an updated count, Suzi Nelson from the Ashland Gazette reported that the final count she had received was 420 for and 92 against. Pease told board members that he had visited with Paul Greiger from D.A. Davidson and he had indicated that the district will have to wait thirty days after an election to issue bonds. Greiger told Pease that the rates have been rising and he did not see the need to wait to sell bonds. Discussion was held. D.A. Davidson will be present at the next board meeting for presentation and to provide the necessary documents for the sale of bonds.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Student & Staff Handbook Changes**

Teresa Bray presented to the board proposed handbook changes for the 2009-10 elementary student handbook. One change proposed by Mrs. Bray is to prohibit the use of image video, and audio recording devices during the school day. Another change is deleting duplicate information about attendance that is included in the V.I.P. Book which is provided to families.

Ray Bentzen presented to the board proposed handbook changes for the 2009-10 middle and high school student handbooks. Changes proposed by Bentzen also included prohibiting image, video and audio recording devices. Bentzen also proposed changes in cell phone use, allowing use during passing periods or assigned lunch times, changes in explanation of excessive tardies to classes, clarification of the difference of abusive and threatening language and different consequences and clarification of time allowance for turning in late work. Discussion was held. Board members discussed the need for allowing time for turning in late work and consequences. Bentzen also proposed a change in middle school code of conduct that reflects positive rewards for positive choices and reflection time for incorrect behavior.

Ray Bentzen provided changes in the V.I.P. Booklet in the student exclusion, suspension, expulsion, and mandatory reassignment section that reflect language that is inline with current state statues.

Proposed changes will be brought back to the board at the next board meeting for possible adoption.

### **2009-10 General Fund Receipts**

Supt. Pease presented to the board the preliminary general fund budget of receipts for 2009-10. Pease told board members that he had checked with county offices for preliminary valuations of property to project the figures. Pease presented the 2009-10 state aid certification and discussed the process of the formula.

**2009-10 General Fund Receipts, continued**

Pease also discussed the requirements for the stabilization funds.

**AGEA Negotiations**

The board will move to enter into executive session for purposes of discussion of this matter.

**Non-Certificated Wages and Benefits**

The board will move to enter into executive session for purposes of discussion of this matter.

**Executive Session**

Motion by Beranek with second by Cerny to enter executive session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss non certificated wage and benefit review and negotiations of a collective bargaining agreement with the AGEA for certified teachers. 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 and not voting. Motion carried.

**Reconvene**

The board reconvened from executive session at 9:45 p.m. and no action was taken.

**Non-Certificated Wages and Benefits**

Motion by Cerny with second by Sapp to approve the proposed 2009-10 non-certificated wages and benefits. 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 and not voting. Motion carried.

**Information Item**

No additional items were presented.

**Other business presented for future considerations**

No other items were presented for future consideration.

**Adjournment**

President Garner adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m. The next Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2009 in the Library of the High School at 1842 Furnas Street, Ashland, Nebraska. At the Regular Meeting, a public hearing will be held for purpose to receive public input on Policy 5500, Student Fees Policy and the Parental Involvement Policy. 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, Nebraska.

Minutes submitted by:

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