

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools
Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 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 16th day of March 2009 by President Kevin Garner.

Present

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

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

Doug Whitehead was present to speak to the board regarding the Ashland Community Resource Center.

Visitors and Communication from the Public

Dale Rolofoson was in attendance at the board meeting.

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

Supt. Pease told board members that a change to the mail agenda to include Doug Whitehead. Doug Whitehead requested to speak to the board about the Ashland Community Resource Center.

Motion by Lutton with second by Sapp to approve the change to the mailed agenda adding Doug Whitehead to speak to the board. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Cerny was absent. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Ashland Community Resource Center

Doug Whitehead was present to speak to the board on the topic of the Community Resource Center and to discuss the extent of the schools participation in the project. Whitehead told board members that a business plan is being prepared for the project. Whitehead presented to the board a cost breakdown including design fees.

Ashland Community Resource Center, continued.

In the cost breakdown Whitehead told board members that the cost of the proposed project is \$7,705,532. The Performing Arts Center assigned costs \$3,578,384 and the Head Start classrooms assigned costs \$499,311. He noted that the plans were built so project pieces could be pared off. Discussion was held. Member Beranek asked where in the report was the district's land value noted. Whitehead said a fair market value would need to be set and added in to the cost basis. It was also asked what the city's commitment was and Whitehead stated that city/community side would be fund raised. No fundraising was planned for the school portion of the project. President Garner stated that the district would need to review this matter. Supt. Pease suggested that the board members that served on the Joint Advisory Committee meet to discuss the request for commitment and bring a recommendation back to the board. Member Lutton suggested the committee meet prior to the next board meeting.

Consent Agenda

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

Administrative and Practitioners Reports

Cori Lightfoot presented a power point on the Elementary Art program. Mrs. Lightfoot told board members that every child is an artist. The problem for young children is how to remain an artist once he grows up. Mrs. Lightfoot explained her teaching philosophy of Disciplined Based Art Education, she discussed how she incorporates art history, and aesthetics into her students' art projects. She reported on how she uses other forms of teaching students about art through reading about artists, writing journals, field trips, illustrating stories, using math concepts (such as compasses,/grids) and using nature. The board thanked Mrs. Lightfoot for her presentation.

Teresa Bray reported on the International Reading Conference she attended with four elementary teachers in Phoenix last month. She told board members that the conference offered excellent sessions and the group brought back lots of good reading and vocabulary ideas that are being shared with all staff.

Principal Bray also reported that fourteen students with thirteen projects attended the science fair at Strategic Air & Space Museum. The following five students received Judges Choice Awards for their Science Fair projects: Kennedy Garner, Emily Menzel, Nick Swenson, Libby Reisen and Amy Smith. Nick Swenson placed 1st over all in the 6th grade division. Libby Reisen placed 3rd over all in the 6th grade division.

Bray also reported that students will be taking achievement tests the last week in March.

Jill Finkey invited board members to a reception March 17 at 3:30 p.m. in the high school media center honoring two staff members. Nancy Lueking was the recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Prize for Courage and Excellence in Education and Jonathan Jaworski was recently recognized by the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association (NSBA) as the recipient of the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award.

Craig Pease reported to the board that he had been working with BCDM to work on details on the building projects for the Construction Manager at Risk's use.

Administrative and Practitioners Reports, continued

Pease also reported the Educators Health Alliance today announced the new rates for health and dental insurance. Overall the rate increase is 6 to 8% with increase in co-pays, prescription medications and an increase in the deductible to \$600.00 per person. There are some improvements in the well care paid amounts.

Pease also reported that the release of the State Aid formula has been delayed now till June 1 to allow for a better understanding of the stimulus package funding for education.

OLD BUSINESS

Capital Outlay

Consideration and action to approve the Capital Outlay Plan for building maintenance and vehicle acquisition as presented.

Motion by Nygren with second by to Beranek approve the 2009 Capital Outlay Plan. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Cerny was absent. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Construction Management at Risk Services

Consideration and action to approve the Construction Management at Risk negotiated contract with Kingery Construction. Supt. Pease presented to the board a breakdown of the preliminary budget for Kingery Construction. Supt. Pease requested three items from the attorney when he negotiated the contract. He asked for the job supervisor be either Steve or Gary Honnens, an August finish date for the Elementary project, and an option for a second job superintendent at the Elementary site. Kingery Construction did agree to these items. Pease reviewed fees and expenses from the proposed negotiated contract. Discussion was held.

Motion by Beranek with second by Nygren to approve the agreement with Kingery Construction as the construction manager at risk. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Cerny was absent. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Superintendent' Contract

Consideration and action to approve a contract for Superintendent of Schools.

Motion by Lutton with second by Sapp to approve a contract for Superintendent. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Cerny was absent. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

School Bus

Supt. Pease presented results of the bus bids received on February 24, 2009. Central Equipment of Grand Island, NE had the lowest bid for a Bluebird bus for \$71,560 with an additional \$750 for high back seats. Pease told board members that the Erick Beranek and Dave Holman visited Centennial Schools to look at a similar bus. Pease told board members that high back seats are not a federal requirement. Pease told board members this bus can be serviced by Inland in Omaha. Discussion was held.

School Bus, continued.

Motion by Sapp with second by Lutton to approve the bid the purchase of bus from Central Equipment. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Cerny was absent. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Long Distance Travel

A request from Eric Stuthman for overnight travel permission for 8 FFA students and their sponsor to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN the last week in October 2009. Discussion was held.

Motion by Lutton with second by Beranek to approve overnight travel for FFA students to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Cerny was absent. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Speech Therapy

Consideration and action to approve a contract of services for Lori Davis Russell for speech therapy services. Mrs. Bray told the board Lori Davis Russell has done some speech therapy work for the district and the district would like to contract with her to perform speech therapy one to two days a week to assist with preschool student's needs.

Motion by Beranek with second by Nygren to approve a contract of services for Lori Davis Russell for speech therapy services. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Cerny was absent. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

2009-10 Staffing Levels

Supt. Pease presented to the board proposed staffing levels for the 2009-10 year. Proposed staffing for the certified staff includes an addition of a Title I teacher and a half time speech therapist which will be paid for by additional federal funding. Also proposed is an additional half time FTE in order to continue the position on Instructional Technology Intergration Specialist that was created the 2nd semester of this year. Proposed changes for classified staffing levels include the addition of a special education para at the secondary level and an additional person to provide technology assistance. Discussion was held. The proposed staffing levels will be brought back to the board for possible approval in April.

Contract Amendment

Consideration and action to approve a contract amendment for Erin Koesters. The proposal will reduce her FTE to .95 so she can leave at 3:30 p.m. daily. Discussion was held.

Motion by Nygren with second by Sapp to approve a contract amendment for Erin Koesters. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Cerny was absent. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Substitute Teacher

Consideration and action to approve Jennifer Craven as a substitute teacher.

Motion by Beranek with second by Lutton to approve Jennifer Craven as a substitute teacher. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren and Sapp. Member Cerny was absent. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Information Item

Supt. Pease presented the notification by the Nebraska Department of Education of approval of the district's Preschool Education Program.

Ray Bentzen arrived later in the evening and reported to the board that he had been hosting a Quiz Bowl for the district. Arlington was the Quiz Bowl Champions.

Bentzen also reported that five students qualified for the Class B State Speech Competition. Emily Judds placed first place in Informative Speaking and Judds also qualified for state competition in Serious Prose with a third place finish. Kirsten Grindel, Ckalyrn Roth, Jennifer Survil, and Katie Wiig earned them third place honors for Oral Interpretation of Drama team.

Other business presented for future considerations

Member Garner asked if there were any updates on the baseball coop. Mr. Bentzen stated that Randy Wiese had heard from one school that may be interested in baseball coop in the future.

Adjournment

President Garner adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m. The members of the Joint Advisory Committee will meet prior to the next board meeting at 7:00 p.m. The next Regular Meeting will be held 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2009 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:
