

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools
Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2006**

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 7:32 p.m. on September 18, 2006 by President David Lutton.

Present

The roll was called and the following Board members were present: Randy Beranek, Melvin Cerny, David Lutton, and David Nygren were present. Member Cindy Vest arrived at 7:34 p.m. Member Suzanne Sapp arrived at 8:55 p.m.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Ashland Gazette on September 14, 2006. 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.

Call to Order

The meeting was duly called to order.

Announcement of Open Meetings Act Posting

At the beginning of this meeting, David Lutton 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

President Lutton announced that policy 4785 from Old Business, Item 7. B would be discussed during Visitors and Communications from the Public, as there is public present to speak to this topic.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Beranek with second by Cerny to approve all items on the consent agenda as provided. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, and Vest. Voting no: none. Member Sapp was absent. Motion carried.

Visitors and Communication from the Public

Carol Logan presented on behalf of the AGEA on the proposed spending limit proposal, SOS 101 which will be on the ballot in November. This initiative would limit state spending increases to the Consumer Price Index plus growth in population. Mrs. Logan passed out two handouts and presented a short DVD presentation. The presentation shows the effect of a similar amendment, called TABOR, adopted in Colorado. This spending limit had severe effects on public services, roads, health care and school systems. Mrs. Logan answered questions and was thanked by the board for her presentation.

Several students and the sponsors of the All Stars and Stripes group spoke to the board voicing their concerns for smoking on school grounds.

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Visitors and Communication from the Public, continued

Gina Judds, the sponsor for All Stars and Stripes group told board members that 92.7% schools in the state were smoke free with 64.1% having smoke free grounds. Students speaking to the board were Devon Rezac, Zach, Lusienski, Matt Reisen, Joe Cutler and Jake Wiig. These students had attended a drug free camp this summer with the All Stars and Stripes group. The students spoke of the effects of smoking and second hand smoke. They addressed the building entries where most smokers gather during school events. In order to enter the school you must first walk through a cloud of smoke. Concern was also raised for the environment with the harmful effect of cigarette butts. The students told the board of grant money that could enable the group to provide signage and cigarette buckets throughout the community. The students asked the board to consider a non smoking campus or move the smokers to an area away from the entrances. These students were thanked for their time and comments.

Discussion was held. Member Nygren made a suggestion to designate an area away from the main traffic areas. Member Beranek made suggestions of locations for a designated smoking area. He felt a smoking ban could create a burden on employees. Member Vest stated it could be a hardship for staff but agreed with a non-smoking environment. Member Lutton stated he would prefer a non-smoking campus. He felt this sent the correct message to students. Member Cerny was in favor of non-smoking.

Policy 4785

Motion by Nygren with second by Vest to revise policy 4785 to read "The use of tobacco products in Ashland-Greenwood Public School buildings and grounds is prohibited." After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, and Vest. Voting no: Beranek. Member Sapp was absent. Motion carried.

Administrative and Practitioners Reports

Mrs. Heusman told the board that on Sept 29 she has invited four people from other ESU's to review the district's language arts assessments and meet with language arts staff. She also presented to the board plans for the staff work day on October 13. Staff will meet to work on writing assessments and data collections.

Mrs. Heusman is also planning to send a survey to students, parents, community members, and faculty. This survey inquires regarding academics, staff, administration, and transportation and will be used for school improvement.

Mr. Bray reported to the board that each year an annual IEP, individual education plan, meeting has to be held for each student requiring special services. These meetings are usually held after school and can be difficult for all parents and staff to attend. This week a different concept was tried and an entire day was set aside for IEP meetings. She was pleased to report that around 20 meetings were able to take place that day. A roving substitute teacher covered classroom assignments to enable teaching staff to attend. This method was very effective and another date is planned in October.

Mr. Bentzen reported to the board that the varsity football game on Friday night was postponed due to adverse weather. The remaining minutes of the game were played on Saturday morning.

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Administrative and Practitioners Reports continued

Mr. Bentzen also reported that the homecoming dance was interrupted due to a tornado warning and students were moved to safe zones during the warning. Mr. Bentzen reported that the bleachers were installed.

Mr. Bentzen asked board members for feedback regarding the handout he presented last month on the high school commons improvements. President Lutton asked that that matter be presented as an agenda item.

Mr. Pease presented the board a handout outlining proposed changes to the distance learning education program. The program is proposing changes and Mr. Pease presented these options with estimated cost and funding available for these changes. The distance learning group has a desire to move to IP technology as early as next year. If the district's program does not make some changes we would be unable to participate in the interaction of the program.

Mr. Pease also reported to the board that he had been in contact with Clay Anderson and that he is hoping to launch into space in June of 2007. He wants to take a piece of Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools memorabilia with him.

OLD BUSINESS

Property Tax Resolution

Motion by Nygren with second by Cerny to approve the 2006-07 Tax Resolution for 2006-07 school year. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

4000 Series Policies

Supt. Pease presented to the board revisions for policies in the 4000 series. Revisions address policy language and update policies to current practices.

Motion by Nygren with second by Vest to accept the 4000 series policies with revisions except policy 4785, and to include an additional revision to policy 4217.2. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FBLA Long Distance Travel Request

Correspondence was presented to the board from Jean Anne Watermeier on behalf of the FBLA requesting permission to plan long distance travel for the FBLA National Fall Leadership in November, 2006 to Denver, Colorado, to stay overnight for the March, 2007 FBLA State Leadership Conference in Omaha, NE and to attend the FBLA National Leadership Conference in June, 2007 in Chicago, IL if members are elected as state officers. Discussion was held.

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FBLA Long Distance Travel Request, continued

Motion by Sapp with second by Vest to allow the FBLA to plan for travel. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows Voting yes: Beranek, Garner, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. No members were absent. Motion carried.

NCLB 2006-07 Grant

Mrs. Heusman presented to the board a handout on the proposed grant funding for 2006-07. She is working on the NCLB consolidated application and will be submitting it to the Nebraska Department of Education for approval this week. She outlined to the board the grant programs and goals the funding would be used for.

Other business presented for future considerations.

Member Nygren asked if the board wanted to take a position on the SOS 101 proposal presented tonight by Mrs. Logan.

Member Lutton asked if the yearbook process could reviewed.

Information Items

There were no informational items.

Adjournment

President Lutton adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday October 16, 2006 at 7:30 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.

Minutes submitted by:

Suzanne Sapp, Secretary