

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2007**

**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 March 19, 2007 by Vice-President Randy Beranek.

**Present**

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

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Ashland Gazette on March 1, 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 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, Vice-President Beranek 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**

There was no change to the agenda. Mr. Pease noted for the record that New Business, item 8 A. review and discussion and possible action to approve Pearson's Benchmark software package would be removed from the agenda for this evening.

**Consent Agenda**

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

**Visitors and Communication from the Public**

There were no visitors or communication from the public.

**Administrative and Practitioners Reports**

Mrs. Heusman reported to the board on SIP Team's progress. A workshop is planned in August for staff on Reading in the Content Areas. Vicki Washburn, Pat Yardley, Kristi Bundy, Brad Jacobsen and herself will be attending the North Central Association Conference in Chicago the first of April and hope to come back to the district with some good ideas.

Mrs. Heusman reported that statewide writing scoring results will be announced in April. Mrs. Heusman reported that Clay Anderson, local astronaut alum was in town and was

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**Administrative and Practitioners Reports, continued**

able to come visit with 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8th grade students. He presented to the students for about 10 minutes and then opened up the discussion to student questions.

Mrs. Heusman also reported on the on-site portfolio review conducted by Jan Hoegh, Curriculum Supervisor at Aurora Public Schools and Dave Hamm, Superintendent of Plainview. Overall it was a good review and she will share the official results of the report with the board.

Mrs. Heusman reported that Clear Creek Elementary had 100% parent participation at parent-teacher conferences. On March 7 a science fair was held at Clear Creek with Mrs. Rathe leading a variety of experiments with the students.

Mrs. Bray reported that at Ashland-Greenwood Elementary School parent-teacher conferences had 96% parent participation.

Mrs. Bray reported that several 6<sup>th</sup> grade students would be attending the Science Fair at Strategic Air and Space Museum this Friday. Next week an assembly on literature will be held with first and second graders. Omaha Children's Museum will present on story telling thanks to a grant from the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools Foundation.

Mrs. Bray also shared with the board copies of the Omaha World Herald Healthwise. This newspaper section featured Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools sixth grade students on the cover and questions regarding health inside submitted by district's students. Parent Sandra Wendel helped to coordinate the project with the sixth graders.

Mr. Bentzen reported that participation at Middle School parent teacher conferences was around 90%. Mr. Bentzen told board members that parent information is readily available to parents with the powerschool grading system and the district's website which allows parents to check information at anytime during the school year. This may reduce some parent participation at conferences.

Mr. Bentzen reported on several activities. The Speech team won the District Championship and five students became eligible for the State Speech Contest. Mark Widger, Ivette Lichtas, Clay Chapman, Nick Jewell and Matt Reisen. The boys basketball team won District Championship and qualified for the state basketball tournament. The team won the first round game against Wahoo, but lost their second game. The student fans received the Sportsmanship Award for the second year in a row at the state tournament. Mr. Bentzen also told board members that the FBLA and the High School Student Council sponsored the March Bloodmobile held in the high school gym.

Mr. Bentzen told board members of activities planned at the middle school/high school this week. Today, Shelly Donahue presented an assembly to 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Her message is on WAIT Training, Why Am I Tempted, an abstinence program. The Senior Tribute will be held on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. The musical "Oklahoma" will be presented at 7:00 p.m. Thursday and Saturday. On Friday the Rotary Track Meet is scheduled.

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**Administrative and Practitioners Reports, continued**

Mr. Pease provided to the board a list of bills prioritized for this session of legislation. Prioritized bills are the bills that generally find their way to legislation. Some of the bills he provided information on were LB 73, fully reimbursable breakfast, LB255, change in Nebraska wage pay clarifying the payment for unused sick, personnel or vacation leave, LB564 change in liability limits, and LB622 requiring training of parties on the Open Meetings Act. Supt. Pease reported on LB658 which provides a provision of which Class I schools can be recreated. This bill allows for a petition to recreate Class I schools in a 20 mile square area and allows for the public to vote on the matter. Discussion was held.

Mr. Pease also asked that the Building, Grounds and Transportation Committee meet prior to the next board meeting.

Mr. Pease reported to the board on the AGRIP Conference he attended.

Mr. Pease reported on the announcement of Blue Cross Blue Shield Health rate increases for 2007-08 school year. Health insurance will increase 8% and dental insurance will increase 4%.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**School Bus Bid**

Supt. Pease reported to the board on the bus bid opening. Unfortunately only one vendor bid. He has revised the bus bid specifications. Two revisions were made to the specifications one is the video camera was removed and the second change was the horsepower for the bus was changed to 210. The revised bid will again be sent to vendors. The board will consider all bids at the next meeting.

**2007 Capital Outlay Plan**

Consideration and action on the proposed 2007 Capital Outlay Plan. The list is prioritized by possible completion. Supt. Pease told board members one of the biggest project presented is the expansion of the high school parking lot. Member Beranek asked if it could be possible to change the driveway towards the dock to make easier for trucks to access the dock. Supt. Pease suggested the possibility of an engineer reviewing the entrance and exit at that end of the lot.

Member Lutton asked if the bus purchase was planned from the Deprecation Fund and computer purchase from the General Fund. Those are the funds planned to use for those projects.

Member Beranek inquired regarding the movement of the football field. Supt. Pease noted that several times officials and visiting teams have wanted the cheer squad moved because of their location on the field; he also noted how close the fence is to the goal post. Also in the past there have been problems with the crow's nest during off school hours. He suggested the field be surveyed for the move. Member Beranek did feel the crow's nest was important and should not be removed.

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**2007 Capital Outlay Plan, continued**

Questions were raised regarding the field crown. Supt. Pease said this item could be moved off the priority list and suggested that sometime the board visit the field to review the field positioning.

Motion by Sapp with second by Vest to approve the 2007 Capital Outlay plan with the removal of the following items: moving the football field and removal of the crow's nest. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Lutton, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. Members Cerny and Nygren were absent. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2007-08 Staffing**

Supt. Pease presented to the board the proposed 2007-08 certified teaching staff levels. No changes were proposed to the staffing. Discussion was held. Staffing levels will be on the next meeting agenda for action.

**2007-08 Option Enrollments**

Supt. Pease presented to the board the 2007-08 projected enrollments and option enrollment capacities. The proposed option capacities are the same as in previous years. Seven option enrollment applications have been received. Five applications have been received for kindergarten, one for sixth grade and one for ninth grade. Discussion was held.

Motion by Lutton with second by Sapp to approve the 2007-08 option enrollment capacities and the 2007-08 option enrollment applications received to date. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Lutton, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. Members Cerny and Nygren were absent. Motion carried.

**Superintendent's Contract**

Motion by Sapp with second by Vest to approve the Superintendent's Contract with an effective date of July 1, 2007. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Lutton, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. Members Cerny and Nygren were absent. Motion carried.

**Staff Resignations**

Supt. Pease presented to the board seven teacher resignations at the close 2006-07 school term. The seven teachers submitting resignations are Marci Janssen, Naomi Laune, Carolyn Logan, Nancy Maack, Nancy Ray, Jane Sinovic and Robert Wentz.

Motion by Vest with second by Sapp to accept with regret the resignations of Marci Janssen, Naomi Laune, Carolyn Logan, Nancy Maack, Nancy Ray, Jane Sinovic and Robert Wentz. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Lutton, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. Members Cerny and Nygren were absent. Motion carried.

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**Softball Cooperative Consideration, continued.**

Mr. Pease presented to the board for discussion the possibility of a softball cooperative. Mr. Pease had some conversation with the Superintendent of Louisville regarding the possibility of a softball cooperative. The Louisville Board of Education has not taken any action at this time. If Louisville were to request to coop they would be expected to transport their students to us, allow our coach to coach, we would schedule and outfit the team. Discussion was held. Member Lutton felt the head coach should have some input regarding the matter of a softball coop. Member Sapp thought it was good that Louisville wanted to come here. Supt. Pease told board members that NSAA required a two year agreement and a previous cooperative with Louisville for wrestling had gone well.

**Hiring Procedures for Certified Staff**

Supt. Pease presented to the board a copy of the screening and hiring procedures of certified staff. These procedures are provided to staff for their review. Some of the changes in the procedures allow for more than one staff member to call candidate's references, committee members must score interview individually, a change in the questions regarding disclosure regarding truthfulness and one hiring committee may be used for multiple positions. Discussion was held.

**5000 Policy Series partial Review**

Supt. Pease presented a section of the 5000 series policies to the board for review. The 5000 series will be split into two sections for review. He discussed two policies that need revising to update outdated language and outdated practices. Discussion was held. This section of 5000 series policies will be brought back to the board for revisions at a later board meeting.

**2007-08 Event Admission/Adult Season Passes**

Consideration and action of a change in regulation 5500 admissions and season passes. An increase in non-varsity events is proposed to \$3.00 for adults, this would include junior high and junior varsity events. Also proposed is an increase in adult passes to \$50.00 per season.

Motion by Lutton with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vest to change pricing on regulation 5500 to increase non-varsity events to \$3.00 for adults and adult season passes to \$50.00. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Lutton, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. Members Cerny and Nygren were absent. Motion carried.

**Information Items**

No informational items were presented.

**Executive Session**

Motion by Lutton with second by Sapp to enter executive session at 9:31 p.m. to discuss the principals and curriculum supervisor's evaluation and contract. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Beranek, Lutton, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. Members Cerny and Nygren were absent. Motion carried.

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**Reconvene**

The board reconvened from executive session at 10:15 p.m. and no action was taken.

**Other business presented for future considerations**

No other items were presented for future consideration during this session.

**Adjournment**

Vice-President Beranek adjourned the meeting at 10:16 p.m. Prior to adjournment he issued a call for the next regular meeting of the board to be held on Monday, April 2, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. The regular meeting will be held at 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:

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Suzanne Sapp, Secretary