

**Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools
Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2007**

Opening

A meeting of the Board of Education of the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools was convened in open and public session at 8:00 p.m. on August 20, 2007 by President David Nygren.

Present

The roll was called and the following Board members were present: Melvin Cerny, David Nygren, Suzanne Sapp, and Cindy Vest. Member Beranek arrived at 8:07 p.m. Member David Lutton arrived at 8:29 p.m. Member Garner was present.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Ashland Gazette on August 16, 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, President Nygren 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 published agenda.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made Cerny with second by Sapp to approve all of the items on the consent agenda. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Voting yes: Cerny, Nygren, Sapp, and Vest. Voting no: none. Member Lutton and Beranek were absent and not voting. Motion carried.

Visitors and Communication from the Public

There were no visitors or communication from the public.

Administrative and Practitioners Reports

Mrs. Heusman reported that on August 7th and 8th Susan Zimmerman presented to staff members on reading comprehensive strategies. She reported she received a lot of good feedback regarding the workshop. Mrs. Heusman also reported to the board on the pre-service days.

Mrs. Heusman reported that the statewide writing results would be release this Thursday.

Mrs. Heusman told board members that the radio contact with Clay Anderson is confirmed for August 29 at 10:59 a.m.

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Administrative and Practitioners Reports, continued

Mr. Bentzen reported on school starting and that Middle/Senior High School enrollment is the largest enrollment he remembers with 400 + students.

Mr. Bentzen reported that most summer projects were completed at the Middle School/High School. Halls were painted, new doors were installed and the Distance Learning room will be remodeled this week. He reported that the door people were returning this weekend.

Board members asked Mr. Bentzen regarding crowding issues. Mr. Bentzen reported that the building was full and all rooms are being used to full capacity. Hallways can be crowded when Middle School and High School are using the same hallways during the release of lunch or P. E.

Mr. Pease reported that enrollment that total enrollment K through 12 was up about 10 students. The total enrollment is about 850; preschool students will add another 15 to 20 students. Elementary students are down about 15 children mostly due to a smaller Kindergarten class of 60 students. The Middle/ School High School saw a large growth with the new 7th grade class of 75.

Mr. Pease reported on the ACT scores for the Class of 2007. This is the second highest scores since he has been tracking scores. He provided an explanation of ACT testing. Nebraska scores within the top ten of all states. A survey of the area schools shows Ashland-Greenwood Public School in the top 1/3 in scoring.

Clear Creek Property

Mr. Pease reported to the board on the Clear Creek School property. He was unable to locate a deed recorded at the county for the school. He was able to locate information that Mr. Black gave the land to the school district for a school in the 1800's. At the advice of legal counsel he has contacted a National Title Company to conduct a title search. Supt. Pease discussed some of the action that may be needed regarding the property including a survey, Quit Claim Deed and or a Quiet Title Action. Discussion was held. Member Nygren questioned the cost of such action and time line. Member Lutton reported that previous sale the school the district conducted had a Quit Claim Deed processed by the school for the property and the new owners preformed the Quiet Title Action. Supt. Pease will keep the board informed.

Policies

Consideration and action to adopt the following policies recommended by the district's legal counsel, Policy 3519, regarding trespassers, Policy 3560, regarding records management and disposition, Policy 3570 regarding federal funds under NCLB, Policy 4021, regarding the use of social security numbers, Policy 5110.1, regarding homeless which merges former policies 5110.1 and 5111.3 bringing the district into compliance with federal law.

Motion by Lutton with second Sapp by to approve Policies 3519, 3560, 3570, 4021, 5110.1. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp and Vest. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

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County Assessed Property Values

Supt. Pease told board members this information was not received by all counties. The information would be mailed to board members when received.

NEW BUSINESS

Performance Contracts

Supt. Pease explained to the board the process of performance contracting. Performance contracting is a process established to allow school districts to have mechanical systems studied for efficiencies. The study will analyze utilities cost and facility square footage and determine if the cost is too high and make an analysis of why cost is inefficient. The idea is that projects chosen to complete would save the district equal dollars as the amount spent to upgrade. The first step of the process involves a feasibility study for no charge; the second step would involve a request for proposal which identifies a company to perform the work. No dollar commitment is made until a performance contract is decided and signed. A federal formula is used to determine the dollar amount. Discussion was held.

Member Nygren questioned the possibility of an expansion project. Pease told him that he would hope the company would work with the integration of the addition. Pease told board members that it has been a while since the district has had any mechanical upgrades and the Middle School wing is very inefficient. Supt. Pease told board member he doesn't see a down side to this process. Member Garner asked who governs the process, Pease advised it is regulated under state law. Board members were supported of the idea and authorized Pease to proceed with a preliminary feasibility study. That study will be presented to the board at a later date.

2007-08 Substitute Teacher List

Supt. Pease recommended to the board the 2007-08 Substitute Teacher List. Discussion was held. Member Vest questioned regarding local substitutes on the list. Supt. Pease provided explanation to the board the types of certificates that are currently held by substitute teachers. He explained to board members that the list for substitute teachers had been full enough that local substitutes have not been used for several years. The three local substitutes that the district currently uses were grandfathered to the listing. Supt. Pease advised board members that the status of substitutes would be monitored and if there became a need for additional substitute teachers the use of local substitutes would be reviewed. Discussion was held.

Motion by Vest with second by Cerny to approve substitute teachers for 2007-08. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren and Vest. Member Sapp abstained from the vote. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Transfer of funds

Supt. Pease advised the board that he had visited with the finance committee earlier this year and discussed using the Depreciation Fund to purchase equipment and other capital outlay projects. He reported to the board that he had the capacity to transfer around \$300,000 from General Fund to the Depreciation Fund.

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Transfer of funds, continued

Board members supported Supt. Pease regarding the use of the Depreciation Fund for equipment purchase. Middle/Senior High School

Motion by Beranek with second by Lutton to approve the transfer of \$300,000.00 from the General Fund to the Depreciation Fund. After discussion and on roll call vote, the board voted as follows: Roll call: Voting yes: Beranek, Cerny, Lutton, Nygren, Sapp and Vest. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Information Items

ACT Testing Results were included for board review, results had been previously discussed during the Administrative Reports.

Other business presented for future considerations

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

Adjournment

President Nygren adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m. The next Regular Meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 or immediately following the public hearing, in the Library of the High School at 1842 Furnas Street, Ashland, NE. A public hearing will be held at 8:30 p.m. on September 4, 2007 for purpose of discussion of the budget. An Agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Superintendent's Office, 1200 Boyd Street,

Minutes submitted by:

Suzanne Sapp, Secretary