

**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 113**  
**Sabetha Middle School**  
**Sabetha, KS**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, Monday, April 4, 2011, at 7:00 PM**

President Roger Brockhoff called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Roger Brockhoff, Brent Lortscher, Sandy Aberle, Julia Alferts, Mary Jane Ronnebaum, and Ed Reznicek were present; also present were Superintendent Dennis Stones, Board Clerk Dr. Volora Hanzlicek and others who are listed on the attached sheet that becomes a part of these minutes. Cheryl Wenger was absent.

Mr. Stones stated that the minutes needed to be amended. Rita Dobbins needed to be changed to Freda Dobbins.

A motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Lortscher to approve the opening business and minutes as amended: Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Brent Lortscher and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Reznicek to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

A. Approve minutes for March 7, 2011 regular meeting as amended.

B. Hear Clerk's report. Approve it.

C. Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$278,467.05.

D. Approve payment of bills for the bond issue of \$33,595.47.

E. Payment for March payroll in the amount of \$724,449.44.

F. Resignations:

- Russel Pickett as Wetmore Head Track Coach
- Leon Mosteller as custodian at Bern as of June 30.

Mr. Brockhoff asked if any patrons would like to enhance the board meeting. Ann Moser spoke to the board about the benefits of a small school.

Claire Wenger, Sabetha High School Student Council President, addressed the board including the fact that they had been awarded the Student Council of Excellence award.

Mr. Palmer reported for Sabetha Middle School. Bill Kent shared a project that his 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be completing to honor the local veterans.

Mr. Garber reported for Sabetha Elementary School. Sheryl Plattner, Tina Hughes, and Marilyn Oehm presented a project called "Travel the World with the Fifth Grade Pigs".

Mr. Schmitz, Mr. Evans, Mr. Schnacker, Mr. Rottinghaus, and Mr. Bartkoski reported to the board.

Ken Kickhaefer presented three scenarios that demonstrated where the district currently is financially, where it would have been without locked in base state aid (due to consolidation), and where the district might be with the proposed cuts currently in the state. The information included all four K-12 facilities. The information demonstrated

where revenue vs. expenditures and demonstrated where a building should be with FTE in order to balance the expenditures with revenue.

Mr. Brockhoff asked if Representative Garber, who was present, would like to share with the patrons/board the current discussion on school finances. Representative Garber moved to the front of the room and asked the board where the additional expenses were from Federal funds and other funds? He stated that he was being told at the state level that we spend approximately \$12,000 per student. Mr. Stones asked where this figure derived from? Dr. Hanzlicek explained that the Federal funds are not included. Title II-A and Title II-D must be spent on staff development and technology. They are not direct instructional expenditures. Title I dollars are monies that a building must qualify for with a certain percentage of free lunches. This percentage changes yearly based on census and the number of free lunches in a building/district. Based on free lunches this year, Bern would not even qualify for Title I services next year, which skews the cost per student per building when looking at instructional dollars per student. Stones then explained that that the \$12,000 per student probably included monies from KPERS and Special Education. These monies are sent to the district and paid back out to KPERS and the Special Education COOPs as soon as they arrive in the district. The district does not actually spend these funds. We simply are a holding tank for one day. Representative Garber explained that it might be good to meet with Mr. Stones so that he could explain this information further. Representative Garber also explained that schools weren't the only entity being cut and that he didn't want our youth to wake up 40 years from now in a worse situation, but if the state does not have the funds to support programs, cuts needed to be made.

Jeff Grossenbacher updated the board on what the Bern community has done since the last meeting. Approximately forty people, including the board and some district administration attended a community meeting on the HTC model and rural development opportunities. Surveys are out about 85-90 % completed. He also reported on each committee's work since the last board meeting.

Brent Lortscher spoke to patrons about the FTE current and past. He started by sharing what was discussed during the three on three meetings. He then presented the current scenario. He stated that Bern is asking for the opportunity to grow student counts to 120, then 133, and then 146 respectively by FY14. He proposed these as the FTE benchmarks to meet over the next three years.

Mr. Brockhoff asked if there were further questions of Mr. Kickhaefer, Mr. Lortscher, or Mr. Grossenbacher.

Mr. Lortscher made a motion to give Bern the FTE benchmarks as presented (FY12, 119; FY13, 131; and FY14, 143) that it be three years of progressive benchmarks as demonstrated. This is 12 students per year.

Mary Jane Ronnebaum shared her concern of foreign exchange students not being a sustainable solution.

Ed Reznicek asked the administration if there is a point where academics can be jeopardized by the number of foreign exchange students placed in a building.

Some of the patrons from the crowd shared their experiences on foreign exchange students.

Sara Toedman, SHS counselor, stated that her experience at Sabetha included a concern for extra work and stress for teachers. Students that were placed sometimes had difficulties with the English language and this often led to additional instructional challenges for students.

Mr. Brockhoff told patrons that if they had something to share that they needed to stand, introduce themselves, and make sure that they could be heard. It was currently difficult to hear them and catch the information for the board minutes.

Stuart Snyder said that the person screening the foreign exchange students for Bern is looking for a fit in the community and making sure that English is not an issue. He agreed that foreign exchange is not an answer to FTE sustainability. Working on getting families that will stay in the community was truly the answer.

Linda Creed stood and shared that in 1988 and 1989, Bern School had six foreign exchange students. She stated that it was a positive experience. The six came from different countries. Not the answer for sustainability, but it does work.

Mr. Rottinghaus shared that historically they will not place more than 3 or 4 exchange students in his building.

Brett reiterated the motion. If they would make 9 instead of 12 (75%) per year then the board would accept that Bern is making progress in the right direction. At this point can the board give Bern the benefit of the doubt and allow them to continue working on growth? The goal is still 12 per year. This is the bare minimum FY12, 116; FY13, 126; FY14, 137.

Sandy Aberle stated that she wanted everyone to know that if the increase is not 9 that everyone understands the ramifications of the lack of FTE on September 20, 2011. She said that everyone needs to understand what happens if the benchmarks are not met. The board will revisit closure.

Brent Lortscher asked that the two previous motions be canceled.

Mr. Lortscher made a motion to give Bern three years of progressive benchmarks to make a goal of 143 FTE. Benchmark goals are FY12, 119; FY13, 131; and FY14, 143. At a minimum the additional FTE must meet 116 in FY12, 126 in FY13, and 137 in FY14 (year three). These are yearly benchmarks that will be revisited each year to determine progress. Sandy Aberle 2<sup>nd</sup> by motion. Discussion followed on a possible

amendment for year three to be 143. The concern is that this will be year four of the consolidation.

The motion was made by Brent Lortscher to amend the previous motion to have the minimum in year 3 be 140 FTE (FY14) instead of 137. Sandy Aberle 2<sup>nd</sup> the amendment. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Stones explained that bringing the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to Axtell would eliminate transportation dollars and increase the instructional time that is lost by transporting students back to Axtell for practice. The estimated instructional days lost is 14 per year due to transporting students back to Axtell. A motion was made by Sandy Aberle to move the 6<sup>th</sup> grade from Summerfield to Axtell to gain an additional 14 days of instruction. Mary Jane Ronnebaum 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

At 9:38 PM a motion was made by Julia Alfes and seconded by Ed Reznicek to go into executive session for non-elected personnel until 10:45 PM. All district administration (Mr. Stones, Dr. Hanzlicek, Mr. Bartkoski, Mr. Schnacker, Mr. Evans, Mr. Garber, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Rottinghaus, Mr. Schmitz) were asked to join the session. Motion carried 6-0. Board and administration transitioned to the middle school conference room.

The board and administration left executive session at 10:45 PM and transitioned to the auditorium.

At 10:53 Brent Lortscher made a motion to return to regular session. Julia Alfes 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried 6-0.

Dr. Hanzlicek explained that with the consolidation that the district is now over 1000 students. This means that the policies followed before consolidation are different. Based on Sept. 20 counts the district determines the free lunch count for each building and the district. If the building percent of free lunches is determined to be lower than the district percent the building no longer qualifies for Title I services. The district percentage on Sept. 20 was 22%. Bern was 9%. Dr. Hanzlicek wrote a waiver so that services could be provided this year. The waiver can only be used once. Due to the fact that the percent continues to decline, Bern will not receive Title I services next year. At-risk funds could be moved to help continue the program, however, the state is in the process of debating changes in the at-risk dollars. This discussion was tabled until further information comes from the State. Mr. Stones explained that 4 year-old At-Risk and Kindergarten would be the same as this year in Bern for next year.

A motion was made Sandy Aberle and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Reznicek to approve a contract for an additional asst. middle school track coach to Alicia Deters to assist the 80 students out for track. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Mary Jane Ronnebaum and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Lortscher for personal leave requests from Pete Schuetz, SueAnn Wanklyn, Sheryl Plattner, Christina Stover, Pam Mitchell, and Connie Brown. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Julia Alfors and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Reznicek to approve the membership in KASB and the legal assistance fund for FY12. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Lortscher to approve athletic training services with Cotton O'Neil Clinic for Sabetha and Wetmore and continue looking to gain services for Axtell and Bern. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Stones presented the capital outlay expenditures that the administration had agreed to recommend. A motion was made by Brent Lortscher and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandy Aberle to approve as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

Dr. Hanzlicek presented the proposed graduation requirements for USD #113. These will be voted on in May. Sandy Aberle asked that the proposed graduation requirements be posted on the web page.

A motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Lortscher to advertise and hire summer student help. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ed Reznicek and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Jane Ronnebaum to approve the city-wide clean up for Sabetha students for April 20, 2011. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Julia Alfors and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Jane Ronnebaum to approve the trip for Axtell Multi-Media class to tour WIBW-TV. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Stones read the reminders and information.

At 11:33 PM a motion was made by Brent Lortscher and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandy Aberle to adjourn.

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Board President

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Board Clerk