

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 113

Axtell JH/SH

Axtell, KS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, Wednesday, January 12, 2011, at 7:00 PM

President Roger Brockhoff called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Roger Brockhoff, Brent Lortscher, Sandy Aberle, Cheryl Wenger, Ed Reznicek, and Mary Jane Ronnebaum 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. Board member Julia Alferts entered the meeting later.

A motion was made by Brent Lortscher and 2nd by Cheryl Wenger to approve the opening business as amended (Accept a donation of \$4,000.00 from R.M. Hansen to purchase flat screen TV's for the IDL in the new addition at WAC was added to the consent agenda. Also added personal leave for Karen Nichols.). Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Ed Reznicek and 2nd by Roger Brockhoff to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

- A. Approve minutes for December 6, 2010 regular meeting.
- B. Hear Clerk's report. Approve it.
- C. Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$573,182.39.
- D. Approve payment of bills for the bond issue of \$763848.63.
- E. Payment for December payroll in the amount of \$728,102.72.
- F. Accept a donation of \$432.93 from Dave Pfrang to be used on the track at WHS.
Accept a donation of \$4,000.00 from R.M. Hansen to purchase flat screen TV's for the IDL room in the new addition at WAC.

Tracy Wichman addressed the board stating that she was requesting that her son and daughter be allowed to attend Wetmore. Mr. Stones said that it would be addressed in executive session to protect the rights of a student.

Jenny Mathewson reported for the Axtell Site Council. Bryon Ronnebaum, National Honor Society (NHS) and Axtell Community Service Committee (ACSC) member, shared the "good news" report.

Julia Alferts entered the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Mr. Stones shared a letter from Kansas State Department of Education that recognized Sabetha Middle School for the Governor's Achievement Award. This is the third year consecutively that SMS has received this award. Mr. Palmer provided the board with a handout that listed the governor's award recipients.

Mr. Stones then explained Dr. Hanzlicek and he have been discussing the current curriculum and educational offerings across the district, along with some of the benchmark items that we (the board and he) have been discussing since consolidation. Numbers are being put together to determine where we stand against certain criteria. Some of the items that need to be discussed further include:

- Viable buildings – State guidelines suggest it takes 150 – 160 students (FTE) to be viable and balance expenditures with revenue.
- Academic rigor – Where are students scoring on ACT, state assessments, local assessments?
- Elective opportunities along with a solid core curriculum – What is being offered and what are the delivery methods?
- Efficient buildings – What is the teacher/student ratios? What are class sizes? Can monies be saved by making some schedules uniform and combining some courses over IDL? Are there building configurations that offer more opportunities for students? Are there buildings that can be combined and still offer more educational opportunities for students?
- State revenues in relationship to FTE and expenditures in each building – What are the General Fund expenditures in relationship to the FTE in each building? What are the personnel expenditures in relationship to the FTE in each building?

Mr. Stones also said that we must look forward and plan for the end of the four-year period and be ready for the loss of income. We currently know based on projections from the state that we will need to make some budget cuts during these four years to withstand the budget cut that will come in FY16. As part of this discussion, Mr. Stones said that if the LOB is allowed to sunset by the legislators that the districts will lose \$421 per student. This includes all districts. This would be a cut of \$211,275 for USD 113. Other districts may see a decrease of \$75 to the General fund in addition to the LOB which would have meant \$248,913 if we would not have consolidated. Another concern would be the stimulus money that will run out June 30. This is money that the state received from the federal government and used to fill shortfalls. At this time there is no mention of how the state will be able to replace that those monies to schools. Mr. Stones explained that this was just a short financial update, but he wants to keep the board updated so that we can continue planning and be ready for these cuts in 4 years. Based on the financial information that is coming from the state at this time, Mr. Stones said that he felt that it might be more important to use criteria mentioned earlier to help determine important decisions instead of benchmarks. Using these criteria can help guide important decisions to form the best educational system we can with the finances available.

Mr. Rottinghaus, Mr. Bartkoski, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Garber, Mr. Schmitz, and Mr. Evans updated the board on current activities and information from their buildings. One of the items shared was that Axtell JH/SH had received the Confidence in Kansas Award for closing the achievement gap in math. The award was for last year's 7th graders. Mr. Schnacker submitted his report in writing.

Each board member received a construction report from Jerry Stallbaumer at AHRS. The report will become part of these minutes. Mr. Stones also explained that there was an issue at Wetmore in the bathroom. The plumber forgot to install a drain. Mr. Stones asked for guidance on how to fix this issue. A motion was made Brent Lortscher and 2nd by Sandy Aberle to have the plumber install the drain and patch weld the floor to the board's satisfaction. If the patch has not met satisfaction the floor will be reinstalled. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Julia Alfors and 2nd by Sandy Aberle to approve joining the Holton Special Education COOP to begin in the FY12 school year. Motion carried 7-0. Holton, Brown, and Marshall-Nemaha special education services will continue discussing for the future whether a merge can accomplish savings to each district and offer even better service opportunities for students.

Kevin Ronnebaum, Senior Class President, Axtell High School, presented the itinerary for the Axtell Senior trip that was approved in the previous meeting.

A motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2nd by Brent Lortscher to leave the spring academic banquets the same as they have been in the past for the FY11 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

The new gym at Sabetha High School will be completed soon. Mr. Stones asked the board if they wanted to revisit the facility rental agreement for this facility due to the air conditioning costs of cooling the gym. The board directed Mr. Stones to work with Schneider Electric to determine what the additional costs for heating and cooling might be. He will bring back a flat fee suggestion in February. It was the consensus of the board that the fee should cover the costs of the utilities used.

A motion was made by Brent Lortscher and 2nd by Ed Reznicek to approve the request from Kristin Strathman and Scott Brownlee as presented for FFA activities. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2nd by Cheryl Wenger to approve personal leave for Janie Glace and Karen Nichols to be absent on a PLC day. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2nd by Julia Alfors to approve selling surplus items from Axtell and Summerfield at the Axtell Knights of Columbus and Summerfield Lutheran Church auctions. Motion carried 7-0.

It was determined that a dedication will be on Feb. 11 for Sabetha's new addition at the basketball game following the suggested timeline presented by Mr. Evans. The board will do a dedication during the March board meeting which will be held at Wetmore. A date will also be set for an open house where the public can tour the new facilities.

A motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2nd by Brent Lortscher to approve the resolution for the Revitalization Notice for the Rural Development Association. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Stones stated that he had been approached by a patron that was interested in purchasing the former 488 district office. After discussion the board encouraged Mr. Stones to pursue looking into a process to sell the facility.

A motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2nd by Mary Jane Ronnebaum to approve the 2011-2012 proposed school year calendar. Motion carried 7-0.

There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday Feb. 2, 2011 put on by Brad Neuenswander from the State Dept. of Education on finance. Mr. Stones asked for RSVP by Jan. 26th.

At 9:15 PM a motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2nd by Cheryl Wenger to enter into executive session for 20 minutes to protect the rights of a student. Mr. Schmitz, Mr. Stones and Dr. Hanzlicek were invited into session. Motion carried 7-0.

At 9:35 PM a motion was made by Cheryl Wenger and 2nd by Sandy Aberle to extend the session for 20 minutes to protect the rights of a student. Motion carried 7-0.

At 9:55 PM a motion was made by Brent Lortscher and 2nd by Mary Jane Ronnebaum to extend the session by 10 minutes to protect the rights of a student. Motion carried 7-0.

At 10:05 PM a motion was made by Mary Jane Ronnebaum and 2nd by Cheryl Wenger to return to regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Julia Alfes and 2nd by Ed Reznicek to approve the request from Tracy Wichman for her students to attend the Wetmore facility. Motion carried 7-0.

At 10:10 PM a motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2nd by Ed Reznicek to go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried 7-0.

At 10:40 PM a motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2nd by Roger Brockhoff to remain in session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried 7-0.

At 11:00 PM a motion was made by Cheryl Wenger and 2nd by Julia Alfes to remain in session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried 7-0.

At 11:15 PM a motion was made by Roger Brockhoff and 2nd by Sandy Aberle to remain in session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried 7-0.

At 11:25 PM Mr. Stones and Dr. Hanzlicek left executive session.

At 11:30 PM a motion was made by Roger Brockhoff and 2nd by Sandy Aberle to remain in session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried 7-0.

At 11:40 PM a motion was made by Cheryl Wenger and 2nd by Sandy Aberle to remain in session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried 7-0.

At 11:50 PM a motion was made by Cheryl Wenger and 2nd by Julia Alfes to remain in session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Mr. Stones was asked to enter executive session. Motion carried 7-0.

At 12:00 AM a motion was made by Ed Reznicek and 2nd by Cheryl Wenger to remain in session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried 7-0.

At 12:10 AM a motion was made by Sandy Aberle and 2nd by Brent Lortscher to remain in session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Mr. Stones left executive session and Dr. Hanzlicek was asked to enter the session. Motion carried 7-0.

At 12:15 AM a motion was made by Mary Jane Ronnebaum and 2nd by Julia Alfes to return to regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Ed Reznicek and 2nd by Julia Alfes to extend the Supt. contract for Mr. Stones and the Asst. Supt. contract for Dr. Hanzlicek an additional year which would take each contract through FY14. Motion carried 7-0.

At 12:17 AM a motion was made by Brent Lortscher and 2nd by Cheryl Wenger to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

Board President

Board Clerk