

**KIONA-BENTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 52
1107 GRACE AVENUE
BENTON CITY, WASHINGTON 99320**

**Board Minutes of
Monday, January 27, 2014**

Members Present: Tim Cook, Chairman
Wade Haun, Director
Wayne Elston, Director
Leslie Johnson, Director
Ivan Howard, Director
Kimberly Scott, Executive Director of Financial Services

Members Absent: None.

Visitors: See attached.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cook called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. the District Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Vice Principal Jim Perry shared that Principal Bernardo Castillo was not going to be able to attend due to medical concerns. Earlier in the day Principal Castillo was transported to the hospital and was undergoing tests. The hope is that he will be back to work on Wednesday.

DELEGATIONS:

On behalf of citizens of Benton City, staff and students, Executive Director of Financial Services, Kimberly Scott thanked the Board and wanted to recognize them and Board Appreciation Month. She expressed that their hard work is appreciated as it takes a lot for the time and dedication outside of their regular work day.

Chairman Cook requested that Carroll (Dwayne) Deaton's hire request be moved from the proposed consent agenda to Unfinished Business.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from January 13 and January 21, 2014

Hire: Jacob Bennett, IT Technician II

Resignations: Charles Hobbick, HS Head Football Coach; Roy Freedman, Psychologist; Wade Haun, Board Member

The following vouchers as audited and certified by the auditing officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified, as required by RCW 42.24.090, are approved for payment.

Payroll General Fund - \$974,622.91	Vouchers 7, 1030, 1031
AP General Fund- \$66,642.49	Vouchers 1029, 1032
AP ASB Fund - \$5,376.88	Vouchers 1029, 1032
Warrants 106158-106226	

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Director Elston and seconded by Director Johnson.

Director Elston had questions regarding capital outlay and a PTO invoice and he indicated that Mrs. Scott had already explained these to him.

Unanimous vote to approve the consent agenda with a 4/0 vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1620-P Workshop

Chairman Cook indicated that this was held over from the previous meeting. Director Johnson suggested that the Board should schedule it for the month of February. Mrs. Scott asked the Board if it would be easier if she proposed some dates and they could determine from those. She asked if there was any certain day of the week or time that would work best. The Board indicated that Wednesday's would not work, but Thursday's should be fine. There was further discussion and Chairman Cook asked that Mrs. Scott provide them with a couple of dates and they would determine from there.

Bullying and Harassment Procedure

Mrs. Scott indicated that they had the procedure, which ties to their adopted Policy #3207 and the sample provided had #3270. She indicated that changes had been made to address this number correction as well as adding Kiona-Benton City School District in the document where needed. She also indicated that the policy related to student behavior was also tied into this particular procedure. Chairman Cook asked if the proposed procedures could be sent out for review by staff and Mrs. Scott indicated that she would and any feedback received would be brought back to the Board.

Grading Information

Mrs. Scott explained that Mr. Vance Wing was excused due to sickness and requested that this topic be rescheduled for the next scheduled Board meeting.

Carroll (Dwayne) Deaton – Hire

Chairman Cook indicated that this hire was being addressed separately due to the fact that Director Howard was related to the applicant and would have to recuse himself from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the hire of Carroll (Dwayne) Deaton as a temporary bus driver by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Elston.

Vote to approve the hire of Carroll (Dwayne) Deaton as a temporary bus driver with a 3/0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Stipends

Mrs. Scott explained to the Board that due to the fact she was not certified to complete teacher or principal evaluations, it was being proposed that a \$500 stipend be approved for a District Administrator that has no evaluations to assist with these duties. She also indicated that this administrator was asked to assist with evaluations in one of the buildings to help facilitate the process.

A motion was made to approve a \$500 stipend for evaluation support by Director Elston and seconded by Director Howard.

Unanimous vote to approve a \$500 stipend for evaluation support with a 4/0 vote.

Mrs. Scott requested that the Board consider a \$10,000 stipend in addition to her base salary for taking on the responsibilities of the Superintendent position until June 30, 2014. She indicated that if the Board brought in a new Superintendent prior to June 30, she is willing to help facilitate that process and in doing so asked that she be designated as Assistant Superintendent during that time. Director Elston asked if this was the same process as when the District hired the last Superintendent and Mrs. Scott indicated that it was.

A motion was made to approve Mrs. Kim Scott's \$10,000 stipend and assignment as Assistant Superintendent during the transition process by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Howard.

Unanimous vote to approve Mrs. Kim Scotts \$10,000 stipend and assignment as Assistant Superintendent during the transition process with a 4/0 vote.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

a. KB Elementary

Vice Principal Jim Perry thanked the Board again for the playground equipment. He also indicated that Principal Castillo had a survey out to staff to assess how he is doing so far and Vice Principal Perry stated that if the teacher's performances were any indication, Principal Castillo is doing awesome. Vice Principal Perry indicated there was a Priority School visit scheduled for tomorrow with walk throughs and that Mr. Lloyd would be assisting their building with the Priority School process. He indicated that Honor Roll assembly was scheduled for February 7, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and he invited the Board and audience to participate and the PTO Family Reading Night is scheduled for March 4 from 5:30 to 7:00. He thanked Mrs. McCloud for all her hard work getting that together and the McTeachers Fundraiser Night is scheduled for March 11 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Queensgate McDonalds with a check presentation from McDonalds and the date has yet to be determined. Vice Principal Perry also wanted to thank Principal Feth, Jolyn McCarty and all staff of the middle school for allowing the elementary to use their gym for assemblies.

b. KB Middle School

Principal Chuck Feth indicated that he had sent the Board via email copies of the first semester surveys and the points. Report cards were sent home on Friday and that information was posted on the Middle School web page as well as on the Middle School Face Book page. He indicated that the survey was about 15 questions which touched upon safety, continued concern of the CAVE program and how effective it is and can be. Principal Feth indicated they were still working on the intervention piece as well as addressing the concerns expressed by the teachers. The Middle School is also working on math and reading benchmark assessments. Principle Feth indicated that the 6th grade class was doing a presentation tomorrow of posters they made related to a "no drinking" component of their health class and that on Friday the Student Honor Roll of the Month assembly at 11:20 where they will be recognizing these students.

c. KB High School

Principal Wayne Barrett indicated that staff evaluations and the TPEP process are going well. HE indicated that he would be attending the National Gear-Up Conference in Orlando, FL at the request of the WSU program facilitator. He indicated that the new Gear-Up Site Coordinator would be going as well. Principal Barrett indicated that this will give them the opportunity to look at difference programs to see what we can possibly improve on at Kiona-Benton City School District high school and middle school. He indicated that second semester classes have started and they have just completed their January EOC testing, with makeup EOC's in January, HSPE testing in March, and in May EOC's in math and science. Principal Barrett indicated that the counseling department had just completed some FAFSA events to assist students and parents with the application process. He has also planned to have the Bio-Medical staff members come to the February meeting to do a presentation about the program. Principal Barrett indicated that

he was able to attend the legislative session through the WSU Superintendent program. He had an opportunity to meet with the Lieutenant Governor, Randy Dorn with OSPI, and several other legislators at the same time. He indicated that it was a great opportunity and he was able to take with Mr. Hewitt and have dialog about educational issues and was placed on a list of advisors so hopefully the District will have a voice through Mr. Hewitt. Principal Barrett indicated that it was Senior Night for most all HS athletics so if the Board had an opportunity to come out and show appreciation for all the senior athletes. He also indicated that there was a wrestling match against Warden on Thursday for the league title. Principal Barrett also wanted to express thanks to Mrs. Donna Baumgartner for all her work on the calendar wall. He indicated that the leadership students did a great job for winter wishes and was able to raise approximately \$1,500 that went to providing wishes to other high school students.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT

Acting Superintendent Kim Scott presented financial numbers of all fund activity to the Board. Ending fund balance numbers were reviewed and shared. The General Fund balance is \$1,198,113.90; Capital Projects \$2,630.06. She indicated that there may be some general funds needed to finishing paying for the electrical work on the Field House. She indicated that there was her understanding that there was very little work left to do and that the project looks great. Acting Superintendent Scott continued with financial numbers with Debt Service at \$93,116.68; ASB at \$289,789.17, Transportation at \$94.31, and PILT at \$44,294.87; which is after payment of the playground equipment.

Acting Superintendent Scott indicated that a staff member asked her to talk to the Board about staff children protocol. She indicated that she had contacted other school districts, and that they indicated that they had a practice, not a policy in place by the Board. There have been some concerns expressed about staff bringing their kids to school when their child has a day off from another school district. She indicated that Spokane School District has a Bring Your Child To Work Day and the District would not want to preclude this, but with educational needs and the ability for staff to perform their job effectively while they have a student here was questionable. She indicated that if they are attending a meeting, the student would not be unsupervised and would be okay, and it shouldn't be a problem if there is an intent, it is infrequent and the child is not sick. Acting Superintendent Scott asked if the Board was on the same page and would like to establish protocol and get that information out to staff. The Board agreed that there should be some protocol and Acting Superintendent indicated that she would address this.

Acting Superintendent Scott also wanted to present the Board with a couple of idea's she had about staff recognition. She suggested that the District should schedule a catered staff picnic away from the school so all staff could attend and enjoy, including the kitchen staff that seems to always have to work to provide the food for such events. She was thinking a budget of \$2,000 or more for the catering, but would need to check into the pricing further. Another idea she has was that the District establish an Extra Mile award type concept; awarding staff with a de minimis amount like \$25 for going above and beyond and establishing protocols for that type of program. She indicated that she has worked at other places that have done this program of recognizing those staff that go above and beyond, and she would like to see that happen in our District.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Kinnison – She expressed to the Board that our District is different, especially in size. Mrs. Kinnison indicated that she could get the Board in contact with, Burt Olson who has helped some of other smaller school districts find a Superintendent. She urged the Board to think outside the box because we are small and we are different.

Dan Raap – He indicated that he saw in the paper when they announced that Rom Castilleja resigned that there was an agreement. He indicated that he had received four (4) calls that night stating he was in the paper. He indicated that #4 of the agreement indicated that any employment inquiries would be referred to him as a former School Board member. Mr. Raap stated that he did not have a problem with this, but suggested that in the future that when the Board does contracts, they talk to the person before they put them

in it. Chairman Cook indicated that was from the other side; however Mr. Raap indicated that this was a separate agreement and signed by the Board, and questioned the expectation that he will handle all inquiries and whatever he says applies to the District in accordance with the agreement. Chairman Cook concurred with Mr. Raaps statement. Mr. Raap also wanted to clarify the spelling of his name as it was incorrectly spelled in the agreement and Chairman Cook apologized for that.

Jack Edwards – He would like to ask the Board to reconsider their decision regarding the middle school teacher for what was found on this his computer. Mr. Edwards indicated that he had two (2) daughters in middle school, and one was in this teacher's class. He indicated that he has already called the school and had his daughter removed from this teacher's class. Personally, he thinks the Board decision to put the teache4r back in class is horrible; putting is daughter at risk and other middle school students at risk until the investigation is complete. Mr. Edwards expressed that he really has a problem with this as the Board should remember that they represent the community; the tax payers and he really wonders how many parents were asked what they thought of the teacher. Anyone that knows the situation and has a kid in the class would say no. He indicated that the Board shouldn't take the risk with his kid. Mr. Edwards indicated that he was there to ask the Board to reconsider their decision.

Jill Renz-Whitman – She indicated that in November, the Board stated that they were not looking to buy out the Superintendent. She said it seems to be a waste of approximately \$80,000 to buy out the Superintendents contract/sabbatical leave when it could go to the kids and now our District is left without anyone at the helm. She also stated that in the paper the PDF file showed that the agreement was signed on the 17th yet in the paper it said that it was shocking that it didn't seem like it was coming; nobody seemed to know it was happening. Mrs. Renz-Whitman then indicated that the meeting wasn't until the 21st so she wondered how it was a surprise; it didn't quite make sense to her. She indicated that there was no meeting or emergency meeting held. In the special meeting, it didn't say there was action following in the announcement. Chairman Cook indicated that it had been announced. Mrs. Renz-Whitman questioned how the decision was made without a legal meeting or a progressive meeting to get approval, and how it was signed on the 17th before the meeting had begun; it hadn't even taken place. She questioned who presented who with the proposal; did Board present to Rom, or Rom to the Board? Chairman Cook stated no comment. Mrs. Renz-Whitman then questioned the Board regarding the teacher removed before Christmas Break and there was no meeting or emergency meeting to bring him back into the classroom. She reiterated what Mr. Edwards said and how this could happen without a meeting or emergency meeting. It was confirmed that an investigation was confirmed with OSPI two (2) weeks ago and why would the Board put kids at personal risk when there are innuendo's and reports of problems for years. Mrs. Renz-Whitman stated that she did not understand how the Board could do this to the kids and doesn't it make sense to error on the side of safety for kids. She stated kids are to come first and she doesn't understand the Boards decisions. She also wanted the Board to know that the public is watching the illegal meetings and the public meeting acts that are being broken.

Shelley Goldstein – She indicated that she had a son and daughter at the middle school, and a son at the high school. She stated that lately she has been very discouraged with what has been happening in our community and our District. My daughter has approached me about the teacher that was suspended and now is back. Mrs. Goldstein stated that she called and spoke with the principal and did not get much information except what he read of the school board decision. She indicated that she then called the investigating agency and spoke to them. She said of course they were unable to give out further information. Mrs. Goldstein indicated that she was a nurse and her husband a physician, and if she were to be accused of anything that she would be suspended until the State said she could go back to work, not based on my managers around the hospital. She stated right or wrong, and if a person may have not done it, that the Board should follow the state decision and not what their personal position or small investigation is. She said to be honest, but the Board does not know the full story of what is happening and that is why it is being investigated further. Mrs. Goldstein stated that for the safety of our kids, whether the teacher did something or didn't do something, keep them safe for the meantime.

Stephanie Adamson – She indicated that she has three (3) kids that go here and is a teacher of 4th grade. With respect to the teacher that was removed, she stated that not every parent feels the same way. Her

daughter is in the class and feels perfectly safe. Mrs. Adamson indicated that she is perfectly happy with her there and does not feel threatened in any way and that she hopes he is treated fairly in the investigation.

Tom Haughton – He stated that he has to agree with Jack Edwards about what he spoke of earlier, and he also agreed with Jack Edwards simple because the Board indicated that this individual would be closely monitored, which means that there I is a reason for him to be monitored. Mr. Haughton continued by stating that this then means there is a reason for him not to be here. He also heard through rumor that some disciplinary letters were being pulled from teachers files and he wanted to know if this is true or not, and what was the situation with that.

CONVENED

At 7:44 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters, for approximately 30 minutes with business to follow.

RECONVENED

The Board reconvened the regular board meeting at 8:11 p.m. Chairman Cook requested a motion to appoint Wade Haun as Acting Superintendent beginning February 3, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

A motion was made to appoint Wade Haun as Acting Superintendent beginning February 3, 2014 through June 30, 2014 by Director Howard and seconded by Director Johnson.

Roll call vote as follows: Director Howard, yes; Director Johnson, yes; Director Elston, no; and Chairman Cook, yes.

Vote to appoint Wade Haun as Acting Superintendent beginning February 3, 2014 through June 30, 2014 with a 3/1 vote.

ADJOURNMENT – Regular board meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Wayne Elston, Director

Leslie Johnson, Director

Ivan Howard, Director

Kim Scott, Acting Superintendent

Tim Cook, Chairman