

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

**Board Minutes of
Monday, May 12, 2014**

Members Present: Tim Cook, Chairman
Ivan Howard, Director
Wayne Elston, Director
Leslie Johnson, Director
Tawny Garrett, Director
Kimberly Scott, Assistant Superintendent
Wade Haun, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: None.

Visitors: See attached.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cook called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the High School PAC.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

DELEGATIONS – During delegations, Joni Ashley presented information to the Board regarding a History/Science trip available to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students during the next school year. She indicated that no funds were needed from the District, but she indicated that she would like to be able to use a classroom for informational meetings.

Superintendent Haun indicated that it was requested to get community participation in the English curriculum adoption. He indicated that the District would need four (4) community members to be on the English Literacy panel. Superintendent Haun indicated that these members would have to read four (4) novels that are being considered for the High School curriculum. He asked for contact information from those that might be interested.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from April 18, 2014

Hires: Jessica Gussenhoven, HS Football Rally Coach; Bruce Hadley, Temporary Bus Driver; Ryan McCallum, HS Asst. Football Coach.

Job Share Request: Lisa Schmidt, Special Services; request to continue .8 FTE for 2014-15 school year.

Leave Request: Nancy Pearson, Paraeducator

Resignation: Rachel Akers, HS Asst. Volleyball Coach.

Retirement: Leona Harding, Paraeducator

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.

AP General Fund- \$97,030.66	Vouchers 1051, 1052
AP ASB Fund - \$10,132.59	Vouchers 1051, 1052
Warrants 106586-106626	

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

Unanimous vote to approve the consent agenda with a 5/0 vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy 3247 & Procedures 3247P Final Reading

Superintendent Haun presented the Board with the final reading of Policy 3247 and Procedures 3247P addressing the isolating and restraining of students on IEPS.

A motion was made to approve Policy 3247 and Procedures 3247P by Director Elston and seconded by Director Johnson.

Unanimous vote to approve Policy 3247 and Procedures 3247P with a 5/0 vote.

Field House

Chairman Cook shared with the audience that to complete the field house project it would approximately cost an additional \$20,000. He indicated that unfortunately volunteers that were to do the work are no longer able to complete it. As well, Chairman Cook indicated that they are looking for the blueprints for the internal layout of the building and asked that if anyone had them or knew of someone that had a copy, to please provide them to the District. The District is currently waiting on bids for the work and will hopefully finish the project soon.

NEW BUSINESS

2014-2015 Calendar

Assistant Superintendent Scott presented the Board with the 2014-15 school calendar and indicated that it has been reviewed and approved by all union groups and now needed Board approval. Chairman Cook asked if there were any changes from last year and she indicated that there are fewer CRT days on next year's calendar, but for the most part it was the same.

A motion was made to approve the 2014-15 School Calendar by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Howard.

There was discussion regarding the calendar aligning with Tri-Tech and Assistant Scott confirmed that it lined up with the Tri-Tech calendar as well as the breaks.

Unanimous vote to approve the 2014-15 School Calendar with a 5/0 vote.

State Audit

Assistant Superintendent Scott indicated that the State completed their 2012-13 audit with an exit meeting the previous week. She indicated that the audit was over financials and federal compliance, and that everything went well with no issues to report.

Graduation Policy

Assistant Superintendent presented the Board with a modification of Policy 2161 which would allow commencement services for students in Special Services. She indicated that the current policy did not include this information and with the change it would allow these students to receive an attendance certificate or a certificate of individual achievement depending on their IEP goals.

A motion was made to approve modifications of Policy 2161 by Director Garrett and seconded by Director Johnson.

Unanimous vote to approve modifications of Policy 2161 with a 5/0 vote.

2014-2015 Highly Capable Plan

Assistant Superintendent Scott shared with the Board the 2014-15 Highly Capable Plan completed by Joe Lloyd, which addressed the expansion of the program to K-12, whereas the District was currently only serving elementary students. She indicated that the funds would now be split amongst a smaller group, but across all grade levels. Assistant Superintendent Scott indicated that the plan was for review and no action was being requested. Chairman Cook confirmed that this would be considered first reading of the plan.

Restructuring of Administrative Duties for Greater Efficiency

Chairman Cook announced that Wayne Barrett would be leaving the District after this current year to pursue his goal of becoming a Superintendent. Until that time, Chairman Cook stated that Mr. Barrett would be working directly with Superintendent Haun at the District Office as a Special Projects Administrator, receiving the same pay and benefits that he received as the High School principal. He went on to state that Shawnta DiFalco would remain as the interim High School Principal and that she has done a commendable job since taking the position February 24 of this year. Chairman Cook stated that making these changes allows the District to make the best and most efficient use and availability of administrative resources and that the District is in the middle of several projects which require special attention, which Superintendent Haun could make better use of Mr. Barrett's abilities by having him working in Administration.

Motion was made to reassign Wayne Barrett to the District Office to assist with Special Projects and retain Shawnta DiFalco as Interim High School Principal for the current year by Director Howard and seconded by Director Johnson.

Roll call vote was taken to reassign Wayne Barrett to the District Office to assist with Special Projects and retain Shawnta DiFalco as Interim High School Principal for the current year: Tawny Garrett-yes; Ivan Howard-yes; Leslie Johnson, yes; Wayne Elston-yes; Tim Cook-yes.

Administrative Staffing Changes

Chairman Cook announced that the Board would be eliminating the Curriculum and Athletic Executive Director position currently held by Vance Wing and that the duties of this position would be distributed amongst other administrative staff as determined by Superintendent Haun. Chairman Cook stated that this would allow building principals to control curriculum of their assigned schools and allow for them and staff to collaborate and administer in the most effective manner possible. Chairman Cook then stated that athletic duties would be distributed between the Vice Principals and/or Dean of Students of the Middle School and High School, respectively. The funds saved from this position will be used to support teachers and staff.

Motion was made to eliminate the Curriculum and Athletic Executive Director position currently held by Vance Wing by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Howard.

Roll call vote was taken to eliminate the Curriculum and Athletic Executive Director position currently held by Vance Wing: Tawny Garrett-yes; Ivan Howard-yes; Leslie Johnson, yes; Wayne Elston-yes; Tim Cook-abstain.

Coaching

Director Johnson announced that High School Girls Wrestling Coach, Holly Graham will be reassigned to the Middle School in the same position and will have the same pay and responsibilities and that Mrs. Graham was not employed by the District in any other capacity. Director Johnson stated that this reassignment was recommended to the Superintendent by the Districts Athletic Director and would allow for Mrs. Graham to work with younger students to develop skills and progress through the program. She indicated that the District in no way viewed this reassignment as a demotion.

WIAA School Board Resolution 3-2014

Superintendent Haun presented the Board with Resolution 3-2014 which indicates that the District will follow WIAA rules and regulations.

A motion was made to approve the WIAA Resolution 3-2014 by Director Elston and seconded by Director Howard.

Unanimous vote to approve the WIAA Resolution 3-2014 with a 5/0 vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Technology

Troy Jamieson indicated that he had nothing new to report.

Maintenance

Robin Frost indicated that they were gearing up for summer with a lot of projects and work orders to address. He stated that there will be plenty to do with painting, refinishing floors, and grounds maintenance. Mr. Frost announced that he would appreciate it if the community users adhere to the signs regarding access as they are trying to complete work as they would be reseeding the football field and would appreciate the public's help on obeying the signs and staying off the turf. He also indicated that they would be deep cleaning all buildings, lights, walls, stalls, furniture, and carpets as well as painting, waxing floors, refinishing gym floors, and scrubbing restrooms. Mr. Frost stated that other projects included cleaning coils on HVAC at the Elementary, finishing off the Field House for fall sports, remodeling the clinic for District Office, completing security upgrades at Middle School, installing storage at Transportation, stripping and waxing the Multipurpose Room at the Elementary, complete compliance for elevators, test fire systems, test underground tanks, and address AHERA compliance.

Special Services

Heather Franklin excused.

Grants

Joe Lloyd excused.

Teaching & Learning/Athletics

Vance Wing addressed the Board regarding the reading curriculum adoption for the Elementary. He indicated that Principal Castillo requested that the curriculum be approved for this next year. Mr. Wing indicated that Journey's training of K-5 core staff Special Services staff and specialists in the Teacher's Editions of the program is scheduled for June 13, follow-up training scheduled for August 21, and an October date yet to be determined. Mr. Wing also shared that for High School boys soccer that Arturo O'Campo was selected for Second Team All-League and that Jonathan Gutierrez received Honorable Mention. Mr. Wing also shared that Ryan McCallum was joining the District as a new Assistant Football Coach at the High School.

A motion was made to approve the Houghton Mifflin Journey Reading Program for K-5 Elementary level by Director Elston and seconded by Director Howard.

There was discussion regarding staff and community input regarding the curriculum and Mr. Wing confirmed that staff and community were provided opportunities to view and provide input. Principal Castillo reiterated

that at this time, they were asking that the teacher editions could be approved so that training could start before the end of the school year.

Unanimous vote to approve the Houghton Mifflin Journey Reading Program for K-5 Elementary level with a 5/0 vote.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Haun indicated that he had nothing new to report but wanted to invite the Board to Staff Appreciation Day on May 14, 2014 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. located at the High School Commons area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A student addressed the Board and spoke regarding Holly Grahams reassignment. She stated that Holly Graham has been a great addition to the High School wrestling program and that she has done so much for the wrestlers and has made each and every one of them a better wrestler. The student went on to state that since Holly started at the High School they have had their biggest turnout and they all love her and want her to stay at the High School.

A student addressed the Board and indicated that with Holly Graham they work as a team and that they took second at Districts as a team. She stated that with Holly there she pushes them to work hard and she wants to her to stay at the High School and not see the team change.

A parent spoke and stated that she watched the girls wrestling team this year and that Holly treated the girls fairly and without any judgment on whom their parents may be. The parent stated that she has talked with many of the girls on the team and they have indicated that they will not wrestle next year unless Holly is coach. She indicated this included many girls that were coming up from 8th grade. She asked the Board to reconsider their decision to move her.

A student spoke and stated that she supported Holly and wanted her to remain coach for their team. She stated that as a coach was always there to support them and when she talked to them, they believed what she said.

Clark Carlson indicated to the Board that he had received responses to his previous meeting questions. He wanted to make public his questions and what the Boards response was. Mr. Carlson indicated that his question was related to what the qualifications were of the current Superintendent, a) what references were used to determine his strength and weaknesses and b) did the District corroborate any references on his application or did he have an application. Mr. Carlson read the response, which stated that the Board went through a hiring process which gave them the insight to give them reasonable assurance that Mr. Haun was qualified and has the experience to perform the job duties of a Superintendent. He continued by reading that Mr. Haun has a degree in Business Administration and several years of managerial experience. Mr. Carlson indicated that the response told him no, no, no to every part of his question. He stated that the five (5) Board members at the time, not more than two had more than a rudimentary knowledge of what a Superintendent does. Mr. Carlson stated that they have never done it before; they have never looked into it as far as he knew and with no input from anyone else, decided that a complete novice was the best option for running a school district in crisis. Mr. Carlson stated that the reason for the crisis may not be stated and there are many, many causes. He stated that these same five (5) plus one (1) will be deciding on the criteria for judging the Superintendent and that the Board will probably not ask for any input and that they have not shown per their own words that they want to talk to anyone else. Mr. Carlson then asked the audience if as citizens of Kiona-Benton City School District if the Board should be making all of these decisions without input; without even asking for any input. He offered his help to the Board in crafting the criteria for the Superintendent and also offered his assistance with crafting a plan for the next one (1), five (5) to ten (10) years on making our school district acceptable. Mr. Carlson indicated that he is not an expert in education but that he knows how to learn. Chairman Cook stopped comments and indicated that if Mr. Carlson had something to say to the Board, that he says it to the Board and not address the public and that if Mr. Carlson wants to direct it to the audience that he can schedule his own meeting and see who shows up. Mr. Carlson

agreed and stated that he knows how to learn and work with an organization and get along. He then addressed the Board with a final question, asking who else was interviewed for the position. He stated that the Board has successfully gotten rid of Mr. Castilleja, Mr. Barrett, and Mr. Wing by getting rid of his position tonight, and several coaches. Mr. Carlson indicated that there was obviously an agenda for getting rid of people whenever you want.

Kelly Wheeler indicated that she has known each and every one of the Board members were elected by the community and she just wanted to say thank you for the great job. Mrs. Wheeler went on to state that she would appreciate the Board and how they have handled personnel issues because if she were to be investigated she would want them to do what they have done. She again thanked them and asked that everyone remember that it was the community that voted them in.

Jill Renz-Whitman asked the Board what changes were made tonight and what positions are being eliminated. Director Elston asked that she submit her contact information and questions to the Superintendent. There was further discussion as to why the Board could not provide the information at this time. Mrs. Renz-Whitman expressed concern about the announcements regarding positions and the Board not clarifying why.

A parent and another student showed their support for Holly Graham as the High School Girls Wrestling Coach.

A student showed their support for Holly Graham as the High School Girls Wrestling Coach.

Jennifer Kinnison addressed the Board and indicated that the Prom was this past Saturday and was great. The kids had a great time and the decorations were spot on. She indicated as a chaperone that there was a lack of chairs, which only went to show that more attended than were expected. Mrs. Kinnison then thanked the Board for bringing in Mr. Englehart and that she as a teacher is 100% in support and with his help the high school is on track.

Kimm Minkler spoke in support of Shawnta DiFalco, indicating that things at the high school are going very smoothly and that she is working her tail off since she was hired. Mrs. Minkler stated that Mrs. DiFalco has stepped up and as a counselor she works to squelch rumors and that one of the rumors she heard that day was that the seniors were not being watched over and making sure they are going to graduate. Mrs. Minkler wanted to ensure the Board and community that this is the counselor and administrators job, and that they have always done this and always will. She said rest assured that they are bending over backwards to make sure that all the seniors graduate this year.

A student spoke and stated that she would not wrestle this next year unless she wrestled for Holly Graham. She stated that she is just a freshman and if she has to change schools because of this she didn't know what she would do.

A student spoke and stated that Holly was the one that supported her when no one else was there. She asked the Board to find it in their hearts to put Holly back in the high school.

A student congratulated the Board on their decision and that she felt that the coach allowed the team this year to slip across the line. She indicated that most of the team was present, but there were a couple that weren't and one of those team members was bullied and reported by the coach. She felt that instead the coach should have reported the whole team and that if the coach was doing their job, that they wouldn't have to be here.

A student indicated that they were done with wrestling and that they are more than just a family.

Jack Edwards spoke and stated that as an informal observation on his part, that this was the second time the Board has tried to do something to a coach that is extremely popular with the kids. He stated that this didn't make any sense and suggested that the next time the Board made a move to talk with the kids first and see how they feel. He stated that he really didn't buy what the Board stated earlier about it being better for the

future of the program and asked if in that case would the Board be moving the boys coaches too so that we can be successful at the High School. Mr. Edwards asked if they planned on moving the new football coach to the Middle School to make the High School program more successful and stated that he didn't buy the Boards story as it was not the truth.

A student asked the Board if they lost all of these girls, how successful would the program really be in High School by just making the Middle School better. She stated that it might be fine at the Middle School, but once they got to High School they would probably quit and how successful is that program.

A student with the boys wrestling team stated that he has seen such an improvement in the girls that he will not get to see next year. He indicated that he didn't even want to be in wrestling because he didn't even get this school any more. The student told the Board to do their job and not mix business with their personal life.

Dan Johnson addressed the Board and stated that he appreciated what the Board has done and the he understands that not all decisions regarding administration are not all due to Board actions, but other levels of the organization. He also stated that there are two (2) sides to the story and just because what was heard tonight doesn't mean there are not other people with different opinions. Mr. Johnson indicated that there is no way the Board could satisfy everyone and that the Board is doing what they think is right with the information they are given.

CONVENED

At 7:54 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters, for approximately 30 minutes with no business to follow. Executive session was extended.

ADJOURNMENT – Regular board meeting adjourned at 10.00 p.m.

Wayne Elston, Director

Leslie Johnson, Director

Ivan Howard, Director

Tawny Garrett, Director

Tim Cook, Chairman

Wade Haun, Superintendent