

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

**Board Minutes of
Monday, March 26, 2012**

Members Present: Charles T. Gray, Chairman
Dan Raap, Director
Tim Cook, Director
Wayne Elston, Director
Jill Renz-Whitman, Director
Rom Castilleja, Secretary to the Board
Kimberly Scott, Executive Director of Financial Services

Members Absent: None.

Visitors: See attached.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Chairman Gray recessed the meeting due to the large number of attendees and the meeting was moved to the middle school gymnasium. Public comments were moved up in the agenda due to a student presentation being delayed because of the last minute meeting location move.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - *Chairman Gray reconvened the meeting and requested that public comments be limited to 3 minutes.*

Connie Meredith addressed the Board about her concerns if the blackballing of certain substitutes. Chairman Gray stated that this was an employment issue and would only be discussed during executive session. She then presented the Board with packet which outlined concerns with the "Make Your Day" program and then she asked the Board and Superintendent about a news interview on March 19 that referred to cuts of the Spanish and welding classes at the high school. Superintendent Castilleja tried to explain to her and the audience repeatedly that what was seen were bits and pieces of the 12-15 minute interview and some of what he discussed was cut from the interview. The Superintendent repeatedly expressed that if anyone had questions or concerns to come talk to him first and that the board would not suggest cuts without a budget in place from the legislature.

Irene Schmick addressed the Board regarding enrollment numbers. She indicated that numbers she gleaned from the SchoolMaster program indicate that our enrollment numbers are not as low as indicated. The Superintendent indicated that the numbers they reviewed were over the course of 10 years. Initially the count was at approximately 1700 and the district is now down in the 1400 range.

Nancy Pearson addressed the Board and Superintendent Castilleja about the lack of acknowledgement during Classification Week. She explained that after working for the District for 12 years, this was the first time it was forgotten. Superintendent Castilleja apologized to Nancy as well as all classification staff and indicated that it was not his intention to forget to recognize them for their hard work and dedication.

Barb Thomas addressed the Board regarding the substitute issues and indicated that having them changed as the last minute created more work and more highly qualified substitute teachers are needed.

Vance Wing indicated that he was impressed with how Barb Thomas handled the situation by coming to talk with him about the issue. He commended her for her professional interaction.

Amber Farley stated to the Board that they need to do what is best for the kids. She indicated that teachers need good, qualified substitutes to cover in their absence.

Joni Ashley spoke and indicated that she had gotten sick at school that very day and indicated that no substitute was available.

Jan DeFord addressed the Board about the substitutes being removed from the list. As the substitute coordinator, she indicated that she felt it was very unprofessional the way the situation was handled and that the Board needs to look at making sure there are enough qualified substitutes available for her to select from. She reiterated that she did not understand why this was done to our most requested substitutes and that the Board needs to think about the quality of teachers for our kids.

Mr. Johnson addressed the Board regarding the continued harassment and bullying at the high school. He indicated that teachers were told to refer students to the office. Now his daughter is getting accused of another incident. He is concerned that this issue is not being handled. Superintendent Castilleja requested names from the parent so he could address the situation.

Tina Cook addressed the Board about her continued concern about the wrestling wall and mats that would be addressed under unfinished business. For her, the purchase of an additional mat is for safety and the high school area is too small and is a safety issue. She asked the Board to keep this in mind when making their decision.

Denise Carnahan indicated to the Board that there are issues with the Step Program and that everyone should be held accountable in following through on steps. As well she indicated that administrators need to follow through, even with students that have IEP's. She also offered documentation for the Board to review regarding this issue.

Jennifer Oliver indicated that she was speaking on Sharon Brandon's behalf indicating that she is okay with the use change of the room located next to the wrestling room. She also indicated that she felt there was an issue with administrators listening to students over staff. Ms. Oliver indicated that there are two different behavior tasks going on. She indicated that the situation was investigated and the substitutes were let go based on what the students said. She also indicated that five (5) staff members came to her in tears over this situation.

Kim Cruz addressed the Board about her request to extend her job share position. She indicated that is has been going well for the past 22 years and she has a fabulous teaching partner for intervention. Mrs. Cruz indicated that they love the children and that their goal is to be the very best, in turn giving the kids the very best.

Cindy Cook expressed her appreciation for Kim Cruz and stated that both her children were taught by Mrs. Cruz and she did a great job.

Chairman Gray recessed the meeting to return to the Board Room at the District Office for the high school AVID student presentation. The meeting resumed at 7:44 p.m.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

a. KB High School

Principal Wayne Barrett introduced the AVID group from the high school that had prepared presentations for the Board and public. The advising teachers are Tanya Tyrrell, Bonnie Flanagan, and Susan McTavish. As well, Katy Mattson with Gear-Up was present. The students involved range from sophomores to seniors, and those selected to present information about the program were

Carson Peck, Anthony Zarazua, Vanessa Gonzalez, Sierra Ripley, Alex Shuster, Carl Robb, and Yesenia Cardenas. The point behind the program is to assist the students with organization, grades, time management, scholarships, guest speakers, field trips, and assist with other classes. They further described what is entailed with the program to include Cornell Notes, tutorials, binders to organize, and weekly grade checks. The Board asked some questions regarding the program and funding of the program. It was indicated that there are funds available through the Gear-Up program and that the training costs for the instructors ranged from \$8,000 to \$9,000. As well Director Renz-Whitman indicated how proud she was of the students and loved to hear the student's perspective and Director Raap indicated that the students shared great information and that the program was very critical in assisting the students with apply to college.

Chairman Gray recessed the meeting at 8:20 p.m. to return to the middle school gymnasium to complete the Board meeting. The meeting resumed at 8:25 p.m.

DELEGATIONS

Superintendent Castilleja reminded the Board of the InvestEd invitation to the benefit fundraiser being held at the Kiona Winery on April 15. As well a letter was received indicating that Kim Scott received a degree in Certified Business Administration and that she will be formally recognized at the April 9 board meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial numbers of all fund activity were presented to the Board. Ending fund balance numbers were reviewed and shared. The General Fund balance is \$600,000.84, Capital Projects \$63,821.88, Debt Service \$62,501.13, ASB \$255,788.35, Transportation \$41,757.08, and PILT \$29,713.31. Chairman Gray had a question regarding the negative balance in transportation on the report and Mrs. Scott clarified that for him.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

The Board Minutes from March 12, 2012

Leave Request – Candy Crandall, Para Educator; Sandra Mincey – Food Service

Payroll \$928,469.62 Warrants total \$300,578.09 Direct Deposits total \$627,891.53. Warrants 103022-103055

AP General Fund- \$185,556.86 Inclusive in Warrants 102913-103022

AP ASB Fund - \$18,274.61 Inclusive in Warrants 102913-103022

A motion was made to approve the minutes from March 12, 2012 by Director Cook and seconded by Director Raap. Chairman Gray requested to abstain from the vote as he was absent at that meeting.

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

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda without the minutes from March 12, 2012 by Director Raap and seconded by Director Elston.

Unanimous vote to approve consent agenda without the minutes from March 12, 2012 with a 5/0 vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Wrestling Wall

Superintendent Castilleja indicated that there was new information available in regards to the removal of the wall next to the wrestling room. There was discussion regarding the research made by Mark Noyes at the request of the Board during the last meeting. The architect and information will be available at the next meeting so the issue was tabled until then.

Wrestling Mat

Superintendent Castilleja asked Chuck Feth to present the Board with two (2) estimates for the cost of a new mat for the middle school. He also shared that he worked on a schedule that would ensure all sports had equal use of the facilities as requested by the Board from the last meeting. He believes it to be a workable schedule and he indicated no objections or concerns were received from staff and coaches and that each program shared the impact. There was a question regarding delivery times and shipping issues. The decision to purchase the mat was postponed until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Job Share, Policy 5214

Superintendent Castilleja presented the Board with the request for job share as well as a copy policy 5214. The Board agreed that more information was needed about the allocation of funding before a decision was made. Kim Cruz, who was requesting the shared position, asked why a decision could not be made at this time, and again the Board indicated they would like to wait to see about funding before making any decisions.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

b. KB Middle School

Principal Vance Wing congratulated Jolyn McCarty on being the recipient of the Crystal Apple Award. He indicated that she is deserving of the recognition and that she is a great teacher, great motivator, and is currently working hard on the new mountain bike program that was grant awarded, which is one of the many things she is doing for the children and school. Principal Wing indicated that there was election of new ASB officers, and that the Buddy Club would be participating in the "March for Respect" on March, 31. He also indicated that Robin Ellis was working on a formative assessment and there would be a Webinar to complete on a CRT day scheduled in April. Principal Wing also indicated that they were working on the middle school science curriculum as well as there was a strong turnout for spring sports.

c. KB Elementary School

Principal Jennifer Behrends shared with the Board that they raised \$3,892.00 for the penny drive and that spring conferences went really well. They were also working on the Silverwood, "Reading is the Ticket" program and 229 students have earned a ticket by reading at least 600 minutes. Principal Behrends shared upcoming events to include McTeacher Night scheduled for March 27 and the MSP assembly for March 29 to honor last year's 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students who passed any part of the MSP. Also three (3) teachers will be attending Common Core Standards workshop April 10-11, Author Bob Shea will be here for an assembly on April 12, and the 4th and 5th graders will be attending a performance at the 5th Avenue Theatre on April 16.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT

Superintendent Castilleja reported to the Board that the legislature was still working on allocation issues as well as pension issues. He indicated that the Governor is involved now. He indicated that he would forward notes to the Board from the legislative session to review. Superintendent Castilleja indicated that there is a group ready to go over later to Olympia if needed.

CONVENED

At 8:55 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters, for approximately 40 minutes. Chairman Gray extended the meeting for an additional 40 minutes at 9:18 p.m. No matters were addressed after executive session.

ADJOURNMENT – Regular board meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Wayne Elston, Director

Jill Renz-Whitman, Director

Dan Raap, Director

Tim Cook, Director

Charles T. Gray, Chairman

Rom Castilleja, Superintendent