

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

**Board Minutes of
Monday, April 23, 2012**

Members Present: Charles T. Gray, Chairman
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: Dan Raap, Director

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.

DELEGATIONS

Superintendent Castilleja introduced Mrs. Wysteria Edwards for a teacher/student presentation as there were students involved and the Board did not want to keep them too late. The Rwanda presentation was moved to after the proposed consent agenda.

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 \$493,999.48, Capital Projects \$63,678.61, Debt Service \$102,433.41, ASB \$255,319.96, Transportation \$41,761.47, and PILT \$29,716.43. Mrs. Scott indicated that to date the District had spent 56% of the budget.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

The Board Minutes from April 9, 2012

Reduced Hours Request – Chandra Markel, Counselor

Payroll \$912,448.40 Warrants total \$300,853.09 Direct Deposits total \$611,595.31. Warrants 103171-103210

AP General Fund- \$154,637.90 Inclusive in Warrants 103092-103170

AP ASB Fund - \$9,424.38 Inclusive in Warrants 103092-103170

AP Capital Projects - \$1,252.28 Inclusive in Warrants 103092-103170

There was discussion regarding the minutes. Director Cook requested that a specific statement he made during the April 9, meeting be added in regards to Maintenance & Operations. Superintendent Castilleja explained that the minutes were not verbatim; however, if needed, the minutes could be updated to reflect this statement.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as amended to include reduced hours request and addition to the meeting minutes Maintenance & Operations section by Director Cook and seconded by Director Renz-Whitman.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Wrestling Wall

Superintendent Castilleja indicated that he received information from Dax regarding the removal of the wrestling room wall. He indicated that Dax's intentions were only to make sure that the District was covering all its bases, including the political side of it with the State and the initial intentions of the space. The Superintendent indicated that he would share the information with the Board and that Mark Noyes has been working with the architect at well and would be providing more information at a later date. There was also discussion regarding the poor air quality in this area, which will be reviewed.

Wrestling Mat

Superintendent Castilleja requested that it be moved to New Business-PAC Updates Request.

DELEGATIONS-continued

Mrs. Wysteria Edwards and some of her students presented to the Board the Rwanda Children's Education Project that they were working on in class. They provided the Board with their writing prompts as well as a Power Point. The students are hoping to assist Rwanda children in attending school by selling bracelets.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-continued

Request for Job Share, Policy 5214 – Requests submitted.

Superintendent Castilleja indicated that he had reviewed the request for job shares that had been submitted and indicated that from what he observed, there was not much impact to the students as the teachers that were requesting the job share have been doing it for some time and it was working well. Director Cook indicated that he had observed a 2nd grade and 4th grade class was impressed with the high energy of the classes and the great job of Mrs. Kim Cruz and Ms. Nicole DeRousie are doing. Several parents and co-workers spoke on the behalf of these teachers. Chairman Gray indicated that some concerns the Board has is the number of share requests and the dynamics of the sharing staff coming an issue.

A motion was made to approve the job share requests submitted by Mrs. Cruz and Ms. DeRousie by Director Cook and seconded by Director Elston.

Unanimous vote to approve the job share requests submitted by Mrs. Cruz and Ms. DeRousie with a 4/0 vote.

There was another teacher request for job share submitted by Lisa Schmidt. The Board reviewed the request as a reduction in her contract as she was at Middle School level and the hours could be assigned to another teacher with no concerns.

A motion was made to approve the contract reduction request, submitted by Mrs. Lisa Schmidt, by Director Renz-Whitman and seconded by Director Cook.

Unanimous vote to approve contract reduction request submitted by Mrs. Lisa Schmidt with a 4/0 vote.

The third request submitted was from Mrs. Judy Reid, Office Manager at the Elementary. The Board requested to table this request until further information could be obtained from the building principal.

NEW BUSINESS

PAC Updates Request

Superintendent Castilleja addressed the Board and indicated that the reason for moving the wrestling mat topic to this time was to make the Board aware that along with the wrestling mat request, there were other Departments in the schools that were in need. The Art's Department including Rob Hansen, Sean

McClanahan, and teacher, Wysteria Edwards presented the Board with three (3) project requests. The first was for upgrade of pianos, second was improvement in the PAC in regards to lighting and sound, and the third was the purchase of new equipment. With the proposals, quotes from Ted Brown Music Company Inc. were provided. The total of the three (3) projects could cost the District approximately \$24,000. There was discussion regarding the number of students participating in the programs and how funds could be made available, and how a call would go out to the community May 1 for donated instruments. There was further discussion as to the cost to the students participating and assistance for those that needed help with participating.

In reference to a new wrestling mat, the question was proposed to the Board if they wanted to spend levy dollars for the purchase or somehow use participation fees. There are other areas that will be needing assistance on an educational level due to the reduction in federal funds such as AVID. Staff also indicated that the participation fees are to rotate from sport to sport each year, and there are some Middle School uniforms that are almost 20 years old. The Superintendent suggested that the Board consider all areas of need before committing to just one.

Resolution 4-2012 2011-2012 Budget Extension/Debt Services Fund

Mrs. Kim Scott submitted Resolution 4-2012 to the Board which is to provide the capability of resale of bonds and gives the capacity to cover the fees incurred.

Chairman Gray recessed the meeting for public hearing at 8:35 p.m.

Public Comment – the public expressed concerns regarding if there was a penalty incurred from the resale and Mrs. Scott indicated that there was none and that all fees are built into the agreement. There was a question regarding the risk factor and the Board explained that the resale would not take place unless a certain percentage of savings was reached.

Chairman Gray reconvened the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 4-2012 2011-2012 Budget Extension/Debt Services Fund by Director Renz-Whitman and seconded by Director Elston.

Unanimous vote to approve Resolution 4-2012 2011-2012 Budget Extension/Debt Services Fund with a 4/0 vote.

Board Pay Reinstatement

Chairman Gray indicated that he requested that the Board revisit Policy 1733 in regards to board members receiving payment for attending board meetings or related functions. He indicated that the District now has a stabilized budget and that his intent was to allow the board members a choice about being able to receive these funds or continue to waive receiving them. Chairman Gray indicated that this would also provide the Board an opportunity to accept the funds and then donate them back to a school group, sport, scholarship, etc... of their choice. Director Cook asked if it was possible to transfer the funds directly to their choice, and Mrs. Scott indicated that was not possible. The funds would have to be paid to the board member and that member would then have the responsibility of donating or not.

A motion was made to approve reinstatement of Policy 1733 by Director Cook and seconded by Director Renz-Whitman.

Vote to approve reinstatement of Policy 1733 with a 3/1 vote.

Update for Board Policies-added to Agenda

Superintendent Castilleja indicated that the update to Board policies had been unintentionally left off the agenda, but the board packet had contained the information.

a) Second Reading – Procedures for Policy 1620

There was discussion as to the second reading draft. Office Manager, Mona Van Hollebeke indicated that it was reformatted to match all other policies and procedures, and that the only change to content was the insertion of the language from the previous document in regards to communication from staff members to the Board. Director Cook indicated that this is not what the Board had requested. There was more discussion and it was determined to table the second reading until the change could be clarified.

b) Second Reading – Policy 1731 & 1731P

The Board reviewed the updated Policy 1731 and procedures.

A motion was made to approve second reading of Policy 1731 & 1731P by Director Cook and seconded by Director Renz-Whitman.

Unanimous vote to approve second reading of Policy 1731 & 1731P with a 4/0 vote.

c) Second Reading – Policy 1310

The Board reviewed the updated Policy 1310. Office Manager, Ms. Van Hollebeke explained that it was a minor change in regards to the location of District policies and their availability. There seemed to be some confusion as to the policies as a whole and it was determined to table the second reading.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

a. KB High School

Principal Wayne Barrett presented the Board with a list of upcoming events to include all graduation events. As will the high school had just completed the “Every 15 Minutes” program and he thanked all of the officers, agencies and volunteers that assisted as well as a special thank you to Officer Klippert. Principal Barrett shared that staff, including him, attended the Common Core training, that CRT’s would be devoted to the TPEP evaluation and Common Core information. He indicated that all sports are have a good spring, and that the drama department would be having another play starting April 27. As well, the Russell Maddox family will be attending the Senior Awards and will be presenting a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 to a graduating senior. The Board asked about the approximate numbers that would be graduating and Principal Barrett indicated that there were approximately 22 students in Sunset View and 109 students in the High School projected to graduate.

b. KB Middle School

Principal Vance Wing indicated that they were preparing for MSP testing and that they had completed the Math Benchmark assessments. He also indicated that the CRT days would be used by the School Improvement Teams to review objectives. As for teaching and learning, Principal Wing indicated that there was SIP Team meetings, AED, First Aid/CPR training, MSP Proctor training, and they would be addressing Common Core standards and the teacher-principal evaluation program. He indicated that spring sports were going well with 41 students participating in track and field, 36 in baseball, 18 in soccer, and 27 in softball.

c. KB Elementary School

Dean of Students Jim Perry shared with the Board highlights for the elementary and some discipline data. He indicated they were starting MSP testing on April 26 and he was aware of HVAC concerns and was already working with Mark Noyes, the spring writing prompt is scheduled for May 1, and that the Kinder Round-up is on May 3 with Ready! For Kindergarten on May 7. He also indicated that the Reptile Man assembly was scheduled for May 9.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT

Superintendent Castilleja reported to the Board about current budget information from the legislature. He also presented the Board with enrollment comparisons and showed the drop in enrollment numbers.

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

Barb Thomas indicated to the Board that there was an issue in regards to Mr. Gustafson making survival bracelets for the 6th grade students going to Camp Wooten and the Rwanda bracelets that were being sold.

Parent asked about Director Renz-Whitman still being on the Board although she moved from her area. The Superintendent indicated that per policy indicates this is fine as long as the member was within the District and this had also been verified by the county auditor. The parent then expressed concern that a school board members son could be allowed to rant and rave during public comment – it was uncalled for.

Dan Johnson indicated that he had sent a series of emails in regards to his daughter being onsite at the High School although she was an online student with only one on-site class. Was not happy with the responses and believed his daughter was still being bullied and harassed. He asked for clarification regarding this matter.

Donna Johnson indicated to the Board that Ms. King with the on-line program was available for her daughter to be in that area from the start of school and through her choir class. She picks her up after that and returns for track practice and so she can't understand what the problem is.

Connie Meredith asked the Board if the two (2) subs were still blackballed. She indicated that there have been no answers given, no timelines. Chairman Gray indicated that it was a personnel issue and Mrs. Meredith indicated that they were entitled to due process. There were words between the Superintendent and Mrs. Meredith and Director Renz-Whitman interceded by indicating to Mrs. Meredith that it was not okay to speak like that. Mrs. Meredith then asked about an investigation into the substitute issue and was told there was no formal decision. She stated that the District had already spent over \$100,000 on unfair labor practices. Chairman Gray indicated that this was an unfair statement. Mrs. Meredith then insinuated that there would be another one coming.

It was asked of the Board, if the rumor was true that they had multiple lawyers working on issues and it was clarified that there were only three (3).

Kelly Frazier provided the Board with a handout regarding Superintendent wages and then asked about executive sessions and if Director Renz-Whitman was involved in conflicting personnel issues.

Joni Ashley indicated that MAP testing was horrible. The room is crowded with old computer monitors everywhere. She indicated that this was not a good environment for testing. Director Renz-Whitman indicated that she appreciated her comments. Troy Jamieson indicated that there are just not enough resources at this time to have the computer lab elsewhere. Cool air will help the situation and his was working with Mark Noyes regarding this.

Gary Griffith addressed the Board about policy and an unsafe environment. He indicated that this is a problem and that the Board should follow the mission statement.

Jesus Alvarado spoke to the Board about the enrollment dropping over the last 12 years and asked why the Superintendent was not being held accountable to his goals from when he was hired and that was to keep enrollment up. He indicated that the Board should not be upset with Connie Meredith; she is there to represent the teachers. As well, he asked why Mr. Englehart was not being used as a substitute. Mr. Alvarado then made remarks specifically directed at Director Renz-Whitman and names of student were used. Chairman Gray told him not to bring up students directly or use names.

CONVENED

At 9:55 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters, for approximately 20 minutes. Chairman Gray extended the meeting for an additional 20 minutes at 10:14 p.m. No matters were addressed after executive session.

ADJOURNMENT – Regular board meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Wayne Elston, Director

Jill Renz-Whitman, Director

Dan Raap, Director

Tim Cook, Director

Charles T. Gray, Chairman

Rom Castilleja, Superintendent