

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

**Board Minutes of
Tuesday, November 13, 2012**

Members Present: Charles T. Gray, Chairman
Dan Raap, Vice Chairman
Tim Cook, Director
Jill Renz-Whitman, Director
Wayne Elston, 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 High School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

DELEGATIONS – Delay until presenters arrived.

FINANCIAL REPORT – None.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

The Board Minutes from October 22, 2012

Adjustment to Lynn Thacker's letter of retirement with request to change retirement date to 3/1/13.

New Hire: Roy Freedman Psychologist; Ann Wight, Paraeducator; Mary D. Smith, Paraeducator

Retirement: Lynn Thacker, Preschool Teacher

Leave Request: Sandra Mincey, Food Service; Virginia Pace, 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- \$237,539.95 Voucher 1026, 1028, 1029

AP ASB Fund - \$20,093.54 Voucher 1026, 1029

AP Capital Fund - \$9,777.66 Voucher 1029

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Director Raap and seconded by Director Cook.

There was discussion regarding lawyer invoices and Superintendent Castilleja again explained that Eric Nordlof was working on our current labor relations issues and Lyon, Weigand & Gustafson was working on litigation for continuing cases.

Vote to approve consent agenda with a 5/0 vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Grading Policy

Superintendent Castilleja indicated to the Board that Vance Wing was working on proposals in regards to the grading policy. Director Cook indicated that he had spoken to two (2) different teachers and participation points for each had different outcomes. The Superintendent indicated that this information would be shared with Mr. Wing and that volunteers from each of the buildings would be a part of a group that would be working on bringing commonality to the process. He indicated that it may not be the same K-12, but the process should work and transition smoothly from grade to grade.

DELEGATIONS – continued

Dakota Renz, ASB President, and other High School students requested to recognize two people that have gone above and beyond in working with and assisting students. First to be recognized was Becky Wilson as the Gear-Up Coordinator and Football cheer coach for all of her positivity and support. The second to be recognized was Bonnie Flanagan as a teacher who took on being the Senior Advisor and Leadership Advisor in addition to teaching a new subject. Mrs. Wilson thanked everyone and expressed that it was a great opportunity working with the best kids ever. Mrs. Flanagan thanked everyone as well and expressed her agreement with what Mrs. Wilson shared.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 9-2012 Surplus of Portables

Superintendent Castilleja indicated that the resolution was reviewed by the Board during the last meeting; however a formal decision was required to progress with surplusing the portables.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 9-2012 Surplus of Portables by Director Raap and seconded by Director Elston.

Vote to approve Resolution 9-2012 Surplus of Portables with a 5/0 vote.

Resolution 10-2012 Budget Extension / Capital Projects

Superintendent Castilleja explained that the resolution was to extend the capital budget as that the original amount was not enough to complete both projects and late billing rolled into the new fiscal year.

Chairman Gray recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. for a public hearing. As there were no comments, Chairman Gray closed the public hearing and reconvened the Board meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 10-2012 Budget Extension / Capital Projects by Director Raap and seconded by Director Renz-Whitman.

The Board discussed the budget for the Field House, and the Superintendent and Mrs. Scott both indicated that there was approximately \$14,000 available for completion. There was also discussion regarding grant covering costs and Mrs. Scott explained to the Board the process.

Vote to approve Resolution 10-2012 Budget Extension / Capital Projects with a 5/0 vote.

Drug Dog Policy

Superintendent Castilleja shared with the Board information regarding drug dog policies and ammunition sniffing dogs. Due to some of the information received and legalities, the Board indicated that it would not move forward with this specific policy; however Chairman Gray indicated that the Board should start researching drug use by employee's policies due to the passing of the legalization of marijuana. There was discussion regarding the testing of employees, what was appropriate, and where the unions might stand regarding the passing of the new law. Director Raap also stated that other states opinions indicated that the presence of chemicals would be a hindrance. The Board agreed that this definitely was a direction change for employment and further discussion would be needed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

a. Teaching & Learning/Athletics

Vance Wing was unavailable as he was assisting with football awards banquet.

b. Grants Manager

Joe Lloyd shared with the Board updates on the Grants in process. He indicated that the Migrant/Bilingual grant was approximately \$309,000 this year with approximately 221 students enrolled in the program. This grant also helped with the cost of having extra help, ELL teachers, graduation specialist, etc... He also shared with the Board that the State grades the with the Annual Measurable Achievement tool. It indicated that our primary and 3rd graders are low in math and reading and collectively as a District we did not pass. Mr. Lloyd did indicate though that the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade scores were way above achievement averages across the state. Mr. Lloyd indicated that we did not receive the large science grant; however he did indicate that adjustments can be made and the grant can be resubmitted in December for consideration. He also shared that the District was partnering with the ESD and WSU for a grant for \$20,000 - \$35,000 which will help support math/professional development. Director Cook asked about online classes at the Middle School level. Mr. Lloyd indicated that there was not as many participating this year; some are taking classes at home. He did indicate that of the group that took geometry online last year, all but passes the state exam.

c. Technology

Troy Jamieson indicated that the District had received computers from Walla Walla State Penitentiary and almost all were already placed in classrooms. As well, new server equipment was finally being installed. Director Elston asked about the Benton County surplus sale and the possibility of getting some equipment there and Mr. Jamieson indicated that in the past the counties equipment was older than what the District was replacing.

d. Special Services

Heather Franklin indicated that Special Services numbers have dropped by approximately 58, which she attributes to great jobs done by staff. She indicated that Rtl is working, and that she and Lynn Thacker have been working closely with the Children's Developmental Center. She also indicated that she has been participating more with other groups and organizations, including the Buddy Walk to promote awareness of Down Syndrome and the Rascal Rodeo. She also indicated that she is the homeless liaison for the District and there are current 17 students considered homeless. Mrs. Franklin indicated that she is working closely with Counselor Chandra Markel to assist these students. They have also developed a form for students to request assistance. Mrs. Franklin also indicated that Mrs. Markel has been working closely with DSHS and also with obtaining housing. The Board asked about the status of all IEP's and she indicated that they were up to date and in compliance and meeting standards and this was partly due to reminding caseworkers of expectations.

e. Maintenance & Operations

Mark Noyes was out sick.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT

Superintendent Castilleja shared with the Board information regarding our current substitute teacher status that was brought up in the previous meeting. He indicated that approximately five (5) years previously the Board reviewed pay for substitute teachers. It was at \$100 per day and increased to \$125 per day. The Superintendent indicated that after researching other area schools that we are locally one of the higher paying Districts, with some of the higher actually located across the state border in Oregon. As for the removal of substitutes from Subfinder, he indicated that three (3) were removed, with two (2) of those taking full time jobs and one moving out of state. Another 30 took other jobs, chose not to sub anymore, or retired. There are currently 60 plus substitutes registered in multiple districts; all districts are feeling the need. Superintendent Castilleja indicated that an ad was placed requesting more substitutes

and local colleges were contacted and asked to post notices of need for substitutes. Director Cook stated that it seemed to him that the District would want all the subs it could get.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Chairman Gray requested that public comments be limited to 3 minutes, no names be used, and to not ask about personnel issues (keep within policy).*

Connie Meredith stated that the sub issue was a concern. She indicated that they would like to sub here. She indicated that at the middle school level that by filling in, teachers lose prep time when no substitutes are available. She also stated that the article in the paper Saturday mentioned the issue of Gary Finn. She indicated that allegations were made, but no due process. She stated that he is a good and an honest man; he subbed here for some time before situation was addressed.

Kim Cruz stated that it would be nice for someone to be responsible for sharing news information with the Board. She asked why wouldn't the Board know of the article that was in the Saturday newspaper. Director Raap encouraged everyone to point out information, not necessarily make it one persons' responsibility.

Steve Rouse referred to Director Cook and his thoughts about the need for substitutes. He made a comment regarding the proposed resolution of a grievance. There was Board discussion regarding awareness of the issues, discussion got contentious with the Board and meeting attendees so Chairman Gray closed public comments and convened for executive session.

CONVENED

At 8:00 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters, for approximately 40 minutes with a Level III Grievance Hearing during that time. At approximately 9:00 p.m., Chairman Gray extended executive session for another 20 minutes. No matters were addressed after executive session.

ADJOURNMENT – Regular board meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Wayne Elston, Director

Jill Renz-Whitman, Director

Dan Raap, Vice Chairman

Tim Cook, Director

Charles T. Gray, Chairman

Rom Castilleja, Superintendent