

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

**Board Minutes of  
Monday, February 25, 2013**

Members Present: Charles T. Gray, Chairman  
Tim Cook, Vice Chairman  
Wayne Elston, Director  
Dan Raap, 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.

**DELEGATIONS** – Superintendent Castilleja congratulated Irene Alvarado for being selected as one of this years' Crystal Apple award winners. The award ceremony is scheduled for March 7, and he expressed his hope that the Board could attend.

Principal Wayne Barrett presented senior, Morgan Carter, with a Bear plaque for her great work as a student going above and beyond. Principal Barrett shared that Morgan assisted families in need during the holiday seasons, including using her own personal funds in addition to donations to make sure she met the needs of those families.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Kim Scott presented the financial numbers of all fund activity to the Board indicating that the year was 40% complete as of January. Ending fund balance numbers were reviewed and shared. The General Fund balance is \$728,454.36, Capital Projects \$26,761.09, Debt Service \$47,732.15, ASB \$299,874.71, Transportation \$41,855.86, and PILT \$50,363.62. Mrs. Scott as well shared with the Board information regarding the Maintenance of Effort Worksheet. She explained that there are four tests and if you pass one you pass them all. She indicated that the District had chosen test #3 last year and passed and this year with the same test she indicated the District would contribute \$18,700. As for the voted bond debt, she indicated that the change resulted in a savings of \$76,000. There was a question from the Board regarding the resolution passed during a previous meeting and whether the funds for a new bus had been transferred and Mrs. Scott indicated no that this would happen when the District was invoiced for the bus.

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from February 11, 2013

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 \$959,625.16 Warrants total \$297,565.22, Direct Deposits total \$662,059.94.  
Warrants 104695-104730. Vouchers 19, 1056, 1057

AP General Fund- \$80,839.11                      Vouchers 1053, 1055  
AP ASB Fund - \$10,856.45                      Vouchers 1053, 1055

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

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

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Social Media Policy #5253 – Second Reading**

Superintendent Castilleja shared with the Board feedback that he received from staff regarding the draft policy. Director Cook indicated that he had concerns about the language and how it conflicted with an existing policy. Director Elston indicated that they had received information from Richland School District that looked like a good tool. Director Cook then expressed concern about the new policy and language using Principal Barrett's student presentation as an example. Director Raap indicated that the intent of the Board is to protect the students. There was also clarification on some of the wording which was more to address professionalism as the problem and not necessarily legal issues. The Board indicated that it would like more input to include, parents and students and also schedule a workshop to work on the policy. No action was needed at this time.

#### **Substitute Policy #5610 – First Reading**

Superintendent Castilleja shared with the Board that the District has been working with Jean Jones and Lara Riley since the start of the school year regarding SubFinder use, past and present, as well as confirming substitutes in the system against current District records. The draft policy addressed Board concerns; however it was expressed that there were further concerns to address and review. Director Cook indicated that he was able to obtain a substitute handbook from the Prosser School District and felt that a lot of the information in that to be beneficial for our district to review. There was also discussion regarding "immediate removal" language and board members felt there should be discussion around a progressive process. There was further discussion regarding limitation on days for substitutes to work, and the quality and availability of substitutes. Again, the Board expressed that a scheduled workshop to review this policy and information would be beneficial in creating the best policy for the District. The Board asked that the Superintendent to arrange a date and time for the Board to meet to work on both policies, as well as asked to arrange to possibly have Lara Riley attend for informational purposes. No action was needed at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Vineyard City Arts Council**

Desiree Heninger, of the Vineyard City Arts Council, asked to address the Board and request their support in scheduling with the District a time in May to have an author to come in and meet with students. She explained a little more about the council and its objective to reach as many children/students as possible, as well as, holding their annual event with the hopes of receiving enough funds to start a Kiona-Benton City scholarship program for the arts. The support they were specifically asking for was the availability of a location in the high school for their guest author to meet with students as well as access to more students, as the first year only AP English students attended. Mrs. Heninger thanked the Board and indicated that she would keep in touch with the District regarding scheduling and verification of the date. In addition, she provided the Board with business cards so that if they had any questions, they could contact her directly.

#### **Community Project**

Dakota Renz, the HS ASB President, addressed the Board about a community project that the ASB would like to do. He explained that what they would like to do is purchase Ki-Be flags to be used along the main street in town to show spirit and support. These flags would be interchanged with the US flags that are now present. The ASB also indicated there was the possibility to paint bear paws on the streets as you head through town and have signage in front of businesses, with their permission. He explained the meetings he has already had with city management and the requirements needed to complete these projects. He explained that the flags would come down after graduation and then go back up on Kick-Off week. He also explained that to support the project, the ASB was proposing that 5% of all future concession funds be used to sustain the flags and such. Dakota indicated that he has community and city support, and was asking for Board support as the flags would have to fall under the Districts insurance umbrella. Superintendent Castilleja indicated that he could check on this to see if this was possible. The Board indicated that they felt it would be good for the community as a whole as long as the insurance would cover the project. Dakota also indicated that some city cleanup would need to take place and those students involved would also receive community service hour(s) credit, which is a requirement towards graduation. The Board asked that the insurance coverage issue be verified first, but expressed their support of the projects. The Board also asked to be informed as to how many students were involved.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS**

### **a. KB Elementary School**

Principal Jennifer Behrends shared with the Board that Elementary t-shirts were available with a second order going out and due back March 1. Thanks to the PTO, yearbooks are available again this year. She indicated that you can go online, place an order, and save \$1 until March 14. Principal Behrends also shared the progress of the Reading Olympics and so far after three (3) weeks kindergartners have read 2,524 stories, and 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades have read 161,700 minutes. She also reminded the Board about Read Night scheduled for March 7, with free books, popcorn and raffle prizes. Those attending can also listen to stories and play reading games. For upcoming events there is the Crystal Apple Awards on March 7 at 4:30 p.m. and Principal Behrends asked for support in attending as the District would be honoring one of its own teachers, Irene Alvarado. There is also Pennies for Patients starting March 8; McTeacher Night, March 12; and MSP assembly on March 21.

### **b. KB Middle School**

Principal Chuck Feth indicated that the middle school was in the process of spring testing and the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Reading Benchmark Assessments. The middle school had completed the Math Benchmark Assessments the previous week. The students are also scheduled to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of MAP this next week. Principle Feth shared that there was an Honor Roll assembly and thanked Donna Baumgartner and Barb Thomas for spearheading the project. He also shared that 8<sup>th</sup> grade participated in a Gear-up trip to Columbia Basin College and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade was scheduled to travel to Walla Walla Community College this week. Principle Feth indicated student led conferences were scheduled for March 26-27 and from a short survey completed, it showed 7:1 that this style of conference was liked.

### **c. KB High School**

Principal Wayne Barrett shared with the Board upcoming events to include the HS play "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" scheduled to start February 28; Prom is scheduled for May 4 at the West Richland Golf Course; May 30, is Senior Awards; May 28-29, Senior finals, May 31; Senior breakfast and Sunset View graduation; and June 1, graduation. He also announced the selections for the Wall of Fame. He indicated there were a lot of good candidates and for this year Mike Hagins and Jessica Weston were to be honored. Principal Barrett also indicated that the HS team attended Common Core training during late training at the HS; CRT was devoted to the TPEP process, District safety training, and Common Core. He indicated that second round classroom observations were being completed, HSPE testing is scheduled for March 12-14, and several students attended the LEAP Conference in Seattle this week with Gear-Up. Director Raap asked Principal Barrett about whether there was information regarding the possibility of cutting down the number of tests needed for a student to graduate. Principal Barrett indicated that there was some talk about suggesting only

having to test for Reading/Writing, Algebra and Science. As for athletics, he said the WAHSET team was doing great; very talented kids. He also shared winter sports wrap-up with boy's basketball competing in the first round of State Competition at West Valley, in Yakima on Saturday. They played very hard, but did not move on. As well there were three (3) State placers in wrestling with Cruz Del Angel 1<sup>st</sup> place, Cody Zyph 1<sup>st</sup> place, and Kale Setzer 6<sup>th</sup> place; with five (5) others going as alternates and the Team received 7<sup>th</sup> in State overall. He also indicated spring sports started today.

### **SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT**

Superintendent Castilleja addressed the Board regarding TPEP/RIG training and indicated that six (6) teachers and three (3) administrators were scheduled to attend and numbers were limited as the District did not have a grant and would be covering the cost for training. He also presented the Board with a draft resolution urging the Washington State Legislature to address K-12 funding. He addressed some of the concerns that schools are having, to include increase in contact hours, the 24 credit to graduate requirement, implementation of Common Core. He asked the Board if they would like to process this resolution setting expectations that the Legislature will adopt a comprehensive system for stable and sustainable revenue that meets the requirements of Washington's K-12 public schools and students. The Board concurred that they would approve a final resolution.

**A motion was made to approve moving forward with proposed resolution regarding K-12 funding by Director Raap and seconded by Director Renz-Whitman.**

**Unanimous vote to approve moving forward with proposed resolution regarding K-12 funding with a 5/0 vote.**

Superintendent Castilleja also shared that we were coming up on Classified Week and to show the District's thanks, there will be an ice cream social on Friday at noon at the high school and at approximately 2:45 p.m. at the middle school.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tom Haughton asked for clarification from the Board about public comment and if it indeed was only to be about agenda items and the Board confirmed that yes, this was correct.

Gary Peterson indicated his loved Dakota Renz's community project idea. He then stated he appreciated the ability to submit his thoughts in regards to the substitute and social media policies. He expressed to the Board that we are a small community; we are more personal. He indicated he lost sleep; worried about it. He stated that you can't avoid students that are your neighbor. He stated that personal relationships are important.

Jose Alvarado spoke regarding the memo sent out by Eric Nordlof regarding behavioral expectations. He stated that Mr. Nordlof is a lawyer, not human resources and human resources wouldn't have put something out like that. He continued by stating the Union President had concerns; was there permission from the Superintendent to send this out. It was considered harassment, created a hostile work environment, and perceived as a threat. He indicated he had no issue with it as policy, but it could have been worded better.

Joni Ashley spoke about the Pennies for Patients and fundraising. They were looking into holding a bake sale as an option. Items would be provided by parents, teachers, and coffee shop donations. They understood the Health Department requirements and those items would be bought pre-packaged or provided by the coffee shop cleared by the Health Department. Superintendent Castilleja indicated that he could provide Mrs. Ashley with information regarding liability from Canfield & Associates.

Barb Nelson-Thomas addressed the Board about issues she had with the proposed/draft substitute policy. She indicated there was a huge advantage to requesting substitutes; higher the quality the better.

Ginger Pace expressed concerns about limiting substitutes. She used the example of using a substitute that you couldn't understand; which created issues. She told the Board to be careful about the policy requirements.

Amber Farley expressed concerns about the social media policy and its limitations using the example of the wrestler hug. The substitute policy really bothers her. The repeating substitutes know us, our system, and our kids. She also expressed concern about another teacher and while subbing was switched out for a day. She indicated this was five (5) years ago but it still bothered her and she wanted to make sure the Board was aware.

Sean McClanahan expressed his concerns regarding substitutes. Limiting number of days could be a problem, especially for those that teach specialty classes. He indicated that he only had one substitute that was really available and could cover his classes. He asked the Board to please take this into consideration. Regarding the social media policy, he was bothered by how it sounds like you need to push kids away and it was not a good idea.

**CONVENED**

At 8:46 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters, for approximately 20 minutes. No matters were addressed after executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Regular board meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

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**Wayne Elston, Director**

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**Jill Renz-Whitman, Director**

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**Dan Raap, Director**

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**Tim Cook, Director**

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**Charles T. Gray, Chairman**

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**Rom Castilleja, Superintendent**