

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

**Board Minutes of  
Monday, March 11, 2013**

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

Members Absent: Kimberly Scott, Executive Director of Financial Services

Visitors: See attached.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gray called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the District Office.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

**DELEGATIONS** – Superintendent Castilleja requested to add Becky Wilson to delegations. Becky Wilson, with the Gear-Up Program presented to the Board some of the students that had currently attended the LEAP conference in Olympia, WA. Of the students from Kiona-Benton City School District, two (2) were selected to speak to the legislature about the importance of education for those that may not have citizenship established. The students also shared how they met the Governor, and how important they felt it was for him to hear directly from the students about education.

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from February 25, 2013

New Hires: Jane Blair Sapp, Non-Continuing Preschool Teacher; Sierra Riley, Non-Continuing Paraeducator; Cheryl Yates, Non-Continuing Food Service (LOA)

Job Share Request / Retirement: Kim Cruz, Elementary

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.

There were minimal questions regarding invoices and these were clarified.

AP General Fund- \$99,962.53 Vouchers 1058, 1059, Manual Warrant (Payee Correction)

AP ASB Fund - \$8,981.15 Vouchers 1058, 1059

AP Capital - \$37.53 Vouchers 1059

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

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Grading Policy Review for Timeline**

Per Board request, Superintendent Castilleja provided them with an update as to the status of the work being done for the updates to the grading policy. The Superintendent and Vance Wing confirmed that the committee was currently working on a proposal to present to the buildings. Due to various concerns, the Board asked about also addressing consistency in the grading matrixes and timely updating of Family Link. As well, Chairman Gray expressed concern about the grading matrix and D- not being an accepted grade. Mr. Wing explained that was a change from the previous year, and this was confirmed by Mona Van Hollebeke. She explained, as the authorized District CEDARS staff that performed uploads to CEDARS, that OSPI had sent out the 2011-2012 CEDARS Enrollment Manual with updates that included the removal of D- as a grading option. Chairman Gray indicated that would have been good information to know. Ms. Van Hollebeke indicated that the building staff and counselors were notified of the matrix change and if D- was used, it created errors in student information uploads and would not post to CEDARS. Those error reports were sent to the buildings to address with the teachers. The Board reiterated that all classes should be treated the same; standardize grades 6-12 with no varying scales. The Board asked Mr. Wing to have the committee address Family Link reporting and have their recommendation available for Board review. Director Renz-Whitman also reminded the Board that initially the Board asked that participation points and attendance impact on homework be standardized as well as it currently can be different from class to class. Mr. Wing indicated that he would talk with Principal Barrett and Principal Feth regarding building policies and expectations that are currently being followed.

### **Policy Procedure 1620P Review**

Director Raap indicated that he had been approached by citizens about Board and Superintendent expectations and he wanted to take this opportunity to share that expectations are in place and can be found in Policy Procedure 1620P; which can be found on the District website. Director Raap stated he encouraged people to take a look at it.

### **Resolution 2-2013 K-12 Funding**

Superintendent Castilleja presented the Board with Resolution 2-2013, regarding 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. A draft resolution was previously discussed and voted upon during their last Board meeting. Director Raap and Superintendent Castilleja, who had both returned from the legislative conference shared how important it would be to pass this resolution and submit it directly to our state representatives.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution 2-2013 K-12 Funding by Director Raap and seconded by Director Renz-Whitman.**

**Unanimous vote to approve Resolution 2-2013 K-12 Funding with a 5/0 vote.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion of Graduation Credit Requirements**

Superintendent Castilleja addressed the Board about their concerns about the rising graduation credit requirements. There was discussion about lowering to 20 credits if there was no funding for the CORE 24. The change of course would only impact incoming freshman. Director Raap indicated that depending on the outcome of legislative sessions it doesn't matter if the Board acts now or waits to see what the legislature does. Chairman Gray indicated that the Board should address this no later than the end of the school year. Superintendent Castilleja indicated that he would collect more data regarding graduation credit requirements throughout the ESD/local districts. Director Cook asked that it be available by the next Board meeting.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

### **a. Teaching & Learning/Athletics**

Vance Wing presented the Board updates on the math and reading benchmark assessments. He indicated that ESD staff had been to the District to talk to groups about content of the results. There was discussion regarding some of the teachers having a hard time getting through all the standards. Mr. Wing invited the Board to review the assessment reports that were provided to them electronically and to contact him with any questions or concerns. He also indicated that HSPE testing was scheduled to start in the morning and the District just received clearance from the state to resume WELPA testing. Mr. Wing also provided an update regarding curriculum review and indicated that K-5 Reading was in process of reviewing materials, psychology public review had concluded and will be presented to the Board in April, and the health curriculum was being searched for to align with Common Core State Standards.

Mr. Wing shared that spring athletics are in progress. He shared that sports are in full swing with high school baseball starting this past Saturday with two (2) wins over Goldendale; high school track and field was scheduled for their first meet on March 16 in Richland; high school softball is a young team this year, but doing well. He also indicated that Hard Core Wrestling donated a mat to the District. As for middle school, Mr. Wing indicated that spring sports will be starting on April 8 and that interviews were scheduled for open positions. He also shared that Bailey Schroeder received the Academic All Star Award and that she and Cristian Aguilar were named league MVP's for basketball, and Mick Phelps also made it to the SCAC 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-League in addition to the two (2) MVP's.

### **b. Grants Manager**

Joe Lloyd – excused/training.

### **c. Technology**

Troy Jamieson addressed that the HVAC control computer was having issues and Johnson Control was contacted regarding the issue and Mark Noyes would follow up on this issue. He also shared information regarding movement within the state and nationally towards online textbooks and supplying students with a laptop upon entry into high school. Mr. Jamieson indicated that, of course, infrastructure would have to be addressed first. He indicated that with leasing text books, you are getting the most current information and updates for the same amount it would cost to have a hardcopy book that was outdated as soon as an update was made. He indicated that the District would have to plan for and invest in core equipment and he was working in that direction and would start compiling numbers for each stage of the plan.

### **d. Special Services**

Heather Franklin – excused/training.

### **e. Maintenance & Operations**

Mark Noyes – excused.

## **SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT**

Superintendent Castilleja addressed the Board and shared that the main focus at the legislative conference was the McCleary decision. The questions asked were “what is going to happen” and “how much will be the down payment”. The Supreme Court told the legislature to make a significant payment; however the numbers being shared vary in range considerably. He stated that the challenge is going to be meeting their requirements with lack of funding. Districts are asking that the legislature pay for what they already require of the districts for accountability and not add to the plate. He also shared that there are bad education bills out there including retirement plan changes for those at a certain age and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading grade retention. The problem is that at the end of special sessions, these type of bills are used for bartering to get what is really needed passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Donna Baumgartner addressed the Board and indicated that they are preparing for their trip to Italy, leaving on March 28, and returning April 5. She indicated that everyone is very excited to go and shared about other schools attending with our District, to include chaperones and students from Richland and Connell. Mrs. Baumgartner also shared that two (2) students had received honorable mention at the ESD 123 Regional Art Show. One student as from her glass art class and the other was from Mrs. Herrington’s photography class. She asked for people to attend and the award program scheduled and hoped that the Superintendent had taken the opportunity to select his award piece.

Lonnie Renz addressed the Board and expressed his continued concerns with the School Board, the School Board meetings, and continued harassment. He stated that School Administration and School Board are aware and have failed to act to uphold policies. Others are being victimized. Mr. Renz continued by indicating that letters of complaint have been submitted to others, including the Department of Education, OSPI, the local PTO, and the federal office for FERPA. He continued by reading a letter addressed to the Board and submitted a copy of that to the Board for inclusion in records.

Jennifer Oliver addressed the Board and indicated that we should be very proud of and congratulate the students that participated in the robotics contest over this past weekend. She indicated that they did a great job.

**CONVENED**

At 8:49 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters and for Level II Grievance Hearing. Chairman Gray indicated that no business was expected to follow.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Regular board meeting adjourned at 10:17 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**