

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

**Board Minutes of
Tuesday, May 28, 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
Kimberly Scott, 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

Donna Baumgartner and two (2) students shared with the Board about their Italy Art trip this past April. They explained the many differences in culture as well as the various artistic sites they visited.

Jennifer Gilliland presented the Board with the 2012-13 yearbooks.

Superintendent Castilleja shared with the Board that Heather Franklin received special recognition from the ARC of Tri-Cities for her help in passing legislation related to Special Education.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kim Scott presented the financial numbers of all fund activity to the Board. Ending fund balance numbers were reviewed and shared. The General Fund balance is \$1,617,026.00, Capital Projects \$14,971.71, Debt Service \$407,311.46; ASB \$277,447.32; Transportation \$41,896.32; and PILT \$71,072.43. Chairman Gray asked about PILT funds and the ability to use them for the removal of the portables. Mrs. Scott explained that PILT funds are to pay off debt in some form and there could be a way to use those funds if needed to cover the debt incurred from the removal of the portables.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from May 13, 2013
Retirement: Louise Friedrichsen, District Office
LOA: Susan McTavish, High School Math
Hire: Steven Woods, High School PE/Health

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 – Total \$971,283.51; Direct Deposit \$670,745.72; Warrants \$300,537.79; Vouchers 23, 1072, 1073
Warrants 105115-105147
AP General Fund- \$100,043.85 Vouchers1074, Manual (Payroll Corrections)
AP ASB Fund - \$7,627.27 Voucher 1074
Warrants 105114, 105148-105198

Chairman Gray requested that the minutes from the May 13 meeting be moved to Unfinished Business so that they could be voted on separately by the Board as he was not present at the previous meeting.

Director Elston had questions regarding the portables and having the work done more in-house to reduce costs. Superintendent Castilleja explained that it was important to check into the process and make sure that all regulations were met, especially dealing with the black mold and possible asbestos tile removal.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda with the May 13 meeting minutes moved to Unfinished Business by Director Cook and seconded by Director Raap.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS May 13 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 13 Meeting minutes by Director Cook and seconded by Director Raap.

Unanimous vote to approve May 13 meeting minutes with a 4/0 vote. (Chairman Gray abstained from vote)

Staff Conduct Policy-First Reading

Superintendent Castilleja presented the Board with First Reading of the Staff Conduct policy and procedures that was being considered. He asked the Board for any edits or changes to what was provided. There was discussion regarding reporting requirements and whether the policy should have been provided to staff prior to first reading. Chairman Gray and the Superintendent explained that the first reading was the correct process and that once the Board suggested their proposed changes that it could then be provided to all staff for their input. Director Raap indicated that he would like to see more information on the reporting requirements by staff. He suggested that we possibly should contact Prosser, Kennewick and Pasco to see that they require. The Board indicated that the 5250P-Procedures read better as they used Yakima's policy language that was clearer.

Director Elston then explained that the substitute policy that was discussed during previous meetings and the possible changes to it were now on hold. It was explained by the Board that until it was clear on how the ACA would impact the District, that any changes would be placed on hold and addressed later if needed.

Director Cook wanted to ensure that the draft policy would be presented to staff for their input and Director Elston suggested that copies be left in staff break rooms as some staff may not have the opportunity to check their email.

Grading Policy Review

Vance Wing, Laura McClanahan, Rob Hanson, and Stuart Allen presented the Board with a brief update to where they were in their committee process. They explained that they have been meeting with the buildings regarding the standardizing of grading for all buildings; getting it more uniform. Currently, there is a variety of grading criteria being used as it relates to OSPI and the removal of D- as an acceptable letter grade. It will make it easier for students, parents and the teachers to know exactly what percentage is considered passing

or not passing. It was noted that other schools have changed the percentage to 62 as failure. The committee received input that our District should hold the students to a higher standard and use 63% as the lowest mark. They discussed participation points and the need for a clear rubric, understanding that some departments rely on participation more than others. Director Renz-Whitman indicated that we need to be looking for consistency such as late work policies at the high school versus the middle school. Mrs. Baumgartner shared that at the middle school they made the students accountable. There was a rubric of 5 and it was setup so that a student could not get a zero (0). Mr. Wing explained that it will take getting all teachers on board; get them thinking. He indicated that they would check with other schools in the league and tri-cities area to see what they were doing. The committee also shared with the Board about information and suggestions regarding optional standard-based grading. The committee presented that there were exceptions; but there should be a system of percentages similar to the MSP rubric. There could be a separate way of reporting yet include the grading matrix provided by OSPI. Director Raap stated that there was discussion regarding state funding and looking at standard-based scoring for schools. Stuart Allen explained that Richland used something similar for an exit exam and Laura McClanahan indicated that Sunnyside does it for math only. Director Renz-Whitman stated that the committee was at a great beginning point and need to keep moving forward. Vance Wing indicated that it was the intent of the committee to share and ask for the Boards support in piloting what was proposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Yearbook Summer Camp

Jennifer Gilliland presented the Board with information regarding a yearbook camp sponsored by Herff Jones this coming summer at Gonzaga University. She shared some of the many things that the students would learn while there. She indicated that she was hoping to have at least two (2) to three (3) attend and she explained a little more about fund raising for the trip and student involvement. Mrs. Gilliland also provided the permission slip that would be sent to parents and explained that she has added areas requiring more detail and contact information for the parents. She explained that she would be chaperoning the students and that they would be staying on campus and eating there as well.

A motion was made to approve participation in the Yearbook Summer Camp at Gonzaga University by Director Elston and seconded by Director Cook.

Unanimous vote to approve participation in the Yearbook Summer Camp at Gonzaga University with a 5/0 vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

a. Elementary School

Principal Jennifer Behrends presented the Board with this years' Elementary Yearbook put together by the PTO. She also indicated that staff had completed Alek's training on their own time this year and were in the process of compiling their information to request and received credit hours. Director Raap asked about MSP testing results and Principal Behrends indicated that it would be more towards the end of August before the results would be available. Chairman Gray asked about

b. Middle School

Principal Chuck Feth shared with the Board that the middle school had just completed the last performing arts concert this past week, the 8th grade promotion ceremony was scheduled for June 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym, and the 6th grade was finishing up classroom work in preparation to go to Camp Wooten next week. He indicated that there were approximately 100 students going to camp. Principal Feth also shared that sports physicals were scheduled at the local clinic tomorrow for \$5. He provided the Board with a CAVE press release explaining the service projects that the CAVE program was involved in with pictures sent out to them as well. There is also a carnival and dodge ball tournament tomorrow for a cancer charity.

c. High School

Principal Wayne Barrett shared that there were EOC exams scheduled for tomorrow and more next week. He indicated that they were using a modified start schedule this year and it was working pretty well. Principal Barrett shared that there was Senior Awards Assembly on Thursday, WAHSET and track participated in State, with Gage Leavitt coming home as a state champion in hurdles. He also indicated that the senior breakfast was on for Friday morning with cooking to start at 7:00, graduation practice at 11:00, Alternative graduation at 6:00 p.m., and graduation at 11:00 a.m. June 1. Principle Barrett indicated that 5-6 students were on the bubble. The parents are aware of this. Of approximately 129 that started the year, just under 100 seniors will be graduating. This of course includes those that transferred or moved out of district. Principal Barrett stated that the online students were a train wreck to track down. He indicated that there is not enough contact along the way. Overall, he stated that we (staff) need to stay on them to complete.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT

Superintendent Castilleja shared that he and Director Raap went around and met with legislators to talk with them about what they felt was happening with the budget. He explained that there are some reform bills still out there with the common mindset that bills such as grading schools A-F need to be in place. Director Raap added that they proposed to them that they need to ask the question of what all day kindergarten looks like and to share that it was important that all districts be on point with this. The questions need to be asked a little more; start defining what they think it is and what are the next steps.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jan DeFord addressed the Board about their questions they keep asking; what are other districts doing? She asked the Board why we want to be like everyone else. Why don't we prepare our kids to make it in the real world? They are old enough to make the decision themselves. We are enabling them. She stated that the Board should make it clear and set the standards, not keep talking about lowering them or doing what other districts are doing. She stated that we need to make the decision as a district.

CONVENED

At 8:48 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters. At 9:29 p.m., Chairmen Gray extended executive session for approximately 10 more minutes. Chairman Gray indicated that no business was expected to follow.

ADJOURNMENT – Regular board meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Wayne Elston, Director

Jill Renz-Whitman, Director

Dan Raap, Director

Tim Cook, Director

Charles T. Gray, Chairman

Rom Castilleja, Superintendent