

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

**Board Minutes of  
Monday, June 24, 2013**

Members Present:     Tim Cook, Acting Chairman  
                          Charles Gray, Director  
                          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**

Acting Chairman Cook called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

**ADDITIONS:** Acting Chairman Cook requested that the ASB Honor Code Contract and concerns be added to the agenda. Director Elston requested adding the agenda itself as a topic of concern. There was discussion regarding the timeliness of the agenda. Some Board Members indicated that they had it early; others indicated that they did not get it until Monday. It was explained that it was emailed out the previous Friday, and uploaded to the shared folder on Monday. Director Renz-Whitman suggested moving the process back, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman meeting earlier in the week so the agenda was available for review longer.

Director Gray indicated that due to his resignation as Chairman that elections listed in Unfinished Business should be held first; prior to any Board business being completed.

**A motion was made to hold elections for open officer positions by Director Elston and seconded by Director Raap.**

**Unanimous vote to hold elections for open officer positions with a 5/0 vote.**

Director Gray nominated Acting Chairman Cook for Chairman and Director Elston seconded. Director Raap asked about the process and it opening up for nominations and Vice Chairman Cook and Director Gray indicated that they had checked and it was okay to follow this process. Director Raap was concerned as he felt that if it was written up in policy differently, that should be the process followed.

**A motion was made by Director Gray to keep Acting Chairman Cook in the Chairman position and seconded by Director Elston.**

**Unanimous vote to keep Acting Chairman Cook in the Chairman position with a 5/0 vote.**

Director Renz-Whitman nominated Director Raap for the newly vacated Vice Chairman position.

**A motion was made by Director Renz-Whitman to elect Director Raap to the Vice Chairman position and seconded by Director Gray.**

**Vote to elect Director Raap as the Vice Chairman with a 3/2 vote.**

**DELEGATIONS – None.**

**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 \$1,490,965.18; Capital Projects \$14,977.19; Debt Service \$449,090.57; ASB \$276,890.64; Transportation \$41,909.76; and PILT \$71,088.82. Mrs. Scott shared that OSPI has asked about compiling tentative budget numbers in July. By statute the budget must pass by July 31, 2013. She indicated that she has included everything and we are very close to this past years numbers. There was discussion regarding the Capital funding and where the field house project stood. Steve McGhan was in the audience and indicated that he thought there should only be some insulation and plumbing items left for purchase.

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from June 10 & June 14, 2013

Resignation: Jennifer Behrends, Elementary Principal

Hire: Barb Nelson-Thomas, .4 Non-Continuing Elementary PE Teacher

Leave Request: Nancy Pearson, 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.

Payroll – Total \$1,005,745.31; Direct Deposit \$684,394.74; Warrants \$321,350.57; Vouchers 24, 1078, 1079  
Warrants 105250-105285  
AP General Fund- \$48,176.52      Voucher 1080  
AP ASB Fund - \$8,638.91          Voucher 1080  
Warrants 105286-105331

Director Elston stated that he had questions regarding an invoice for School Wire on Voucher 1080, but indicated that Troy Jamieson was able to explain it to him prior to the meeting starting. Director Gray asked Mrs. Scott and Superintendent Castilleja about what was happening with the budget and concerns on being able to make payroll and pay bills if a budget is not passed. The Superintendent indicated that they were riding on reserves but was hoping to have some new budget news by the end of the day. Director Gray asked about how the District would respond; what direction would be sent out to staff if there was no capacity to make payroll. Director Raap indicated that it was imperative for the legislature to get something done. There was further discussion regarding expenses, reduction in budget, and retiree payouts; items that may affect the budget.

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Policy 2420 Procedures**

Superintendent Castilleja wanted to clarify with the Board that there was an impression that Policy 2420 procedures were for second reading; however he indicated that the first contact was only a report presented

by Vance Wing and the Grading Committee. The next meeting was further discussion regarding the proposed grading matrix and feedback from teachers regarding participation. Chairman Cook indicated that he felt the grading matrix needs to be completed and implemented. The Superintendent indicated that there were three (3) components; the committee presented and received feedback, they were to take it back to the buildings, then will come back with final recommendations. Director Renz-Whitman indicated that there seemed to be a real split between the Middle and High School. It will be important to receive feedback from the committee about all aspects of the grading concerns to include the matrix and participation. Director Raap stated that there needs to be a better understanding. The Board requested to have Mr. Wing at the next meeting. Chairman Cook stated that he did not want to sit on this; keep it going as the goal is to get it done before school starts. Director Raap also stated that the rubric needs to be addressed as there are more questions regarding it. Director Elston indicated scheduling a workshop would be a good idea.

### **Purchase of Metal Bear**

Superintendent Castilleja presented the Board with an invoice for the cost of the metal bear sculpture by Hasselblad Designs. He indicated that the bear was commissioned for the city and couldn't be used so it was being sold at a great deal; \$2,500. The Superintendent indicated, as during previous meetings, the bear would be placed at the high school and would be placed in an area out of reach due to safety concerns as the bear did have sharp edges. The Board discussed where the funding would come from. Director Elston expressed that he thought it was a waste of money when you consider that there were portables that needed to be removed. Superintendent Castilleja indicated that the funding would be from designated funds. As there is capital money remaining that was solely for the high school that could be used and there were some other options in regards to checking with the state about funding as art pieces were not included during the construction of the high school. There were several comments from the audience and Directors Raap and Gray indicated that they felt it would help the image; show pride at the high school. Director Elston indicated that this was not discussed before. The majority of the Board and Superintendent indicated that it had been discussed many times.

**A motion was made to purchase the metal bear sculpture from Hasselblad Designs by Director Raap and seconded by Chairman Gray.**

**Vote to approve purchase of the metal bear sculpture from Hasselblad Designs with a 4/1 vote.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ASB Conduct Concern**

Chairman Cook wanted to address a concern brought to the Board regarding the ASB Conduct form and its requirements. He indicated that Principal Barrett had brought these concerns forward for Board input as the expectations of ASB officers was strict and different than that of other students and/or athletes. The form indicates that there is a specific expectation that the officers will not be present or participate in any events with drugs and alcohol. The Board expressed that all student contracts should be upheld, but the question is that is it too restrictive. The question was asked if one of these students was attending a wedding reception; would this still be considered breaking the rules set forth in the conduct form. There was discussion regarding the difference between the athletic conduct code and the ASB conduct code. Director Renz-Whitman indicated that there is vagueness. Not all policies and rules are the same and there is a double standard with sports. There was further discussion regarding the Board micromanaging the issue and how it should be left up to the Administrator or person in charge; in this case Principal Barrett. Principal Feth indicated he was familiar with the form and indicated that it was standard for student leadership. The Board asked that the form and issue be reviewed as common sense would indicate there may be no issue and the form lacks clarity.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

### **a. Elementary School**

Principal Jennifer Behrends resigned/not present.

### **b. Middle School**

Principal Chuck Feth shared with the Board the new student agenda, which was just a matter of updating the material that goes in the agenda every year. Principal Feth also presented the Board with the Middle School annual. He indicated that although Barb Thomas was retiring, her concern for needing updated math curriculum was still being discussed in the math department. He indicated that they were going to try a dual pilot with 60 books of each curriculum and see how each of them would best align. Superintendent Castilleja clarified with Principal Feth that the math teacher did understand the steps for adopting curriculum and Principal Feth indicated that yes he did. He shared that 2/3 of his staff were scheduled to attend PEAK training and he expressed thanks to Gear-Up for the funding support. Principal Feth also shared another climate survey with the Board and indicated that it was pretty self-explanatory and he indicated that he was pleased with the work they were doing at the Middle School. He did indicate that one of the goals was working on communication and mentioned the possibility of a Facebook page, emphasize existing webpage, and possibly even an app. Principal Feth indicated that staff would be focusing on learning and instructional strategies and use that data to improve. Director Renz-Whitman asked about goals; start to finish. She indicated it would be nice to see where they started off at and see the progress, or lack of. Principal Feth indicated that it would be August or September before the MSP results would be available to share with the Board. Director Gray also asked about the survey and the staff response regarding professional development. Principal Feth indicated that there may be some confusion as to what was professional development and working on improving. He also shared that staff would be attending an RTI conference in August and he indicated that they, and the District as a whole, really needs a calendar.

### **c. High School**

Principal Wayne Barrett absent.

*Due to the existing issue with no approved calendar, KBEA members in the audience spoke up about the calendar and reasons for why it was not complete, to include the need to negotiate a perpetual calendar. Superintendent Castilleja indicated that the District would and has accepted input, but the ultimate decision was the Boards. The Board indicated that they want to make a decision on the calendar by the next meeting.*

## **SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT**

Superintendent Castilleja reiterated what Mrs. Scott indicated about budget issues and the need for the legislature to do something by July 31. He also indicated that the state was proposing to change the priority of schools. Struggling school (Primary K-3) will have more criteria to meet and the designation is based on 3<sup>rd</sup> grade data and certain calculations/formulas established by the State Board.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Joni Ashley asked about a comment she heard regarding selling surplus items stored at the bus garage. She wanted to make sure that some of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade materials being stored there were not a part of the surplus.

Heidi Arnn read from a letter she wrote to the Board regarding the movement of the preschool and the effects of the current location on her child. She indicated the current location is not an appropriate teaching space, there was lack of access to the playground and school, and it was a safety concern. Ms. Arnn submitted the letter to the Board.

Jordyn Kelly addressed the Board as an ASB officer regarding the conduct form they sign and her rights as a student outside of school. She referred to Washington State Constitution Article 1, Section 7 and case law relating to this issue.

Dawn Snyder asked if there was any way the PASS could be updated to let parents know in advance when there were items due or if there was an upcoming test. She said it would help to make sure our kids are doing their work. Superintendent Castilleja indicated that it has that capability and a note feature as well. Part of the problem is time and familiarity with the systems capabilities.

Ginger Pace asked about the swings. She said that they were still down at the bus garage and she would like to see them considered.

Dakota Renz referenced support of the ASB constitution and the only removal from ASB that he knew of was due to a legal issue. He indicated that he hoped the Board would not support a decision to remove a student from the ASB with no details or evidence; only hearsay. He indicated that they should be briefed on the entire situation.

Jacob Heinen addressed the Board regarding the ASB situation and questioned why a student would get removed for being present. He asked the Board; didn't they want the kind of leaders that would be there to drive home those that may have been drinking. He indicated being a leader was helping others and hoped the Board would not base a decision on hearsay and remove someone from their position for being present.

Donna Baumgartner addressed the Board and asked them if they were aware that the High School schedule for this coming year had a teacher teaching curriculum chosen by another teacher.

Jose Alvarado asked about the elementary principal position and if there was someone for the position yet. He also indicated that some students are getting out of hand. It should be up to the principal to handle; leave it there. He then addressed leadership and indicated, leave or be guilty by association.

Heather Duncan indicated that the policy for conduct should be consistent across the board whether it is athletics, leaders, musicians; treat them all the same. Legal consumption is only for adults and consequences should be held. She stated that they need to set a good example; have knowledge that use of substances can be harmful.

**CONVENED**

At 8:35 p.m., the Board convened for executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, Section (g) personnel matters, for approximately 25 minutes. Chairman Cook indicated that business was expected to follow. Chairman Cook extended the executive session for approximately 10 more minutes at 9:03 p.m., 10 minutes at 9:12 p.m., and again for approximately 5 more minutes at 9:24 p.m.

The meeting was brought back to order at 9:37 p.m.

**A motion was made that Mark Noyes continue to be on leave without pay by Director Gray and seconded by Director Raap.**

**Unanimous vote to continue Mark Noyes on leave without pay status with a 5/0 vote.**

**ADJOURNMENT** – Regular board meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Elston, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Renz-Whitman, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Raap, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Gray, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Cook, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rom Castilleja, Superintendent