

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, in the School District of Scottsbluff, in the County of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, November 19, 2007, with the following members present: Bob Kinsey, Megan Massey, Michael Shedd and Paul Snyder. Notice of the meeting was given by publication of the time and place thereof in the Star-Herald on November 1, 2007.

President Kinsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to excuse Mark Lang from this meeting passed with a motion by Megan Massey and a second by Paul Snyder. Yes: Massey, Snyder, Shedd, Kinsey; No: None. Absent: Mark Lang, Kim Magana. Motion carried.

Motion to excuse Kim Magana from this meeting passed with a motion by Megan Massey and a second by Michael Shedd. Yes: Massey, Shedd, Snyder, Kinsey; No: None. Absent: Mark Lang, Kim Magana. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt the consent agenda items as presented, passed with a motion by Paul Snyder and a second by Michael Shedd. Yes: Snyder, Shedd, Massey, Kinsey. No: None. Absent: Mark Lang, Kim Magana. Motion carried.

The Board recognized elementary students that participated in the Monument Mall Trivia Bowl. Westmoor Elementary received first place, Lincoln Heights received third place, and Roosevelt placed fourth place out of the nine teams participating in the event.

No one from the public addressed the board.

Carolyn Escamilla thanked the Board on behalf of the SEA for the gifts of mugs and notepads during American Education Week.

Bob Kinsey reported about the Nebraska School Board Association conference in Omaha. Mr. Kinsey, Mr. Snyder, and Dr. Reynolds had an opportunity to tour schools in the Omaha area that were renovated by Schemmer and Associates. Comments from the staff that worked in the buildings, they were very satisfied with Schemmer's work. Mr. Kinsey, Mr. Snyder and Dr. Reynolds were very impressed with Schemmer's work, it was very well done. Schemmer has demonstrated that they had been utilizing energy efficiency in the buildings they had designed before our group came about. It was a good trip.

Director of Student Services, Wendy Kemling, gave a report on the Curriculum/Technology committee meeting. The committee reviewed the numbers in the Achievement Center at the middle school. One teacher had sent 36% of the students, and that was a concern. After talking about it, primarily the teacher is sending students to

use the computers in the center, and have extra help for the students using the computers in that area. When taking those numbers out, 75% of students going through the center are general ed and 25% are special education. Social Studies and Math are the two areas they are coming in most often. Primarily, it's split between 7th and 8th graders. 61% of the students attending were on free and reduced lunches. It's a little early to determine if its making a difference, but a survey went out to teachers. One comment is that the achievement center gives kids a soft place to land. Dr. Reynolds asked if Mrs. Kemling had a chance to visit with the high school about adding an achievement center there. Mrs. Kemling said she will wait until January or February to look at adding one to the high school. Mrs. Kemling said that 1,600 had used the center when she went in. Dr. Reynolds said if we could help our freshman and sophomores by giving a little extra help or a safe place to land, it would be beneficial to students. When he was talking to the middle school staff about renovation, the staff wanted more achievement centers in their building. All the middle school teachers are in agreement that this was a very strong program. Dr. Shedd asked what percentage of the students in the middle school are free and reduced? Mrs. Kemling said she knew that we had Scottsbluff had 44.5% in the district.

Other things discussed in the Curriculum committee meeting were the case loads in special education and the law conference that Mrs. Kemling attended in Omaha a couple of weeks ago. The case loads per speech pathologist are high. The numbers are about where the district would want them. We are currently one position short, but we hired that position for next fall. Even with that position filled, we will be above the recommended number of case loads. The hospital is providing a portion of the services, but they can only provide about 8 hours a week. We really need more than that. There is no statute about who provides the service as long as their license is through the state. Mrs. Massey commented that there are paras that do the speech therapy, but they are overseen by the speech therapist. Mrs. Kemling reported we have two paras that serve the district, but they can't do any of the paper work or the assessments.

Mr. Kinsey reported that the Facilities committee hadn't had a formal meeting, but they did tour the progress on the west entrance at the high school. From talking with the architects, the contractor will be pushing it to get done by the deadline. The addition looks really nice. The additional counseling rooms and the way they set up the lecture hall into two separate rooms is going to make it versatile. We had another issue that got worked out because the foundation donated a statue, and it was initially planned to be in the center. The tile and the lighting was set for that, but the students approached Mr. Nighswonger and suggested that the commons area would be a nice place to host dances and wondered if the statue could be moved to the corner. We resolved that by having the students visit with the foundation to work it out rather than the Board get stuck in the middle of it. They resolved it with the foundation to move it. They were pressed for deadlines because the architect was going to change the tile pattern and the lighting design. It did get all worked out.

Dr. Reynolds commented that from the NSBA conference, the main speaker talked about school atmosphere. The one thing he said was that there needs to be a wow factor when you walk into the building. It doesn't have to be brand new, but you design it and decorate

it so people say 'Wow this is cool!'. Dr. Reynolds thought the high school entrance is going to have that wow factor when it's completed.

Mrs. Massey asked if the foundation's statue was going to be on the north side. Mr. Kinsey said the statue will be in the southwest corner of the addition. He said the architect felt confident they could adjust.

Community Relations and Finance Committee hadn't met.

From the communications specialist, Mindy Burbach reported that when she attended the state school board conference in Omaha, she also met with the state school public relations group. Both groups are rolling out a campaign to involve parents in schools. It's a nation-wide campaign that they provide the materials, localize it. She will be meeting with panhandle schools to get help rolling it out since she was the only school P.R. person west of Kearney. The campaign challenges parents to get involved in schools or get connected with their children.

Bill Knapper, Director of Business Services, reported that a while back, phone rates were going to triple, taking our phone bill from 30-thousand to 90-thousand. We had no alternatives at that time except an alternative phone company offer, and that was to sign a three year contract. So we signed a three year contract to keep the rates that were in place. That three year contract will expire July 1st. Because of e-rate funding from the federal government, we need to bid out and make decisions for next July 1st over the next 4-8 weeks. Mr. Knapper will send out bids for phone service. This time, unlike a few years ago, we do have an alternative. He expects an alternate bid from another phone company that is operating in the community called Allo. Quite a few local business and government accounts have gone to Allo, and are utilizing those folks as a phone company. Mr. Knapper expects an opportunity to choose a provider. The e-rate program expects us to go with low bid, unless we have some reason to select other than low bid.

The other item Mr. Knapper reported, the district is out to bid on photo copiers. We have about 10 copiers in the district that we need to replace. That will be coming at the December board meeting.

Mr. Kinsey asked if it would work to do like the new correctional facility to have the voice over IP. The new jail is pleased with how it works, but Mr. Kinsey wasn't sure if it would work on a campus like ours. Mr. Knapper said we are looking at a service similar to what the district has now (centrex). It will be a generic bid, a service that comes out of central office. It is possible that the vendor might bid voice over IP. The district is not specifically requiring it, as it would have the potential to narrow the bid to just one phone company. Very possible that the district would be voice over IP, which is just a form of technology to transport the voice communications. Dr. Shedd asked how necessary a wired service was for the district? Mr. Knapper responded that he didn't know. Dr. Shedd asked if the district needed hard wire, what does it bring to the district? Mr. Knapper said that wired lines give us more of a communication system. For example, Kathe can see who's off hook within the office and whether to transfer a call. More capabilities to do conference calls, more feature rich than just cell phones. Dr. Shedd asked what vital function does a

wired service provide that couldn't be replaced by internet chat and cell phone? Would it be cheaper? Mr. Kinsey replied that a challenge as a parent who calls the administration building, right now you can be transferred to any building or office. On a cell phone, you would eliminate that.

School site council reports were attached to the agenda.

In new business, the board needed to approve a gift for \$1,500 to Scottsbluff High School. Regarding Board policy 705.04, gifts of \$1,000 or more need to be approved by the board of education. This gift is from David and Lorel Troy, from California.

Motion to accept the gift of \$1,500 from David and Lorel Troy, passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Megan Massey. Yes: Shedd, Massey, Snyder, Kinsey. No: None. Absent: Mark Lang, Kim Magana. Motion carried.

Mr. Knapper requested the purchase of a new mini van and Chevy Impala from the state bid list to replace the current mini-van and car. Mr. Knapper said this was a follow up action item based on the facilities committee's recommendation last month to replace similar equipment that has quite a few miles on it. There had been some discussion since the memo was written to purchase two mini vans for the flexibility it might offer, instead of a mini van and a car. The question before the board is whether to buy two mini vans, or the mini van and the sedan? Mr. Kinsey said he brought up the issue with Mr. Knapper. Mr. Kinsey thinks that having two mini vans would be more practical for the district. If there are teachers or administrators that are traveling to different conferences, the vans are more comfortable for 4 people. The additional seats in the back easily carry six people comfortably. There is also storage in the back of the vans when the seats fold down. Economy wise, they are the same as far as gas mileage and performance, and they are both front wheel drive. Mr. Kinsey also said there was not that much difference in the price of the mini van over the Impala. He thought it would be more versatile for the district to have two vehicles that would capable of shuttling four or five people. Dr. Shedd asked what they were used for primarily? Mr. Knapper said they do occasionally get pressed into service to haul students, especially the mini van. Dr. Shedd asked the administrators which they would rather drive. The administrators replied the mini van. Mr. Aaberg, high school math teacher, replied that the mini van would better transport students. Mr. Snyder asked if there was a detailed list of the options on each vehicle. Mr. Knapper replied the vehicles had all the options. Mr. Snyder was concerned about the Impala having anti-lock brakes. He wanted to make sure what ever they get had anti-lock brakes.

Motion to purchase two Chevy Uplander mini vans from the state bid list for \$17,571 passed with a motion by Michael Shedd and a second by Paul Snyder. Yes: Shedd, Snyder, Massey, Kinsey. No: None. Absent: Mark Lang, Kim Magana. Motion carried.

President Kinsey read future meetings and dates.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m., passed with a motion by Megan Massey and a second by Michael Shedd. Yes: Massey, Shedd, Snyder, Kinsey; No: None; Absent: Lang, Magana. Motion carried.

Katherine A. Reyes, Board Secretary
Board of Education