

Arapahoe Public School
Board of Education – Regular Meeting
School Library
April 10th, 2017 7:00 pm

President Dennis Roskop called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

President Dennis Roskop announced that the Arapahoe Board of Education follows the rules of the Open Meetings Act which is posted.

President Dennis Roskop turned the meeting over to Dr. Griffith to swear in new board member Brad Schutz. Schutz repeated the oath of office and was sworn in to serve on the Arapahoe-Holbrook School Board.

The following members were present: Dan Warner, Chad Carpenter, Rod Whipple, Dennis Roskop, Brad Schutz and Lisa Anderson.

The following member(s) were absent: None.

Also present was Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent, Bob Braithwait, Principal and Cassie Hilker, Board Secretary. Visitors were present.

A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Whipple to approve the agenda as presented. AYES: Carpenter, Whipple, Roskop, Schutz, Anderson and Warner. Motion carried 6-0.

President Roskop welcomed the visitors and asked for Public Comment. There was no public comment from the visitors. The meeting was then turned over to TJ Schirmer and Tim Ripp with The Clark Enersen Partners and Jesse Volpp with Hausmann Construction for an update on the construction project. TJ stated that rather than paying someone for the final foundation loads a decision was made to go out for bid on pre-manufactured metal buildings, which will occur tomorrow. The bids will come in, a pre-manufactured building manufacturer will be selected and they will then identify a timeline to get us design loads. We need their loads to design the footings for the foundation. Once those final loads are received Clark Enersen has committed to turning around the footings and foundations in two weeks. That will happen in May. Concurrent with that we are planning to finish up our drawings for the building, architecture, mechanical engineering, interior design, most everything else it takes to build the building and have drawings ready to be bid on April 21st. Allowing for a three week bid period and getting bids back for that on approximately May 11th. Bids will be delivered to Clark Enersen but may change to be delivered to the school. At that point you will select most of the other sub-contractors for the building. We also plan on issuing bids for kitchen equipment. The kitchen consultants would like to meet with staff one more time. In the next month to month and a half, you will be seeing a lot of bids, the whole financial picture and cost of this project will become clearer. The board will need to schedule a meeting for Monday, April 17th to discuss and select a pre-manufactured building manufacturer. Site work may begin after Memorial Day. Tim reviewed the current floor plan with the board. They continue adding detail to the plans. They discussed adding a step ceiling system in the current elementary to accommodate mechanical and electrical utilities since walls will be moving with the renovation. They are continuing to look at drainage. Schutz asked what was going to be renovated in the current elementary. Tim responded that there will be no roof replacement, but will be replacing windows, adding fire sprinkler, lighting and replacing case work along the wall for high school students versus elementary students. Schutz went on to ask about climate control. Tim responded that the current mechanical system stays and will be re-routed accordingly. The current systems were replaced in 2005 and have three classrooms per furnace and condensing unit. The new classroom wing will have one unit per classroom. The existing rooftop unit that services the small gym will stay and serve the weight room and locker rooms. The kitchen unit will be replaced and will serve the training room and corridors. The media center will have its own. The offices will have a couple zones. The ones on the exterior is one zone. The interior conference room and reception is another zone. Art room and Title will have their own. All offices are outboard, the conference room is now inboard. TJ stated that they have developed telecommunication plans and sent them off to the ESU's and asked for their comments. They are also starting to work with ATC on coordinating cabling for cable television. Currently, there are two separate electric services which is actually a code violation. They plan to fix this by providing one service in the clay room and then re-connect the other two services. This will be sized appropriately for this addition and to serve all of the existing buildings. The transformer will need to be re-sized and re-located. We will have to complete an application to NPPD for this, but that needs to be done later in the process to provide all information. They will evaluate that and it may take several weeks. Sometimes they will ask for what they call an aid to construction. This is for additional money for work that they would do to provide service to the building because they don't see the building generating enough revenue to pay for that service. This bill will come directly to the school. This was included in the construction budget and will probably be known by the end of May. Tim reviewed the site drawing. The drop off lane stays as is. New sidewalks will be done for entrances and connecting buildings. The existing gravel lot will be paved up to the bus barn. They are working on a bio-retention area for drainage. There will be a lane for loading and unloading in the current ag building. There is also a service entry for the kitchen. Warner asked about the plan for waste and trash. Tim stated that the dumpsters could be put in the back by the transformer, making it a service type area. To get to the

service area, trucks will probably have to back up. Warner asked if there will be no access to the west parking lot from the highway. Tim stated that they still need to hear from the Department of Roads to see if they will allow the current plan. The engineers had some concerns about moving driveways. Schutz asked if they had any more thoughts about the drainage. Tim stated that the concept is to create more of a bio-retention area throughout and the landscape guys are still working on that. Warner commented that it will basically be grass with gravel underneath. TJ commented that should slow the flow given the flat site. Schutz asked if there had been any discussion with the city about storm drains and if they would like to be involved in the solution in some way. TJ stated that no further discussions have been had since they found out that the only storm drains are south of the building. The storm drains at the highway are the closest. Schutz asked about the permit process with the city. Tim called the city a couple of months ago and asked about their process. They do have a permitting process, but they don't have a building permit application process, they have more of a zoning and platting criteria and don't go by a specific building code. Schutz asked if these had to be obtained before they start moving dirt. TJ responded that the drawings have to get done first and visit with the state fire marshal, which they have been trying to make contact with. Tim went on to review the exterior. There will be brick up to an eight foot line, windows floor to ceiling in classrooms and offices. The gym box roof is sloped. Downspouts will be placed appropriately. They talked about making blue access points versus making the entire building blue. Schutz asked about the interior materials of the classrooms. Tim responded that they will be studs and drywall and porcelain tiles down the corridors and high impact areas. The kindergarten room will be the only hardened room for tornado shelter. Craig Hilker asked where everyone else would go and went on to state that this was one of the big concerns at the community meetings. Tim stated that it is a 1,000 to 1,200 square foot room and could hold approximately 200 people. Another room could be hardened but it would cost more money. Schutz asked about the sound proofing of the studs and drywall between classrooms. Tim stated that they weave the insulation through it and it is as good as a concrete masonry wall. Schutz agreed with Craig about the tornado shelter concerns. TJ responded that the thought was the kindergarten room would be used as well as the locker rooms. Braithwait stated that the high school would go to the preschool bathrooms and the locker rooms in the small gym. TJ stated that the hardened kindergarten room would accommodate the elementary wing. Anderson asked about the cost per square foot to harden a room. Tim stated that a recent job cost \$30 per square foot but they were already replacing structural systems, here we are building a box inside of a pre-manufactured metal building which adds cost. Schutz asked about how the change orders are calculated. TJ responded that the process is initiated by Clark Enersen by a proposal request. Hausmann will get the pricing from all of the sub-contractors. Clark Enersen reviews it to see if the costs are appropriate and then we make a recommendation as to whether or not you would accept the change order. The change order may include a number of proposals and all parties involved would need to sign it. Jesse stated that contingencies are carried in the budget for the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP). As the design starts getting bought out, they will recommend releasing some of the retainage back to the District. The contingency is not set up for betterments, it is for protecting the budget and the pre-bond dollars. The contingency has been carried at 5% throughout the budgeting process. The guaranteed maximum price will be determined this month and could possibly be approved at a special board meeting or the regular May board meeting. Jesse asked about working in the existing elementary wing this summer. Dr. Griffith will make sure they can get in there and move summer programs as necessary.

REPORTS

Braithwait reported that they are in the middle of grandparent's week. They are doing something a bit different this year and each grade gets a week for grandparent's to come eat with them. NeSa testing is going on until May 5th and it is grades 3 through 8 and 11. A new state requirement requires all juniors to take the ACT. Kindergarten Roundup will be the 21st at 9:00 and Preschool Roundup will be the 28th at 9:00. The 5th-8th grade contest was well organized by Mrs. Stephens and Mrs. Leising. We had over 500 students competing. Thank you to all who helped with this. National Honor Society letters went on Friday. We will have the Induction Breakfast on the 20th at 7:00 am. Cheerleading tryouts will be the 20th at 5:00. FFA and FCCLA went well. I want to give a special thank you to Mr. Stephens and Mr. Kronhofman for stepping up and sponsoring FFA on short notice. District music is at Chase County on the 21st. The FFA Banquet is the 24th. Juniors will be taking the online ACT for NeSA on April 26th. Golf, JH Track and Jim Mather are also this month. Special shout out to Mr. Paulsen for always having things so well organized. Honor's Night is on May 1st at 7:00. Senior's last day is on May 5th. Graduation is at 2:00 on May 7th. Board members please meet in the small gym at 1:30. Dennis as board president will hand out the diplomas. Schutz asked about the number of kindergarteners. Braithwait responded with about 24 students. Preschool should be full for both sessions and that is 40, 20 for the morning and 20 for the afternoon. We are at 32 right now.

Dr. Griffith reported that the external team did their evaluation of the district's five-year school improvement process and our team did an excellent job. The district received a positive report and I want to thank the staff for doing a great job preparing for the visit. I would also like to thank Kate Hatch and Mr. Braithwait for their leadership throughout the process. The revision grant is for \$2,000 to help with planning for some Career and Technical programs and if we get that \$50,000 would be available the following three years for career and technical improvements. I completed that grant today. The district was nominated by a local farmer to apply for a Monsanto Grant that I am working on. The grants can be in the amount of \$10k and \$25k. I want to thank the farmer for the nomination. I attended the Governmental Relations Information Teams (GRIT) Conference on April 5th in Lincoln. There are a number of bills that just came out of the revenue committee that can be problematic for the district and the state. One bill discussed talked about adopting a resolution and using the land credit money for the districts that receive more than 55% of their money from property taxes

then the state would pay the difference between that and 75%, which is about 20%. Then if the board chooses to they can go up the full amount. The problem is it is only funded for one year. If nothing is done to keep it funded it will revert back to the way it is today. The other bill discussed changing ag land valuations to be based on production or use value, but they don't have any source of funding to make up the loss. The final bill discussed dealt with state income tax cuts by providing cuts to corporations and the upper income tax percentage folks to create jobs. The idea is to get property tax relief while still having a reliable source of funding for education. Nebraska is ranked 49th in the United States that has money coming from the state towards education. We hired Katey Hamel to fill the position of high school secretary. She will begin May 1 and train with Donna until June 30. I want to thank Donna for all her years of service in the district and I have enjoyed working with her this year. Schutz asked about what is done now for retiree's. Braithwait commented that they are awarded a plaque and they get a lifetime pass to home events. Roskop stated that it is usually done during an Award's Program. The board will be notified when the programs will take place.

Board Member Reports: Roskop commented on some of the legislative items that Dr. Griffith reported on. There is still a lot of disagreement on where the funds should go. The rural side is arguing for property tax and the urban side arguing for income tax. LB 429 is looking at property tax funding by dropping the levy from \$1.05 to \$0.99. Lots of discussion on how to fund schools that are at the current \$1.05 and how override levies will be done for those districts to get what they need. NRCSA and NASB are both providing input on the educational standpoint. Anderson commented that Alma and Holdrege are still at \$1.05, there are a lot of schools that are at that limit. Whipple wanted to congratulate the music contest participants. He also congratulated the FCCLA and FFA participants. A board member of the Holbrook Alumni contacted me and was asking about a good location for all of the Holbrook trophies and awards to now be stored since the building is up for sale. They thought the Arapahoe school would be a good place. Doug and Sandy Long found the old awards and had them cleaned and they are now displayed in the old school. They did a great job. I think it would be a real plus for us to look into this. Some other schools have done similar things to incorporate the older schools, towns. He asked about an update on negotiations. Roskop responded that teachers and principal are done; superintendent and classified staff is remaining.

Board Committee Reports: Warner reported that Building and Grounds met last week. The architects went over the presentation that was presented tonight. They are continually discussing the timeline and bids and it is becoming clearer. Roskop reported that the Finance Committee met twice. The first meeting was to go over budgeting for next year. They reviewed current figures. Today they met and reviewed expenditures. One item on the expenditures is for a floor covering for the gym floor. We have been on a waiting list for over a year. The gym floor covering is 80' by 100' and normally runs between \$13,000 and \$14,000. We are able to get it for \$3,200 and free shipping. This will save maintenance on the gym floors and will fit the current gym and the new gym.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Whipple and seconded by Anderson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which included minutes from previous meeting and financial reports. AYES: Whipple, Roskop, Schutz, Anderson, Warner and Carpenter. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Whipple and seconded by Carpenter to approve claims including the General Fund, Lunch Fund, Building Fund and Student Fee Fund totaling \$464,668.96. AYES: Roskop, Schutz but abstaining from claim number 28610 to the Arapahoe Public Mirror for \$883.30, Anderson, Warner, Carpenter but abstaining from claim number 28667 to W & J Carpenter – Repair for \$906.58 and Whipple but abstaining from claim number 28616 to ATC for \$349.61. Motion carried 6-0.

Lisa Anderson requested to be removed from the Buildings and Grounds Committee and assigned to the Negotiations Committee. Dennis Roskop would become Chair of the Negotiations Committee. Brad Schutz was assigned to the Finance Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee, Policy Committee and Curriculum Committee. Chad Carpenter asked to be assigned to the Technology Committee. A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Whipple to approve the board committee reassignments. AYES: Schutz, Anderson, Warner, Carpenter, Whipple and Roskop. Motion carried 6-0.

Dr. Griffith and Mr. Braithwait had a number of applicants for the 4th Grade Teaching position and interviewed a few of those applicants. They offered the job to Rachel Koller. They think she will be a great addition to the elementary teaching staff. Schutz asked about her experience. Dr. Griffith responded that this would be her second year teaching. A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Warner to approve the hiring of Rachel Koller for the 4th grade teaching position for the 2017-2018 school year. AYES: Anderson, Warner, Carpenter, Whipple abstained, Roskop and Schutz. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Griffith commented that Mr. Braithwait did a great job getting all of the extra duty positions filled. Whipple commented that Varsity Volleyball will be Katie Helms and Varsity Girls Basketball will be Preston Blackmore. Schutz commented that Preston was the Assistant Boys Basketball Coach. Bob stated that we had nobody on staff to fill that position and he asked John Strand to go out and find someone and Derek Walbridge has been hired. Schutz asked if there were any

other changes. Roskop responded that some changes were made to the extra duty schedule through negotiations. Dr. Griffith stated that summer weights has been changed to an hourly rate with a maximum number of hours to accommodate those gone during the summer. A motion was by Anderson and seconded by Whipple to approve the Extra Duty Assignments for 2017-2018. AYES: Warner, Carpenter, Whipple, Roskop, Schutz and Anderson. Motion carried 6-0.

Dr. Griffith stated that the total approximate dollar change for classified staff would be \$30,536, with \$11,102 of that from insurance and \$19,433 for wages. This constitutes a 3.30% increase to wages and a total of 3.53% increase including insurance. A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Carpenter to approve the classified wages for 2017-2018. AYES: Carpenter, Whipple, Roskop, Schutz, Anderson and Warner. Motion carried 6-0.

Dr. Griffith reviewed what everyone currently has for benefits and developed a schedule of benefits for classified staff going forward. If there was a benefit that is not a future benefit, those currently getting that benefit are grandfathered in. It is broken down by those working more or less than 17.5 hours per week, which also aligns with being eligible for health insurance. This eliminates the disparity between staff. Warner asked if currently the 12 month contracted employees are now getting family health insurance. Dr. Griffith responded that a few of the 12 month employees are currently getting family health insurance, but will be grandfathered in. However, going forward all classified employees will be offered employee only health insurance with the option to purchase additional insurance for dependents. Schutz asked about discussing at some point the responsibilities of each position. Dr. Griffith is working on reviewing and revising job descriptions. Schutz asked if that is something that would be done before the next school year. Dr. Griffith responded that his goal is to have that done before the next school year. Mr. Braithwait responded that some positions change depending upon where the needs are for students and he would be happy to discuss this at any time. Schutz asked about how decisions are made for these instances financially and when is the opportunity available to evaluate that. Dr. Griffith responded that he has been observing this first year and has some recommendations that he will make. A motion was made by Whipple and seconded by Schutz to approve the Classified Benefit Schedule. AYES: Whipple, Roskop, Schutz, Anderson, Warner and Carpenter. Motion carried 6-0.

Dr. Griffith read the resolution supporting the principles of Nebraskans united for property tax reform and education to the entire board. This resolution was sent out by NRCSA. A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Anderson approve the resolution supporting the principles of Nebraskans united for property tax reform and education. AYES: Roskop, Schutz, Anderson, Warner, Carpenter and Whipple. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment – Carpenter clarified that he was talking about adding some blue to the gym box, not the entire building being blue. Warner commented about the tornado shelters and if administration feels there is enough space with the current plan. Griffith feels comfortable with the space in the new elementary and the close proximity of the locker rooms for the high school wing should be sufficient. Whipple asked if there are any large changes that the rest of the board should be aware of that the Building and Grounds Committee has already seen. Griffith commented that the only change he noticed was the parking area. Warner commented about the office spaces being out board for lighting, but would like the guidance office to be more enclosed due to privacy. Roskop commented that they are encouraging Clark Enersen to make the presentation like they did tonight at board meetings to make the entire board aware as things move along. Anderson commented that in an earlier meeting they talked about a trophy area on the north side of the new gym. Warner talked about one concern they have had in a building and grounds committee meeting and that was shade on the west entrance, but it looks like with the current drawings that should be fine.

A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Warner to enter in to executive session at 8:53 pm for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, and if the individual has not requested a public meeting. AYES: Schutz, Anderson, Warner, Carpenter, Whipple and Roskop. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Roskop and seconded by Whipple to exit executive session at 10:14 pm. AYES: Anderson, Warner, Carpenter, Whipple, Roskop and Schutz. Motion carried 6-0.

Roskop stated that he reviewed the superintendent evaluations and he will schedule a meeting with Dr. Griffith to go over the evaluations and future goals.

Dr. Griffith reported that the elementary teachers have submitted a proposal for a new social studies curriculum. The teachers have evaluated it and I would like to schedule a meeting for the Curriculum Committee to review the proposal in the next week.

Dr. Griffith would like to schedule a Transportation Committee meeting in the immediate future. A bus broke down during the senior trip. We received some help from York Public Schools with that, they hauled our kids to Lincoln and then back to Kearney. We are very grateful for their help. The bus had to be towed to Lincoln. A Transportation Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 13th at 6:00 pm.

Special Board Meeting, Monday, April 17th, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Arapahoe Public School Library to review bids and approve the purchase of pre-engineered building materials.

Regular Board Meeting, Monday, May 8th, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Arapahoe Public School Library.

A motion was made by Warner and seconded by Whipple to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 pm. AYES: Warner, Carpenter, Whipple, Roskop, Schutz and Anderson. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Hilker, Board Secretary